



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Closing Out 2024

As of this writing, we are in the process of closing out the books for 2024. Even though our energy sales are down just over 1% at this time over last year, our total margin year-to-date is better than expected at just over \$1.4 million on \$22.1 million in revenue. We had budgeted to be at about \$1.3 million through November on \$22.9 million in budgeted revenue. Additionally, we expect our wholly owned subsidiaries, Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting and Minnesota Valley Tree Service, to end their year in good financial shape as well. Although both will be coming in slightly in the red. Barring anything unforeseen, we expect to end the year in good overall financial shape all the way around.

District Caucus Meetings

For those of you in Districts 2, 4 and 6, we will be holding your Caucus Meetings next month. District 2 will meet on February 4th at 10:30 a.m. at REC Headquarters in Montevideo. District 4 will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4th upstairs at our office as well. District 6 will meet on Thursday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m. at the Wood Lake Community Center. If you are a member of 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 from that district

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, a drawing is held for a Basin Tour Trip and then the Caucus Meeting is adjourned for a light lunch.

If you are in District 2, 4 or 6 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 April 5th at the Prairie's Edge Casino in 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 2025!

2025 Caucus Meetings



Tuesday, February 4th, 2025

District 2: Gary Groothuis
10:30 AM • REC Headquarters

District 4: Steve Norman
1:30 PM • REC Headquarters

Thursday, February 6th, 2025

District 6: Tim Velde
10 AM • Wood Lake Community Center

2025 Annual Meeting: Saturday, April 5th, 2025 • Prairie's Edge Casino – Granite Falls

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // TODD BOLKEMA

Engineering & Operations Manager



How do you move a transformer that weighs around 40,000 pounds? Our linemen knew the answer and had the tools needed tucked away in our shop. The substation transformer in the Asbury Substation is being upgraded next year and needed to be moved about 15 feet to the far side of the concrete foundation so we could install the stronger foundation for the new transformer. To move it they jacked up the transformer, slid round metal rods under it and rolled it over to the new spot where they jacked it up again and removed the rods—job done. This happened while we had the Asbury Substation switched out to install the new switch pole for our 69 kilovolt (kV) switches.



Many of our members experienced an outage on Thursday, December 12th. A splice on the overhead 69kV wire failed and the wire dropped causing another splice to fail as well. The breaker opened and we lost power to five substations for 4½ hours from midnight to 4:30AM. We had three trucks and six dedicated linemen working in -4 degree weather to pull the wire up and replace the splices. Check out our Facebook page for a picture from that night.

Our new Torvik Substation site work has been progressing along with our contractor finishing up leveling the site. Some of the materials such as the breakers and cable trench are here or imminently arriving while others like the oil containment and battery system will be here in time for a spring/summer installation by Karian Peterson.

West of the Madison Substation, Minnesota Valley Tree Service has completed clearing the path for a new 6.2 mile 69kV transmission line. This line is being built to improve grid reliability by adding a second feed to that substation. With the new line on the south side of the highway, it necessitated that we trim back two large farm groves. The tree service is hauling out huge piles of tree cuttings from those locations. Many thanks to the members who allowed us to trim their trees along this new path. They embody the cooperative spirit.

\$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 2025-2026 school year. All applications must be in our office by **February 7th, 2025**.

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 and download an application.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Nov 2024	Jan-Nov 2023	Jan-Nov 2004
Kwh Purchased	206,586,126	209,594,936	140,004,654
Kwh Sold	195,843,963	198,322,132	130,240,314
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$10,865,359	\$10,686,261	\$3,872,562
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,484,553	\$2,074,981	\$601,055
Reserve For Taxes	\$259,600	\$258,414	\$165,668
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	52.71	52.46	27.66
	November '24	November '23	November '04
Total Plant	\$104,692,908	\$98,453,443	\$37,654,027
Number of Active Services	5,316	5,324	5,219
Avg. Residential Bill	\$248.49	\$283.17	\$171.03
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,150	2,484	2,202
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,572	3,835	3,148
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	40,900	38,270	35,685

No one found their number last month, so we are rolling that amount over to this month! If you find your number, claim by the 25th of January to be eligible for:



2024 Youth Tour Winner Lauren Latimer Writes Letter of her Experience

"This summer, I went to Washington DC. It was a sponsored trip for rural applicants by local co-ops. The trip was fun but busy. We went to many places and did many things. Our group went to see a few memorials, even the graveyard where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is. We went on a Segway tour where we stopped to see the Lincoln Statue.

I really enjoyed the Smithsonian National Museums, I went to the Art and Sculpture Smithsonian National Museum, as well as the Natural Smithsonian National Museum. The Estate of George Washington was large and we were low on time. Throughout the week, the co-ops held events for us students, including public speaking, a pin-trading game and even a great party. We ended our trip with a boat and a Ferris wheel.

We saw the Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We passed by many, many graves on the trolley tour. Graves of soldiers, lined up to be at attention like the soldiers themselves.

We went on a segway tour after learning how to ride segways, which are basically hoverboards with scooter handles. The segways were easy to ride and difficult to fall off of. They have an internal sensor that rebalances when you lean too far one way or another. To move, you lean. During the segway tour, we made a stop by the Lincoln Statue. Visiting the Washington Estate on Mount Vernon was unique. This was the closest we got to something old, other than the rocks. We were inside the first president's house.

One of my favorite things we did was our visit to the National Smithsonian National Museums. It doesn't sound very fun until I mention that I went to the art museum, the National Gallery of Art and the sculpture garden, the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden.

I also had time to visit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

During all of our exploration of the capital, the Rural Co-op Association had been holding several events for us. Sometimes before and sometimes after our sight-seeing. I remember we had one night when the whole co-op had a party. Before the party, we had speakers come in. I liked one of the speakers best. This one, Mike Schlappi, had written a book. He uses a wheelchair because when he was a little kid, he got shot. That leads to his book's title "*I Got Shot, What's Your Problem?*" He knows that it sounds sarcastic, he even said so in his writing, but the book is a motivational one. The simplified message and theme of the book is that no matter what problems you have, you can do whatever you put your mind to. I bought a signed version of his book at night's end. We even talked a little about life goals.

On the last day, we went to a restaurant. Some others and I were talking and the guy across from me showed me a photo of his cat mid-sneeze. It is as hilarious as you'd imagine. Then, we took a ferry to the Ferris wheel. It was my first time on both a ferry and ferris wheel.

The trip was both educational and fun. ***If I had the chance to do it again, I would. I highly suggest joining in on the trip if you get the opportunity - it was a one-of-a-kind experience that i would never have had with another group.***



2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Minnesota Valley is again sponsoring a youth trip in 2025. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for **June 16th-21st, 2025**. 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. B three twenty-three zero four 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 7th, 2025. 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 and download the application.





Member Services Manager

What to Look for While Appliance Shopping

When you're shopping for appliances, think of two price tags. The first one covers the purchase price – think of it as a down payment. The second price tag is the cost of operating the appliance

during its lifetime. You'll be paying on that second price tag every month with your utility bill for the next 10 to 20 years, depending on the appliance. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years; clothes washers last about 11 years; and room air conditioners last about 9 years.

THE ENERGY STAR LABEL

When you shop for a new appliance, look for the ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR products usually exceed minimum federal standards by a substantial amount.



The ENERGY STAR logo is on all qualified products that meet specific standards for energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality – sometimes significantly. Look for the label on appliances, electronics, water heaters, windows, and other products that consume energy in your home.

THE ENERGYGUIDE LABEL

To help you figure out whether an appliance is energy efficient, the federal government requires most appliances to display the bright yellow and black EnergyGuide label. Although these labels will not show you which appliance is the most efficient on the market, they will show you the annual energy consumption and operating cost for each appliance so you can compare them yourself.

How to Read the ENERGYGUIDE Label

The EnergyGuide label is required to be placed on all appliances by the manufacturers. The label provides information about energy consumption, and shows you how much energy an appliance uses compared with similar models. Keep in mind that the numbers are averages: actual costs will differ somewhat depending on how you use them. The label shows the following:

- 1) Maker, model number and size of the appliance.
- 2) Estimated yearly operating cost (based on the national average cost of electricity) and the range of operating costs for similar models.
- 3) The ENERGY STAR® logo indicates that this model meets strict criteria for energy efficiency.
- 4) Estimated yearly electricity consumption.
- 5) Key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost comparison range.

Electric Heat is Still the Way to Go

Heating electrically continues to be the safe, efficient and cheap way to heat your home. There are many types of electric heat sources. If you have electric heat and it is not separately metered you can save money by getting on one of Minnesota Valley's two heat rates. It is easy and affordable. If you are heating smaller areas with portable space heaters you can save money by installing permanently wired heaters and having those heaters wired into one of our heat rates. Contact us today for details.

Electric Heat Rates

Since 1988, Minnesota Valley has offered the Electric Heat Rate. G four twenty-six zero three 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 5¢ per kWh for 2025.

Dual Heat Rate

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. They must also have an automatic fossil fuel backup, but agree to use their electric system. The rate for Dual Heat Rate remains at 4.6¢ per kWh for 2025.

U.S. Government Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.

ENERGYGUIDE

Refrigerator-Freezer
 • Automatic Defrost
 Side-Mounted Freezer
 No through-the-door ice

XYZ Corporation
 Models ABC-L
 Capacity: 21 Cubic Feet

1

5

Compare ONLY to other labels with yellow numbers.
 Labels with yellow numbers are based on the same test procedures.

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost

\$67 **2**

Cost Ranges	Models with similar features	\$52	\$88
	All models	\$32	\$95

4 **630 kWh**
 Estimated Yearly Electricity Use

3

1 Your cost will depend on your utility rates and use.
 2 Both cost ranges based on models of similar size capacity.
 3 Models with similar features have automatic defrost, freezer
 4 Estimated energy cost based on a national average electricity cost of 12 cents per kWh.

ftc.gov/energy

