MINNESOTA VALLEY CO-OP NEWS
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MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

General Manager

Our Government Continues to Choke Out Reliable and Affordable Energy

Our government's ongoing war on coal, gas, oil and nuclear continues to choke out our economy, reduce our standard of living and jeopardize our national security.

Meanwhile, the rest of the industrialized world is past the green energy deal—whether their politicians admit it or not. What is the old saying, actions speak louder than words? The European Union, Turkey, South Africa, India, Philippines, South Korea, Japan and China alone have almost 2,000 coal-fired power plants under construction or in the planning stages of being built. The U.S. has zero and is working hard to crush the remaining plants.

Apparently, when it comes to energy the rest of the world has more common sense. They realize how important fossil fuels are in keeping their economies viable and competitive, raising their standard of living and shoring up their national security.

Not only will the U.S. government not allow new coal-fired generation they double down on their reckless path by cancelling or restricting by regulation coal, natural gas and oil infrastructure. The Keystone XL pipeline chief example among them – and adding further restrictions on additional pipelines crippling any sense of reliability for the future.

By crushing economical and reliable fossil fuels the U.S. government forces us, the taxpayer, ratepayer and consumer of everything and anything, to continue to subsidize unreliable and expensive wind and solar. Renewables will continue to become more unreliable as restricted pipelines are unable to supply gas-fired turbines to provide power when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shinning. Make no mistake, we are on the road to more rolling blackouts and of longer duration.

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

A Day in May

A SAFETY NOTE FROM YOUR COOPERATIVE

It was an average day in May — one that started like any other, when *Cody Conrady* was at work for an ag fertilizer company.

He was an assistant manager and it was his next-to-last day on the job. They were understaffed that day and Cody was filling in wherever he was needed.

He jumped in the truck to try and get ahead of the sprayer. Once the sprayer was in position, he hopped out to fill the tank with fertilizer. He and his co-worker inside the cab were unaware that the sprayer boom had either made contact or gotten too close to a power line.

7,400 volts of electricity traveled through the boom and electrified the equipment and ground where Cody was standing. Unfortunately, the unyielding stray voltage considered Cody's body as part of its electrical path to ground.

Since that day, Cody and his fiance, Bailey, began a tough road of recovery, together. For him, it was true grit, determination and living the ups and downs that come with this type of recovery. For her, it was emotional strength and fortitude—witnessing Cody's setbacks and victories and supporting him through them all.

Cody took his first steps as part of his recovery four months later — days before their September wedding. Cody and Bailey share their experiences to increase awareness about power line safety.

Electricity can travel through anything in its path. Unintended contact can happen in an instant.

SafeElectricity.org

Manager's Message (continued from page 1)

The electric vehicle (EV) serves as a chief example of fantasy among the myths of green energy our government pushes. The government and vested manufacturers continue to push the notion that EVs are "zero-emission." Electric vehicles are built using fossil fuels and manufacturing batteries is an especially dirty and carbon intensive business. Only 20% of the electric power source is from renewable energy sources (but again, remember it takes fossil fuels to construct renewable sources of energy). The remaining 80% of the power is generated by natural gas, coal or nuclear. Once the EV is on the road, again only 20% of the power used to charge its battery will be from renewables.

Natural gas and nuclear are actually among the cleanest sources of energy, which you will never hear from the U.S. government. As a nation, if we were really serious about the environment, we would stop with this renewable energy's zero-emission, zero-carbon fantasy world. When you take the all-in start to finish costs to our environment of renewables, they cause more environmental damage than properly used fossil fuels and nuclear.

Politicians in western nations including the U.S., acting on behalf of wealthy green energy donors, fail to see or are incented not to see the big picture time and time again. It doesn't matter how many countries sign the Paris Climate Agreement if the rest of the world ramps up its emissions over the next decade. We all live in the same atmosphere and pollution knows no borders.

Renewable energy accounts for 16% of global energy supply and remains notoriously unreliable. How long before the United States will have the political will to change course? Our elected officials must set aside their allegiance to green energy lobbyists and turn up coal, gas and oil so we can rebuild our economy, our standard of living and national security rather than crush them all.

We can ramp up energy production overnight if we can get the government out of our way. If our politicians would eliminate their policies meant to restrict coal, oil and gas production, use and exports we would be healing our economy, standard of living and national security within a couple of years. We can greenlight Keystone and other pipelines. We can unleash our plentiful energy supply right here in our country to supply all of our domestic needs and have plenty left to export.

We must ask ourselves as a country, where is the logic in buying energy from nations ruled by dictators and oligarchs instead of using our own God-given energy resources? Is it too much to ask our politicians to recognize serving the common good of our citizens before the rest of the world? Why does our government make ruthless communist and socialist governments rich while making the United States of America poor?

2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

The selection committee for the Minnesota Valley/Basin Scholarship met on Thursday, February 17th and made a selection for the scholarship. Members of the committee were: Harvey Williamson, Barb Holien, Bev Knutson and Mark Peterson. Since the committee felt there were many exceptionally strong candidates again this year, they elected to split the scholarship and award $500 to four students. The students selected are as follows:

Amery Arends will graduate from the Montevideo High School in 2022. Amery is the daughter of Carol and Chad Arends. Amery will be attending the University of Duluth studying biology with plans on becoming a pediatrician or family practitioner.

Dalton Pederson will graduate from the Montevideo High School this spring. Dalton is the son of Amy and Brad Pederson. Dalton will be attending Minnesota West pursuing his degree to become an electrician.

Ryan Lund is the son of Marcia and Bruce Lund of Dawson and will graduate from Dawson-Boyd High School in 2022. Ryan will be attending South Dakota State University in Precision Agriculture.

Bradyn Schultz is the son of Lisa and Brian Schultz. Bradyn will graduate this spring from the Montevideo High School and will be attending Mitchell Tech in the Powerline Construction and Maintenance Program.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Feb 2022	Jan-Feb 2021	Jan-Feb 2002
Kwh Purchased	48,852,113	42,132,016	25,314,129
Kwh Sold	46,472,871	39,761,038	23,394,356
Cost Of Purchased Power	$2,104,818	$1,532,737	$645,360
Patronage Capital Margins	$501,390	$628,807	$76,433
Reserve For Taxes	$42,834	$44,167	$44,760
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	43.95	36.38	25.49

	February '22	February '21	February '02
Total Plant	$86,509,464	$82,479,372	$34,048,616
Number of Active Services	5,316	5,316	5,206
Avg. Residential Bill	$270.44	$209.74	$114.45
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,956	2,861	1,658
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	4,057	3,775	2,054
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	44,333	42,483	24,945

Find Your Location Number

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a $10 bill credit *(Operation Round Up participants get a $10 bonus)*. If neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at $10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE **25TH OF APRIL** TO RECEIVE: **$70**

Engineering & Operations // Eric Wollschlager

Manager of Operations

We have another new face to the line crew at Minnesota Valley. Brody Gimberlin started on March 15th as a Journeyman Lineman. Brody comes to us from the Benson area along with his wife, Greta. They are in the process of selling their home in Benson and purchasing in Montevideo. Let's all give Brody and Greta a welcome to Minnesota Valley when we see them.

Brody Gimberlin

Karian Peterson's transmission line project from the Minneota Substation going east is moving along very rapidly. So far, almost five miles of poles have been set with the exception of special structures such as storm guys and so on. M three fourteen zero two The first five miles make up about 1/3 of the total amount of line being rebuilt in this section. The other ten miles are awaiting hardware and the final drawings from the engineer's office. Road restrictions are starting to slow things down for delivery of poles from the yard in Wisconsin. We have managed to accumulate a nice stockpile near the job site to keep the crews busy for the time being.

Weather has been cooperating, with winter storms and snow fall amounts being manageable. Crews continue to finish up with yearly line patrol and inspections. Maintenance items found during line patrol get taken care of during this time. Some minor tree trimming, bad looking hardware such as cracked insulators and more poles get added to the pole change out list for the year. Some jobs may require more time or equipment, so they get written down and returned to at a later date. More major tree issues get assigned to Minnesota Valley Tree Service for the manpower and equipment they have available.

There is still enough time for winter weather yet this year. Keep this in mind while driving and planning trips yet this late winter and early spring.

This pole is waiting to be set.

These are the first poles of the five mile project.

Member Services // Scott Kubesh

Member Services Manager

Double Rebate Days

For years, we have visited about the main reasons why you should put in a heat pump. Those reasons were higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. Well, from May 1st through all of this summer, we will ***DOUBLE*** the rebates given for the installation of an air to air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating system look that much better. These rebates will run from May 1st, 2022 through Labor Day (September 5th, 2022). That will give you all summer to take advantage of this great offer. The system needs to be a new installation and placed in service between the dates stated above (certain size limitations apply). J three twenty six zero one That will give you all summer to take advantage of all of the great benefits of a heat pump system along with the double rebate offer. Don't let this great offer slip away!

Sometimes shopping for something new can be a bit intimidating. The Member Services Department is here to help you with any of the questions you may have. Good luck in your heat pump shopping and, as always, please contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more information.

Applications
The applications for heat pumps are endless. Just about any place you need heat, you can use a heat pump to do it.

Initial Cost
Generally, a heat pump will cost more when compared to the cost of a furnace or an air-conditioner individually, but a heat pump serves for both cooling and heating. Usually the added equipment cost is easily offset by the added benefits received by a heat pump system.

Operating Costs
The operating costs of a heat pump and an air-conditioner are similar during the summer months, but the energy and cost savings will occur during the winter heating season. Geothermal heat pumps can attain an even higher annual fuel cost savings than what an air source heat pump can do.

Size of Heat Pump
Heat pumps must be sized and installed appropriately for them to function efficiently. Heat pumps are sized according to cooling or heating demand. Contact a heating and cooling professional to help with your sizing needs.

Heat Pump Efficiency
Efficiencies of heat pumps can be much better than a traditional heating system, with the geothermal heat pump able to reach efficiencies of up to 500%.

Summer
DOUBLE REBATE
Days

May 1st through Labor Day (September 5th, 2022), we are offering **double rebates** on air source or geothermal heat pumps! Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 today!

Youth Tour Winner

Minnesota Valley will be sending one area student to Washington, D.C., to represent us at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in 2022. The student selected this year is Hannah DeLong, daughter of Cristin and David DeLong of Sacred Heart. The trip is scheduled for June 14th-19th, 2022. Students who applied completed a personal information sheet and wrote an essay on an energy-related topic of their choice.

Congratulations, Hannah!

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Friday, April 15th in observance of Good Friday.

Office Hours
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering
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