



**MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH**

*General Manager*



**Closing Out 2022**

As of this writing, we are in the process of closing out the books for 2022. Energy sales through November were up about 13% over 2021. Most of that increase in energy sales is due to PURIS pea processing plant in Dawson hitting their stride. In addition to the increased energy sales helping our year end margin exceed budget, there were several other factors which helped including an unexpected bill credit of \$550,000 from our power supply cooperative. Additionally, we installed a lot of heating/cooling and generators (which also helped our bottom line) and will book over \$1 million of net income from our wholly owned subsidiaries, Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting and Minnesota Valley Tree Service. Anyway, we expect to close the year out in good shape financially. We, of course, will share more of this financial information when we get our books closed and audited ahead of the Annual Meeting at the Prairie's Edge Casino on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**District Caucus Meetings**

Those of you in Districts 5 and 7 will be holding your Caucus Meetings next month. District 5 will meet at 10:30 a.m. on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Clarkfield City Hall in Clarkfield. District 7 will meet at 1:30 p.m. on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cottonwood Community Center in Cottonwood. If you are a member in one of those districts, you will also be getting a notice by postcard.

Your District Caucus Meetings are run by you, the member-owners. We simply set up a time and place for you to meet. The member-owners that show up run the meeting. The first thing they do is nominate a Caucus Chairperson. The Chairperson is then the facilitator of the District Caucus Meeting. The members present can talk about anything they feel is important to talk about. Once all new and old business is discussed and a name or names are put forth for a full district vote at the Annual Meeting, the Caucus Meeting is adjourned for a light lunch.

If you are in District 5 or 7 and have never been to one of these, I hope you can take time to attend this year. Caucus Meetings are where you, as member-owners, nominate people to represent you on the cooperative board. This is where local control starts. Members nominated for the board at the Caucus Meeting have their names put on the ballot to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Prairie's Edge Casino near Granite Falls. We will also have staff and board members at these meetings to discuss issues that you may want to visit about. We also draw for some door prizes and a Basin Tour Trip at each meeting. Hope to see you there!

**Happy New Year**

On behalf of Minnesota Valley, we thank you, the member-owners, for the privilege of working with and for you this past year. We look forward to working with and for you again this year and wish you all a happy and prosperous 2023!

**2023 Caucus Meetings on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**District 5: Darryl Bursack**  
- 10:30 AM at Clarkfield  
City Hall

**District 7: Wayne Peltier**  
- 1:30 PM at Cottonwood  
Community Center

**2023 Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Prairie's Edge Casino



## BUSINESS OFFICE // JILL ROTHSCHADL

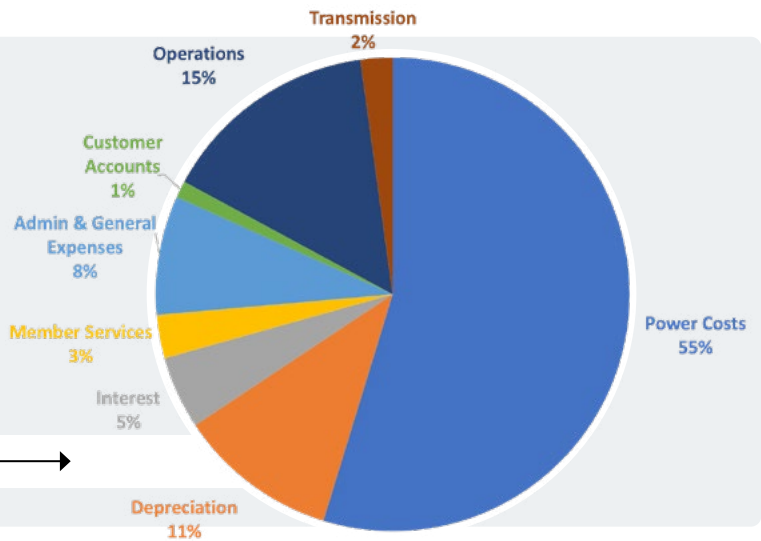
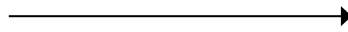


Office Manager

### 2023 Budget Approved

The Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Budget has been approved by our Board of Directors. Our expected fixed and variable costs are reflected in the graph to the right. Total costs are expected to increase, but the categorization of expenses remain in line with the 2022 budget.

### 2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES



## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // ERIC WOLLSCHLAGER



Manager of Operations

We are halfway through December and so far the weather has been cooperating with us. The week of

December 12<sup>th</sup> brought us our first winter storm of the season. The service territory received mostly rain the first few days and finished off the week with accumulating snow. Further south received some significant icing on their systems, but I did not receive any reports on damage.

Line crews continue with OCR changeouts as well as other maintenance jobs. There are just a small handful of single phase OCR's to be changed out as well as some three phase breakers in the substations to be sent in for service. These three phase breakers are taken down and sent to EIR Testing and Maintenance of Northfield, Minnesota for service. They are returned within a couple days to be installed and returned to service. EIR also handles servicing our OCR's. Pole changeouts from this summer's pole

treating program are also in the works. Winter months are also the season for annual line patrol to take place. Every year, five substations are inspected by the linemen who are looking for potential problems. These problems are addressed immediately if they are bad enough or recorded to be taken care of at a later date. During this process, you may notice a Minnesota Valley truck or pickup driving slow or pulling up in your yard for a short period of time. Echo, Wood Lake, Vallers, Minneota and Rosewood are this year's substations.

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, Journeyman Lineman, Anthony Bednarek, started at Minnesota Valley. Anthony is a native of the Cottonwood area where he currently lives with his wife Misty and daughter. Anthony came to us from Karian Peterson where he was a lineman for 3 1/2 years. We welcome Anthony and his family to Minnesota Valley.

Karian Peterson continues work on the Minneota transmission line. With the exception of a couple of new switch poles, almost all the poles have been set. They are in the process of getting ready to start stringing in new conductors.

I would like to wish all Minnesota Valley members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Director's Responsibilities

According to information compiled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C., a director's responsibility consists of having the ability and knowledge to set policy and approve programs that are the basis for operating the association. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings and other special meetings and seminars. These special sessions are necessary to keep directors informed on the various aspects of the cooperative and the electric utility industry. Other criteria of a board member, as identified by NRECA, are listed below.

- ✓ Be an independent thinker, but a cooperator
- ✓ Be capable of acquiring the knowledge necessary to cope with the issues of a modern electric utility, including finances, management and public issues
- ✓ Possess the character and demeanor that will reflect favorably on the cooperative
- ✓ Have the willingness to listen and learn
- ✓ Be one who can accept and direct change
- ✓ Let management manage
- ✓ Be of sufficient stature to command the respect of management, employees, fellow board members, cooperative members and the public
- ✓ Be willing to commit adequate time to the work of the board to be an effective member and properly discharge the duties of the board
- ✓ Subordinate personal and other business interests to the needs of the cooperative when making a decision
- ✓ Be willing to accept the unpleasant moments of a director's experience





# 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Minnesota Valley is again sponsoring a youth trip in 2023. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for **June 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

The students will join other young people from across rural America given the opportunity to see American government in action, tour our nation's capital, visit historic places of interest and meet many new friends.

The program is open to all high school sophomores and juniors

in Minnesota Valley's service area, whether or not their parents are members of the cooperative. M two eleven zero three To qualify, you will need to submit an essay and application form, which are available by calling Minnesota Valley.

All applications/essays must be completed and in our office by **March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**. If you place first in the competition, you will be awarded an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital along with other students from Minnesota cooperatives.

If you are a high school sophomore or junior living in Minnesota Valley's service territory and would like to go on this all-expense-paid trip, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 and we will email you the complete application or go online at [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com) and download the application.

## \$2,000 Scholarship Available

Minnesota Valley R.E.C.—along with our power supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, North Dakota—will again be offering \$2,000 in scholarship money to a student or students from our service area. In order to qualify for this scholarship, a student must be a dependent child of a Minnesota Valley Cooperative member-consumer. They must be at least a senior in high school and enrolled in or planning on enrolling in a full-time course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college or university or in a vocational/technical school program for the 2023-2024 school year. All applications must be in our office by February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.



If any senior is interested, please contact Minnesota Valley at 320.269.2163 or 1.800.247.5051 and we will send you an application or go to our website at [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com) and download an application.

## Comparative Report

	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2002
Kwh Purchased	209,916,727	188,030,229	136,650,420
Kwh Sold	198,919,804	175,997,015	127,333,400
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$9,940,751	\$9,075,796	\$3,626,633
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,698,581	\$2,128,469	\$1,033,573
Reserve For Taxes	\$231,733	\$251,736	\$246,158
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	47.56	48.27	26.54
	November '22	November '21	November '02
Total Plant	\$92,154,790	\$84,621,728	\$34,959,335
Number of Active Services	5,318	5,326	5,228
Avg. Residential Bill	\$240.50	\$243.08	\$181.99
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,290	2,245	2,505
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,530	3,348	2,959
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	36,839	34,240	32,452

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY TO RECEIVE:

*Congratulations to **Allen Simonson** of **Canby** who identified his location and received a \$20 credit to his energy bill!*

# \$10

## Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a \$10 bill credit. If neither number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.





Member Services Manager

**Electric Heat and Electric Heat Rates**

Electric heat has always been a safe, clean and efficient way to heat your home or business. There are many different ways to heat a structure with electric heat. Whether you are looking at building new or retrofitting

an existing system, Minnesota Valley is here to help with all of your heating needs. Please contact the Member Services Department if you have questions about heating and want assistance in choosing the best system for you.

If you are thinking about getting a new or different heating system soon, perhaps you have already checked into the benefits of electric heat. Minnesota Valley will continue to offer Dual Fuel and Electric Heat Rates to our customers in 2023. We have had reduced rates for electric heat kWhs for almost 40 years. In the past, the instability of fossil fuel prices has brought about an increase of meter installations for our electric heat rates. Basin Electric has offered Electric Heat Rates and Dual Heat Rates to Minnesota Valley and we will also continue to pass these rates on to you, as an electric heat customer. In compari-

son with the heat rates Minnesota Valley is offering for 2023, the same amount of heating Btu's would be equivalent to purchasing propane or fuel oil at approximately \$1.16-\$1.25 per gallon.

**Electric and Dual Heat Rates**

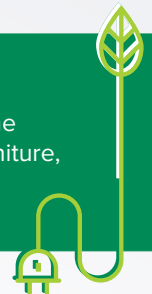
Since 1988, Minnesota Valley has offered the **Electric Heat Rate**. The flexibility of this rate has allowed it to become a very popular program. Any amount of electric heat can be metered and no fossil fuel backup is required. The Electric Heat Rate will be at *4.8¢ per kWh* for 2023.

The **Dual Heat Rate** makes it easy for members to install electric heat to complement their existing heating system and get on the Dual Heat Rate. Members who wish to use the Dual Heat Rate must have an electric heating system capable of heating 100% of their home. O three zero four zero four B They must also have an automatic fossil fuel backup, but agree to use their electric system. The Dual Heat Rate remains at *4.4¢ per kWh* for 2023.

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov



**Applications Available for Operation Round Up Funds**



Is your service group or organization looking for monetary help? Or do you know a family that could use some assistance? Minnesota Valley has money available through Operation Round Up for those who qualify.

Operation Round Up is a trust fund set up separately from all other Minnesota Valley business and is used solely for the purpose of helping organizations, service groups, projects and families in our service territory. This

money comes from the members who have their bills rounded up every month.

If you know of someone, a group or an organization that would benefit from Operation Round Up funds, you can get an application by downloading it from our website at [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com), by calling Minnesota Valley at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 or by requesting one by mail to *Minnesota Valley R.E.C., P.O. Box 248, Montevideo, MN 56265.*

**Office Hours**

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

**24-Hour Telephone Answering**

320.269.2163

800.247.5051

**Minnesota Valley Co-op News**

Published monthly by:

Minnesota Valley Cooperative

Light and Power Association

**Website**

[www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com)

**Address**

501 South 1st Street

P.O. Box 248

Montevideo, MN 56265

