



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



*General Manager*

**Year End Numbers Complete**

Auditors have been in to give the board their annual audit report of the cooperative books, as well as our subsidiary organizations at the regular board meeting on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Overall, we had a great year financially. We ended the year with an operating margin of just over \$1.7 million. The operating margin tells us if this year's revenues covered this year's costs. We had an overall consolidated total margin of just over \$4 million. The consolidated margin is our operating margin plus primarily non-cash allocations from other cooperatives and organizations that we are part of, such as our power supplier. Our Basin Electric had an allocation to us, of our

share of their margin, of about \$935,000. We also added in other non-operating revenue such as the margin from Minnesota Valley Tree Service of about \$50,000, Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting of about \$546,000, management and accounting fees we charge the subsidiaries of about \$240,000, margin on merchandise sales of about \$185,000 and interest received on prepaid debt obligations of about \$230,000.

Even though we had a good year financially, we are not retiring as much cash in capital credits as we normally due. This year we are retiring about \$580,000 in capital credits and last year we retired

**(Manager's Message continued on page 2)**

**Notice of Annual Member Meeting Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at **Lac qui Parle Valley High School** in Madison, MN on **Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.**

Registration and a breakfast buffet open at 8:30 a.m. at which time the following business will be transacted:

- 1) *To hear, examine and approve the reports of the officers, directors and committees.*
- 2) *To elect two directors for said Cooperative for the ensuing term.*
- 3) *For the transaction of other business as may lawfully be brought before the membership of the Cooperative and as may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Cooperative.*

*Dated: January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
**Mark Peterson, Secretary**

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>23</b>	Our <b>2024 Annual Meeting</b> will take place at Lac qui Parle High School in Madison, MN. Breakfast will be served from 8:30-10:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 10:00 a.m.	

## Manager's Message (continued from page 1)

about \$1.8 million. This is due to our need to build our available cash up some. We are still waiting for FEMA dollars from the spring of 2022 windstorms, which required about \$4 million in men and material. When we receive some of those dollars, along with slowing our retirement this year, that should improve our cash situation to the point where we can resume a closer to normal retirement of capital credits next year.

### Join Us for Brunch at Your Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Please join us on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Lac qui Parle Valley High School for your annual member-owner's meeting.

We will begin serving brunch at 8:30 a.m. The business meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and will wrap up around 11:00 a.m. We will be giving something to every member who comes as well as plenty of door prizes and Basin Tour trips.

Cooperative Annual Meetings are informative and interesting simply because of what they represent. They represent a business structure that was created by and continues to be operated by self-reliant people. People have always come together through cooperative organizations to meet their common needs and economic aspirations. Cooperatives have always been and will always be an effective way to meet these goals. This is simply because every person taking service, like you, own and control them. As owners, you have an Annual Meeting to hear about how your business is doing.

As an owner of this business, you actually choose the people who control the utility. You elect your board members. Through them you have control of how the business is run, how it is maintained, how responsive to your needs it is and how it will prepare for the future. Hope to see you at your Annual Meeting!

## Meet the Director Candidates

The Caucus Meetings in February nominated the director candidates for Districts 1 and 3.



### Don Fernholz: District 1

**Occupation:** Retired Electric Line Supervisor and Public Works Coordinator for the City of Madison

**Family:** Wife—Joan; three children—Matthew & Kelli, Joshua and Natalie & Nate; seven grandchildren

**Community Involvement:** St. Michael's Church board member, retired 20-year member of the Madison Fire Department and Ducks Unlimited member

**Reason for Deciding to Run:** I always had a lot of respect for our cooperative and have enjoyed my time on the board. I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Caucus Meeting. It is a privilege to be your District 1 director.



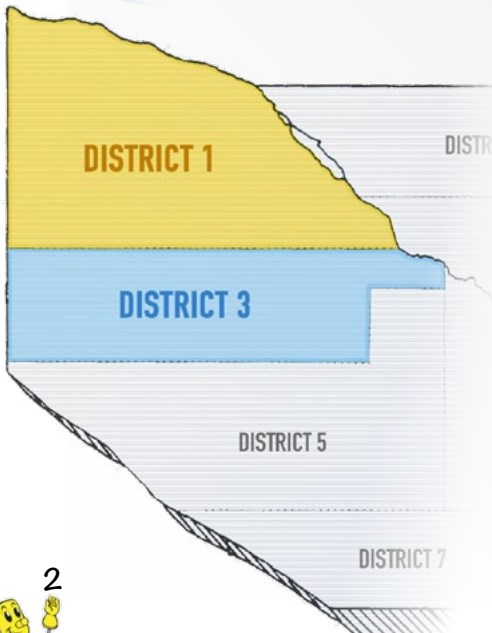
### Mark Peterson: District 3

**Occupation:** Farmer for 39 years

**Family:** Wife—Melanie; Children—Stephanie, Dustin, Matt, Jakob and Micah; seven grandchildren

**Community Involvement:** Active in church and elevator board member

**Reason for Deciding to Run:** I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the board and am looking forward to serving another three years as your director. Thank you to all the friends and neighbors for your support and for coming to the Caucus Meeting.



**ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // ERIC WOLLSCHLAGER**



*Manager of Operations*

Minnesota Valley crews continue to move forward with line patrol and maintenance projects for this winter. Any problems that we find are taken care of right away or recorded to be taken care of at a later time. L three zero six zero three We have been fortunate with the weather being somewhat mild and peaceful that we have not had any major problems on the lines so far this year.

Karian Peterson has been working with Xcel Energy on the Asbury to Gluek transmission line. Some poles

and line crossings involve both utilities to take their lines out of service for a period of time. This can take time to get scheduled as some lines cannot just be shut down at any given time. Things are moving along well with the project.

The new metering system project is also coming along very well. Almost all of the meters have been installed with just a few miscellaneous meters left to be replaced. We are now going through the process of installing signal repeaters in certain locations to strengthen the signal strength of the data being transmitted back to the office.

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**Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in observance of Good Friday.**

**Have a Happy Easter!**

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**Minnesota Valley R.E.C. will be accepting applications for the summer Pole Treating Crew until April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Applications are available at the Minnesota Valley office or on our website, [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com).**

**Comparative Report**

	Jan-Jan 2024	Jan-Jan 2023	Jan-Jan 2004
Kwh Purchased	25,045,520	23,634,641	16,522,933
Kwh Sold	23,941,904	22,150,838	15,471,273
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$1,080,838	\$978,433	\$396,136
Patronage Capital Margins	\$251,836	\$158,951	\$136,719
Reserve For Taxes	\$22,000	\$24,000	\$17,134
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	46.19	41.40	23.97
	January '24	January '23	January '04
Total Plant	\$101,584,669	\$91,616,802	\$36,317,025
Number of Active Services	5,309	5,298	5,215
Avg. Residential Bill	\$306.25	\$297.80	\$151.53
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	3,114	3,018	2,432
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	4,510	4,181	2,967
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	46,702	41,709	30,464

**Energy Efficiency**  
**Tip of the Month**

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening. If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

**Find Your Location Number**

If you find your location number in this newsletter, you will receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If no 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, we will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



Congrats to Roger Munsen who found his number last month and received a \$30 bill credit!  
If you find your location number, make sure to claim by the 25<sup>th</sup> of March to be eligible.





## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager

### Five Safety Tips for Your Home Workshop

Without taking proper precautions, the enjoyment of a do-it-yourself project can quickly turn into disaster. You may have all the latest power tools, hand tools, hardware and materials, but if you do not put safety first, you may end up with a trip to the hospital instead of a new set of shelves, upgraded lighting in the kitchen or a trendy shiplap accent wall in the bedroom. Here are some fundamental workshop and electrical safety tips to help keep things running smoothly.



**1) Wear safety gear, glasses and gloves.** The first rule of workshop safety is to dress appropriately. Avoid loose clothing that can get caught in power tools. Never wear dangling jewelry or scarves. Roll up your sleeves or choose ones that are tight against your skin. Closed-toe shoes are a must and steel-toed boots are recommended.

Safety glasses are necessary 100% of the time. Gloves are fine for handling materials. Before you reach for a belt sander or scroll saw, however, take the gloves off to minimize the risk of them getting caught and so you get tactile feedback in case anything goes wrong.

**2) Observe electrical safety.** Before you start any DIY project, inspect all your power tools and their cords for loose plugs, exposed wires or worn insulation. Fires are one of the top dangers when working with electric gear, especially if you have combustible materials around, such as sawdust.

If you must use an extension cord, choose one long, heavy-duty (appropriately rated) cord and keep it untangled and out of the way to prevent tripping and yanking your tools off the workbench. When you are done working, unplug everything from the extension cord and put it away.

**3) Keep your workshop clean.** Anything left on the floor is a tripping hazard and you do not want to imagine what could happen if you trip while using a power tool. Anything cluttering up your worktable introduces obstacles that can get caught in a saw or drill mechanism or block your ability to move your project safely as you work on it. The byproducts of do-it-yourself work, such as sawdust, cast-off nails and screws and rags or brushes with potentially combustible or hazardous fluids on them, increase the risk of fires and projectiles.

**4) Keep tools in good condition.** Besides inspecting the cords and plugs for electrical safety, everything works better in the workshop if you have clean, sharp and well-lubricated tools. A dull saw blade brings a much higher chance of injury than a sharp one. It is less likely to cut smoothly through the wood or other material and more likely to kick back and cut you. Dull saws, routers or drill bits also run the risk of breaking during use. Use appropriate lubrication, such as WD-40 or others specifically created for power tools.

**5) Know your limits.** If you have a lot of experience as a do-it-yourselfer, there are projects you can tackle from memory. However, approach anything new as if you are a beginner for maximum workshop safety. Read instructions. Look up reputable guide videos to refresh your skills or learn something new. Most importantly, recognize when you are in over your head and leave those non-DIY projects to the professionals.

## Generac Generators

Minnesota Valley offers the sales and installation of Generac standby generators. A home standby generator is an integral part of the preparedness planning process for homes and can greatly reduce disruption when power is interrupted. Home one zero four zero four A home standby generator is permanently installed at a home, sitting outside like a central air conditioning unit and runs on natural gas or liquid propane to automatically deliver power to the home's electrical system. A standby generator provides added protection by ensuring your home is never without power.



4 The Member Services Department is here to help you with any of the questions you may have. Please call us at (800) 247-5051 or (320) 269-2163 for more information.



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