



## MEMBER MEETINGS

Opportunity for information, discussion, fellowship

District meetings for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be held at three locations within the cooperative's service territory. Meetings will be held within Districts 2, 7 and 8. The meetings inform attendees on issues and programs associated with the cooperative. Official business will be conducted at the three district meetings, which will include the election of a director candidate. Even though a meeting may not be scheduled within the district in which you reside, you are welcome to attend a meeting of your choice. Anyone requiring dietary needs, special access or assistance at any one of the meeting sites should call Red Lake Electric in advance so arrangements can be made. Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served at each meeting. Due to the Minnesota mask mandate, we kindly ask that you wear your mask and social distance during the meeting.

|           |                            |                     |                           |                        |             |                           |         |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------|
|           |                            |                     | Huntly                    | Como                   |             |                           |         |
|           | West Valley                | New Maine           | Spruce Valley<br>M. River | Cedar                  | Whitford    |                           |         |
| Foldahl   | Marsh Grove<br>District 3  | New Folsen          | Holt                      | East Valley            | Mud Lake    | Eckvold                   | Valley  |
|           | Viking                     | New Solum           | Excel                     | Agder                  | Grand Plain | Moylan                    | Espelle |
|           | Numedal                    | Norden              | North                     | Silverton              | Cloverleaf  | Goodridge                 | Reiner  |
|           | Bray<br>District 9         | Sanders             | Rocksburg<br>District 8   | Smiley                 | Kratka      | Highlanding<br>District 7 | Star    |
| Belgium   | Polk Centre                | Black River         | River Falls               | Wyandotte              | Mayfield    | Deerpark                  | Hickory |
|           | Wylie                      | Browns Creek        | River                     |                        |             |                           |         |
| Parnell   | Louisville                 | Red Lake FIs<br>RLF | Gervais                   | Emardville<br>Plummer  | Garnes      | Equality<br>District 4    | Johnson |
| Crookston | Gentilly                   | Lake Pleasant       | Terrebonne                | Poplar River<br>Brooks | Lambert     | Chester                   |         |
| Fairfax   | Kertsonville<br>District 1 | Tilden              | Grove Park<br>Mentor      | Badger                 | Lessor      | Hill River                |         |
| Russia    | Onstad                     |                     |                           |                        |             |                           |         |

Member Meeting Locations



### DISTRICT 2

**Mon., Feb. 1**

1:30 p.m.

Nazareth Lutheran Church  
Holt

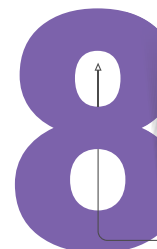


### DISTRICT 7

**Mon., Feb. 1**

7 p.m.

Oak Park Lutheran Church  
Rural Oklee



### DISTRICT 8

**Tues., Feb. 2**

7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran School  
Thief River Falls

## Director elections to be held

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members in District 2, 7 and 8 will soon elect directors to represent them. The initial elections will take place at the upcoming district meetings. The final election will occur at the cooperative's annual meeting on March 31 if there is more than one nominee. Districts 2, 7 and 8 are currently represented by Stacy Blawat, Aaron Chervestad and Cecil Anderson, respectively. Directors must be members residing in the district they represent and have no conflicts of interest regarding Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Any candidate for director must have his or her name stated as the "member" on the cooperative's records. For more information on director qualifications (Kyle Page 26211) and responsibilities contact Stephanie Johnson, general manager, at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

**Mark your calendars  
for the  
Red Lake Electric  
Annual Meeting  
Wed., March 31  
10:30 a.m.**

**Ralph Engelstad Arena  
Thief River Falls**

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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President ..... Randy Versdahl  
Vice President ..... Stacy Blawat  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Mark Hanson  
Directors ..... Cecil Anderson,  
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,  
Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Peter Mosbeck

Stephanie Johnson ..... General Manager  
Steve Conely ..... Manager of Electric  
System Operations  
Kelli Brateng ..... Manager of Member Services

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168  
Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068  
Fax: (218) 253-2630



## AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 218-253-2200

Website: [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)  
Email: [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com)

## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-252-1166 or 811

## MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:

**Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758**

Polk and Red Lake Counties:

**George Stage – 701-306-3511**

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov) for more information. The inspectors can be reached week-day mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.*



# No rate increase

by Stephanie Johnson

The new year is upon us. Looking back at 2020, despite our energy sales being lower than budgeted, we seem to be ending 2020 with a healthy equity level. Red Lake Electric was fortunate to not be hit with any major storm damage, and our employees operated safely with zero lost-time injuries.

At the December board meeting, your board of directors approved the 2021 operating and capital improvement (construction) budget. There is no projected rate increase in the 2021 budget. We should be

able to meet financial obligations in 2021 with current rates, barring any unforeseen events that could impact our cost to deliver reliable energy to the membership. Severe damage to the cooperative's distribution system or a significant increase in your cooperative's billing peaks, coupled with flat or declining kilowatt-hour sales, are examples of events that could have (Kevin Sorter 22097) an impact on the cost to deliver energy to the membership.

I wish everyone all the best in 2021!

## The Power of SmartHub



Now you can see your daily and monthly usage, pay/view your bill online, plus a whole host of other useful services with SmartHub. SmartHub is a free and secure online energy portal. Go to [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com) and experience the power of SmartHub today!

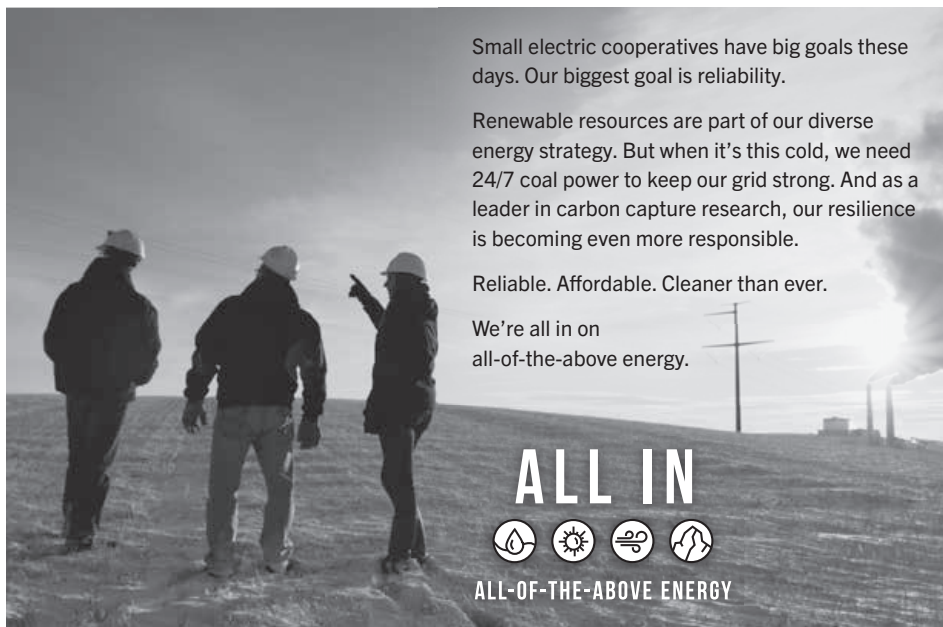


Small electric cooperatives have big goals these days. Our biggest goal is reliability.

Renewable resources are part of our diverse energy strategy. But when it's this cold, we need 24/7 coal power to keep our grid strong. And as a leader in carbon capture research, our resilience is becoming even more responsible.

Reliable. Affordable. Cleaner than ever.

We're all in on  
all-of-the-above energy.



# ALL IN



ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY

# Please move over for roadside crews

## *It's polite, and it's the law.*

Every year, workers along the sides of roads are injured or killed when a car crashes into the crew's site, even though it's marked with bright cones and warning signs.

There's an easy way to reduce those incidents that harm police officers and other first responders, road construction workers and utility crews. There's a slogan to help remind drivers. There's even a law.

The slogan is "slow down or move over." It's good advice and a decent thing (William Langlois 26195) to do to keep people safe. It's also a requirement in all 50 states.

Legislatures first started passing Move Over laws about 25 years ago to reduce the year-after-year statistics of harm to roadside emergency workers. In the past five years, states have started to specifically add electric and other utility projects to their Move Over or Slow Down laws.

It's an addition that's welcomed by Red Lake Electric because we were part of the effort to expand the law to help protect line crews.

Protecting line crews is a top priority for Minnesota's electric cooperatives, and it's a safety measure everyone can help with, says Steve Conely, manager of Electric System Operations.

"Move Over is not only a good law, it's also the courteous thing to do," says Conely. "Our crews already perform dangerous work to keep the lights on every day. They deserve a work environment that's as safe as possible."

There are slight differences in each state's Move Over laws, but not so much that you can't figure out the right thing to do, even if you're traveling from state to state. Here are the basic requirements:

- Within 200 feet before and after a work zone, which will be marked with bright signs and marker



cones, and often flashing lights, change lanes if there's more than one lane on your side of road so that there is an empty lane between your vehicle and the roadside crew.

- If it's not possible or safe to change lanes, slow down. Many states specify slowing down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit if it's 25 mph or more. Yes, that means if the posted speed limit is 25 mph, slow down to 5 mph.
- Drivers must obey all traffic directions posted as part of the worksite.
- Keep control of your car – yes, that's a requirement in many Move Over laws. And yes, it is more of a general guidance than a rule for a specific speed. It means you need to pay attention and respond to weather conditions – heavy rain or a slick road might mean you're required to slow down even more than 20 mph. And no texting, fiddling with the radio or other distractions.
- Penalties for violating those requirements range from \$100 to \$2,000, or loss of your driver's license.

A list summarizing each state's law can be found on the AAA website at <https://drivinglaws.aaa.com/tag/move-over-law/>.

## Recipe Corner



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to [info@redlakeelectric.com](mailto:info@redlakeelectric.com) or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

### Crockpot Cream Cheese Chicken Chili

- 1 15- oz. can black beans
- 1 15.25- oz. can corn undrained
- 1 10- oz. can Rotel tomatoes undrained
- 1 package ranch dressing mix
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 1 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 8- oz. package light cream cheese
- 2 chicken breasts

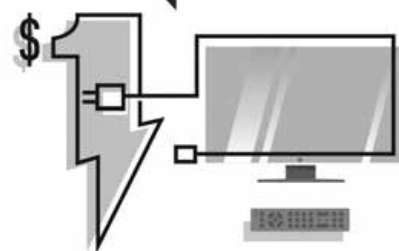
Drain and rinse the black beans. Place chicken at the bottom of the crockpot, then pour out the whole can of corn (undrained), Rotel tomatoes and black beans on top of chicken.

Top with seasonings and ranch dressing mix. Stir together.

Place cream cheese block on top. Cover with lid and cook on low for 6-8 hours.

After the cooking time is over, take chicken breasts from crockpot and shred and add back to the chili. Stir together and enjoy!

### What can you get for \$1?



#### 96 hours of television on an LED TV

Your electricity is a bargain. Did you know you can watch 96 hours of movies on your LED TV using just \$1 of kilowatt power? That means the latest flick on your list could cost less than TWO CENTS to stream! Pop some more popcorn and enjoy your evening of inexpensive entertainment.



# Two former Red Lake Electric directors die

## Veral Mosbeck

*Veral Mosbeck served as board director of District 9 from 1977 – 2007, and served on Minnkota's board of directors from 1992 – 2007*



Veral Mosbeck of rural Red Lake Falls, Minn., passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, at his rural Red Lake Falls home.

Veral Oscar Mosbeck was born May 7, 1926, in Polk Centre Township, rural Red Lake Falls, Minn., son of the late Oscar and Mable (Hallstrom) Mosbeck. He attended rural country school and graduated from the Crookston Agricultural School.

On Oct. 13, 1956, Veral was united in marriage to June Anderson. Together they made their home in Polk Centre Township where they raised their four children: Peter, Cindy, Kristine and Paul.

Veral, alongside his brothers Warren and Donald, formed Mosbeck Brothers. Together they did land improvement, road construction and concentrated on farming, which was Veral's passion. Retirement for Veral in 1991 was just a word, as he continued his involvement in the farm's daily activities.

Veral enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking, beekeeping, restoring antique tractors and the love of family and friends.

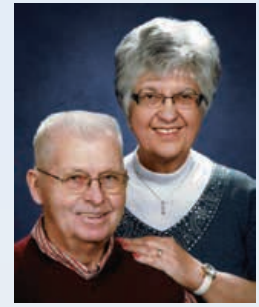
Throughout his life Veral served as the Polk Centre assessor, township supervisor, Red Lake Electric Co-op board president and Minnkota Power director. He was a lifelong member of Black River Lutheran Church.

Veral is survived by his wife, June; children, Peter (Janette) Mosbeck of Red Lake Falls, Minn., Cindy (Bryan) Steiger of Red Lake Falls, Minn., Kristine (Tim) Loeffler of Thief River Falls, Minn., and Paul (Shannon) Mosbeck of Red Lake Falls, Minn.; grandchildren, Brittney (Tom) Johnson of East Grand Forks, Minn., Kelsie (Jeff) Steiger-Krein of Thief River Falls, Minn., Dana (Chelsey) Dallmann of Red Lake Falls, Minn., Tracy Dallmann of Detroit Lakes, Minn., Rylie Steiger of Red Lake Falls, Minn., Cory (Kelsey) Loeffler of Red Lake Falls, Minn., Kjelsy (Scott) Stueber of Thief River Falls, Minn., Michael Mosbeck of East Grand Forks, Minn., Angela Mosbeck of Red Lake Falls, Minn., and Samuel Mosbeck of Red Lake Falls, Minn.; great-grandchildren, Isaak, Ty, Haidyn, Luxley, Alex, Jack, Ayden, Ellie, Leah, Bri, Eva, Hunter and Jaylen; brother Donald (Ruthie) Mosbeck of Red Lake Falls, Minn.; stepbrother Virgil (Verena) Larson of St. Paul, Minn.; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandson, Dustin Mosbeck; brother, Warren Mosbeck; niece, Jonelle Mosbeck; parents; and numerous aunts and uncles.

## Tom & Judy Yutrzenka

*Tom Yutrzenka served as board director of District 3 from 1989 – 2004*



Judy Yutrzenka, 80, of Argyle, Minn., died on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at Altru Hospital, Grand Forks, N.D.

Tom Yutrzenka, 83, followed his wife from this life just 12 hours later, early Monday morning, Dec. 28, 2020, also at Altru.

Together through life, they are together in death; both of them passing away from complications of the COVID-19 virus.

Thomas Gerald was born on June 14, 1937, in Duluth, Minn., to Mert and Irene (Dulinski) Yutrzenka. He was raised in rural Argyle alongside his twin brother, Ted, and other siblings, Janice and Ray. He attended Argyle Public School and graduated in 1955. In September of that year, Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served his country until his honorable discharge in 1957.

Judith Marie was born on April 15, 1940, in Crookston, Minn., the daughter of Ervin and Ella (Ross) Maruska. She was raised outside Angus, Minn., with her brother, Gerald. She attended Warren High School, graduating in 1958.

On April 21, 1959, Tom and Judy were united in marriage in St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. The young couple made their home in Argyle for a short time before moving to a farm outside of Viking, Minn. They would live on this farm for 43 years, raising their children while Tom worked the land and worked a few other jobs. They were both active in the community; Judy ran the cafe in Viking for a time, they were very active in their church and with the American Legion in Argyle, Tom was in the Knights of Columbus and Judy in the Catholic Daughters. In addition to his work with Lakehead Pipeline, Tom was a director of the Red Lake Electric Co-op for 15 years, as well as the chairman of the Viking Township council for 27 years. Judy worked for the Post Office in Viking for 28 years, retiring in 2002.

After 61 years of marriage, Tom and Judy were blessed to not be apart for long. They are mourned by the family they made: the family they leave behind, children, Patrick (Janell) Yutrzenka of Ottertail, Minn., Pamela (Kurt) Holland of Detroit Lakes, Minn., Peggy (Joe) Miller of Drummond, Okla., Paul (Julie) Yutrzenka of Argyle, Minn., and Paulette (Jeff) Pearson of Salol, Minn.; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; Judy's brother, Gerald (Sandra) Maruska; and Tom's siblings, Janice Gryskiewicz and Ray (Kris) Yutrzenka.

They were preceded in death by their parents; Tom's twin brother, Ted (Janet) Yutrzenka; and brother-in-law, Donald Gryskiewicz.

# ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE

All-of-the-above strategy ensures the best energy value



“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

It’s a familiar saying, and believe it or not, that age-old piece of wisdom is used by electric cooperatives to make sure you receive a reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible supply of electricity. Each of the primary generation resource options across the country has both advantages and disadvantages. This is why an all-of-the-above energy strategy is so crucial. If a utility ties itself to one resource, it is exposed to all the risks associated with that resource. By diversifying, utilities are able to take advantage of the pros and limit their exposure to the cons.

Through its membership in Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric Cooperative uses a diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro to meet your 24/7 electricity needs. Future power supply decisions take into account numerous factors, including permitting; capital, operating and maintenance (Walter Osborne 24767) costs; existing generation mix; reliability and resiliency; and projected consumer demand for electricity.

Decisions to build or purchase from new generation resources are carefully considered. Building any new generation resource at grid scale can cost hundreds of millions of dollars and require decades of investment and commitment. That makes it uneconomic to switch back and forth between power supply options over short periods of time.

## PROS AND CONS OF GENERATION RESOURCES

### DISPATCHABLE/BASELOAD

| LIGNITE COAL                          |                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abundant, domestic fuel source        | Currently, almost impossible to permit                                                                      |
| Can reliably run 24 hours per day     | Can be difficult to ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production                                    |
| Cost-competitive with other resources | Higher CO <sub>2</sub> intensity than natural gas, although CO <sub>2</sub> capture technology is advancing |

| NATURAL GAS                                     |                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lower CO <sub>2</sub> emission levels than coal | Fuel costs have been historically volatile                               |
| Currently, natural gas is low-priced            | Pipeline infrastructure not adequate for projected demand                |
| Can be run 24/7 or used during peak events      | Potentially more expensive to install CO <sub>2</sub> capture technology |
| Flexible operation                              |                                                                          |

| HYDRO                       |                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No fuel cost                | Currently, almost impossible to permit                             |
| Low-cost energy to consumer | Affects fish and wildlife habitat                                  |
| No air emissions            | Alters the natural flow of rivers                                  |
| Flexible operation          | Virtually no resources in development<br>(some dams being removed) |

| +                                 | NUCLEAR                                                      | — |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| No air emissions                  | High capital cost and increasingly expensive fuel            |   |
| Can reliably run 24 hours per day | Radioactive waste must be properly disposed of and monitored |   |
|                                   | Nearly impossible to permit                                  |   |
|                                   | Cannot ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production  |   |

### INTERMITTENT

| +                                     | WIND                                                                                 | – |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| No fuel cost                          | Has intermittent production (produces about 45% of its potential on an annual basis) |   |
| No air emissions                      | Requires investment in backup generation resources                                   |   |
| Cost-competitive with other resources | Turbines take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources       |   |
|                                       | Wind farms can impact bird and wildlife populations                                  |   |
|                                       | Cannot operate in extreme cold or wind conditions                                    |   |

| +                                                                | SOLAR                                                                                   | – |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| No fuel cost                                                     | Has intermittent production (produces about 15-18% of its potential on an annual basis) |   |
| No air emissions                                                 | Requires investment in backup generation resources                                      |   |
| Costs are higher than other resources, but are trending downward | Solar panels take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources      |   |
|                                                                  | Production affected by clouds, snow and extreme cold temperatures                       |   |

| BATTERY TECHNOLOGY                  |                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No air emissions                    | Technology is in its infancy at grid scale                                                                            |
| Can be dispatched when needed       | Costly to deploy and requires investments in other generation resources to charge the batteries                       |
| Pairs well with renewable resources | Can only dispatch for 2-4 hours at a time when energy can be needed for days                                          |
|                                     | Battery components require significant amounts of rare earth elements, which are almost exclusively produced by China |



## Electrical safety and conservation websites

The following is a list of websites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These websites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric's website at [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)
- Alliance to Save Energy: [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/greenhomes](http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes)
- Energy Star: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- Minnesota Safety Council: [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org)
- Safe Electricity: [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)
- Lighting Controls Association: [www.aboutlightingcontrols.org](http://www.aboutlightingcontrols.org)
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)



### NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (99999 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.**

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Red Lake Falls, as an operating electric utility in the state of Minnesota, is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers.

The cooperative will provide information relating to the said interconnections to all interested member-consumers of the cooperative free of charge upon request.

Any disputes between the cooperative and its member-consumers over interconnection, (Michael Lane 22758) sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Red Lake Electric Board of Directors.

### FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

#### Inter-County Community Council

Oklee, MN  
*Serves East Polk, Pennington  
and Red Lake Counties*  
218-796-5144  
Toll-free: 1-888-778-4008  
Fax: 218-796-5175

#### Northwest Community Action

Badger, MN  
*Serves East Marshall County*  
218-528-3258  
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329  
Fax: 218-528-3259

#### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN  
*Serves West Polk,  
West Marshall County*  
218-281-9080  
Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729  
Fax: 218-281-0705

#### Red Lake Community Action Agency

Red Lake, MN  
*Serves Beltrami County*  
218-679-1880

### ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Red Lake Electric Cooperative Director qualification requirements

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Is not a member of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected.
- Within three years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative.
- Is or becomes, or at any time during the three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been employed (Scott Manteufel 26257) by a labor union, which represents or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.
- Is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of any employee of the Cooperative.
- Is a person who is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of an incumbent director who is not up for reelection at that time.
- Is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business.
- Is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director.

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## Director nomination and election procedure

The procedure for which directors can be nominated and elected for Red Lake Electric Cooperative is outlined in Article II, Section 10, of the Cooperative's Bylaws. That section reads as follows:

**SECTION 10. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.** (a) Nomination at District Meetings. Not less than forty days nor more than sixty days before any meeting at which directors are to be elected, the board of directors shall call a separate meeting of the members of each district from which directors are to be elected, at a suitable place in such district for the purpose of selecting a candidate for director to represent the members located within such district. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district as provided in Section 2 of this Article and shall indicate the district to which such member belongs. The notice shall state that nominations for a director are to be made at the meeting. The district meeting shall be called to order by the director representing the district or by another designated representative of the board of directors, or in his absence, by any members residing in the district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard, but shall have no vote. Nominations for candidates for director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming.

Candidates must be members residing in the district and must possess the qualifications for director specified in Section 2 of Article III of these bylaws. Voting shall be by ballot, and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any district meeting. Each member may vote for one candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the official candidate of the district. In case of a tie, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. The minutes of the district meeting shall set forth, among other matter, the name of each person nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each and shall specify the official candidate of the district. A certified copy of the minutes signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the district meeting shall be delivered to the secretary of the Cooperative at the following meeting of the board.

(b) Nomination of Directors by Petition. Nomination for director can also be made by petition. Fifteen (15) or more members may make a nomination in writing to the Secretary over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. This petition nomination must be in the format prescribed by the Secretary. Blank nomination petitions shall be available to all members at the Cooperative office. All petition nominees shall be listed in the notice of annual meeting, and their names shall be printed on the election ballot.

(c) Election of Directors. At the annual meeting, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates of each district. Election of directors shall be by printed ballot, separate ballots to be provided for each district, listing the candidates in alphabetical order. Only members of a district shall be entitled to vote for director to be elected from that district, and each member or member's spouse shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from the district in which he is a member. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at this meeting shall be declared elected as director. In the case of a tie vote, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

(d) Voting by Mail for Directors. The members shall be entitled to vote by mail for directors at annual and special meetings as provided in this section. Each member shall be mailed a director election ballot in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors with the notice of the annual or special meeting. A member who will be absent from the meeting may vote by mail for directors by marking the ballot for the candidate of the member's choice. The member shall return the ballot personally or by mail to the Cooperative in a sealed plain envelope inside another envelope bearing the member's name. If the ballot of the member is received by the Cooperative on or before the date of the annual or special meeting, the ballot shall be accepted and counted as the vote of the absent member.

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