

32 Years of Service

After 32 years of employment at Red Lake Electric, HVAC Technician Michael Raymond's career came to a close on Sept. 30.

Raymond joined Red Lake Electric in February 1989 as an HVAC technician. Raymond was also involved with our load management program and meter changeouts, as well as building and lawn maintenance and other miscellaneous duties.

We wish you well during your retirement Mick! You will be greatly missed.



Bierman to Serve as Trust Board Director

Red Lake Electric would like to welcome Stacy Bierman as the newest member of the Red Lake Electric Trust Board. Stacy and her husband Steve live on a farm north of Thief River Falls, which her grandparents bought and on which she grew up. The Biermans have two sons, Justin and Matthew, and four grandchildren. Stacy is already involved in the community as the co-chair of the NCH Trails to Treatments Committee, as well as a past Sunday school teacher and youth group assistant. She looks forward to helping other groups with funding and learning more about Red Lake Electric. In her spare time, Stacy enjoys gardening, walking, horses, chickens, being on the pontoon and time with family and friends. **Welcome, Stacy!**

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Stacy Blawat
Vice President..... Peter Mosbeck
Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hanson
Directors Cecil Anderson,
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,
Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Randy Versdahl
Stephanie Johnson General Manager
Steve Conely Manager of Electric System Operations
Kelli Brateng. Manager of Member Services

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8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 218-253-2200

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com
Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

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

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Pennington and Marshall Counties:
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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 for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday 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.



It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

by Stephanie Johnson

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes, CHS, and Red Lake Electric all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time (20228 Clifford A. Nelson) to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Red Lake Electric was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain — the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include (20384 Barry Walton) everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective, or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Red Lake Electric's leadership team and

employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also lives locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Red Lake Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars — it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Red Lake Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community."

Retirement

Congratulations to Michael (Mick) Raymond on his retirement from RLEC after 32 years of employment. Mick has been part of our member service department since 1989. Thank you, Mick, for your dedicated service. Happy Retirement!

HALLOWEEN HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

Fall celebrations like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times for children, who can dress up in costumes, enjoy parties and eat yummy treats. These celebrations also provide a chance to give out healthy snacks, get physical activity and focus on safety. Check out these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests.

Going trick-or-treating?

- Swords, knives and other costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.
- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. WALK and don't run from house to house.
- Always test makeup in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use crosswalks wherever possible.
- Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.
- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Never accept rides (31393 Marc Schenkey) from strangers.
- Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

Expecting trick-or-treaters or party guests?

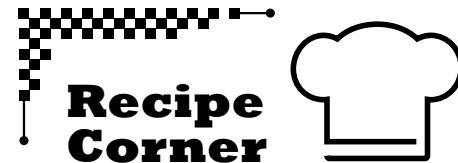
Follow these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for everyone.

- Provide healthier treats for trick-or-treaters such as low-calorie treats and drinks. For guests, offer a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Use party games and trick-or-treat time as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could cause someone to fall.
- Keep candle-lit jack-o'-lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of the reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.

Source: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

In observation of Veterans Day, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11.

In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to info@redlakeelectric.com or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430.

One-Pot Creamy Tomato Tortellini Soup

1 medium onion, diced

3 garlic cloves, minced

1 tsp olive oil

1 spring of fresh rosemary chopped or ½ teaspoon dried

28 oz can diced tomatoes

15 oz can tomato sauce

½ tsp dried oregano

4 large fresh basil leaves or ½ teaspoon dried basil

½ tsp salt

¼ tsp pepper

4 cups chicken stock

½ cup heavy cream

20 oz three-cheese tortellini

½ cup shredded parmesan cheese, plus extra for garnish

fresh basil, to garnish

shredded parmesan cheese, to garnish

Instructions:

1. Place the onion, garlic, olive oil and fresh rosemary in a 6-quart soup pot or dutch oven. Sauté over medium heat for 5 minutes or until the onions are translucent.
2. Add in the diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, oregano, basil, salt, pepper, chicken stock, and heavy cream and stir to combine. Simmer for 20 minutes.
3. Place the three-cheese tortellini into the soup and cook for 12-15 minutes or until the tortellini are tender and cooked through.
4. Stir in the parmesan cheese.
5. Serve and garnish with fresh basil and shredded parmesan cheese.

OCTOBER IS National Co-op Month

Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be spending the month of October celebrating with our cooperative member-consumers (like you!) and reflecting on what makes cooperative communities great. To mark National Cooperative Month, we want to supply you with some fast facts about cooperatives – and why you should be proud to be a member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

National Cooperative Month has been celebrated every October since

1964.



Rural electric cooperatives were born in 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Farmers used the support to band together and build electric systems for their rural communities.

Electric cooperatives put their members first. On average, co-ops scored higher than all other electric companies on the 2021 American Customer Satisfaction Index assessment.



Cooperatives electrify around 56% of the U.S. landmass – that's a lot of ground to cover!

Rural electric cooperatives differ from investor-owned utilities in two major ways:

1

Co-ops are not-for-profit organizations. Revenue is used to keep power flowing or returned to cooperative members.

2

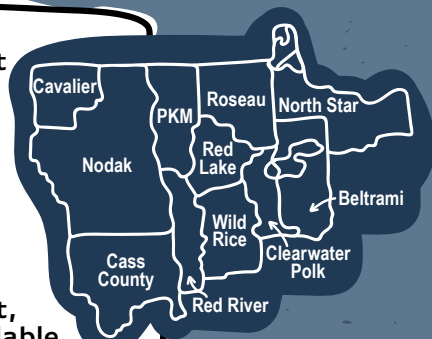
Co-op decisions are made by co-op members. Members elect a board of their neighbors to help guide the co-op on their behalf.

Your cooperative is becoming more environmentally responsible every year. We now distribute 42% carbon-free energy from resources like wind and hydropower.



Across the nation, co-ops serve **42 million** people in **2,500+ counties**, including **92%** of persistent poverty counties.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is part of a system of 11 cooperatives that receive electricity generated by Minnkota Power Cooperative. We partner with our co-op family to find more efficient, reliable and affordable ways to serve the region.



To learn more about your cooperative and all of the services we provide, visit redlakeelectric.com.

BE CYBER SMART

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being “cyber smart” is of the utmost importance. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyberattacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructure. Furthermore, as has been underlined (21155 Joyce Kron) by these recent breaches, cyberattacks are becoming more sophisticated with more evolved bad actors cropping up each day. Luckily, there are several steps that we can take on a daily basis to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of wrongdoers.



HERE ARE A FEW QUICK TIPS: ▶▶▶▶

Enable multi-factor authentication

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being compromised, even if a bad actor hijacks your password. In this way, MFA makes it more difficult for password cracking tools to enable attackers to break into accounts.



Use strong passphrases/ password manager

This may seem obvious, but all too often securing strong passphrases/password managers is overlooked. People spending more time online during the pandemic has certainly contributed to more bad actors prowling for accounts to attack. Using long, complex and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked, and an easy way of keeping track and remembering your passwords is by using a password manager.



Perform software updates

When a device prompts that it's time to update the software, it may be tempting to simply click postpone and ignore the message. However, having the latest security software, web browser and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait - update.



Do your research before downloading

Common sense is a crucial part of maintaining good online hygiene, and an intuitive step to stay safe online is to do some research before downloading anything new to your device, such as apps. Before downloading, make sure to check who created the app, what the user reviews say and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.



Check your security settings

Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware of who can access your documents. This extends from Google Docs to Zoom calls and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend, and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.



MAKE A HABIT OF PRACTICING ONLINE SAFETY ▶▶▶▶

Being cyber smart and maintaining stellar online hygiene is the best way to protect yourself and others from cyberattacks. No single tip is foolproof, but taken together they can make a real difference in safeguarding your online presence. Following these tips (25195 Jason Anderson) is also easy and free. By taking preventive measures and making a habit of practicing online safety, you can decrease your odds of being hacked exponentially – and prevent lost time and money, as well as annoyance.



Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of *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 (9999999.99 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.

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The following three organizations were awarded Round Up funds to help the disadvantaged:

- Four area grants were awarded for the general public:*

- The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are: Diane Kolstoe - President, Oklee; Stacy Bierman – Vice President, Thief River Falls; and Julie Stennes - Secretary/Treasurer, Thief River Falls. Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Stephanie Johnson of Gatzke, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting their website at www.redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline for when the Operation Round Up® grant applications are due is Feb. 22, 2022.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- Five area emergency service providers were awarded grants:

- Monies to benefit the youth were awarded to these four organizations:*

- Red Lake County Christmas Program: \$400 to support holiday

- Christmas for Pennington County: \$500 to help purchase Christmas gifts for their annual Holiday program.
- Elevate Youth Center: \$500 to help fund after-school programs for local teenagers.
- Middle River Veterans Outdoors, Inc.: \$500 to help provide food and supplies for the youth water fowl hunt.

Three organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received the following grants:

- One grant was awarded for historical proposes:*

- Goodridge Area Historical Society: \$500 to help continue restoration of the Woodrow School House.

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 3 of 4)

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- Sign up for paperless billing and your name will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$100 energy credits.
- Sign up for both options and you will be entered in each drawing!
- Both drawings will be held Oct. 29, 2021.



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We also have a free app for your smartphone so you can access your statement wherever you are.

If you have any questions, call 800-245-6068 or email info@redlakeelectric.com

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Checking or Savings Account # _____ Routing # _____
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Sign here to authorize _____

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