

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

RLEC
RLEC

FEBRUARY 2022

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 30 | 10:30 a.m.
Legacy Event Center | Thief River Falls

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS, PETITIONS DUE FEBRUARY 28

Each year the terms of three of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) directors expire the day of the annual meeting. Members of each of the three districts whose present director's terms will expire March 30 have elected director candidates at the recently held district meetings.

The names of the candidates are Colette Kujava, Newfolden, District 3; Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls, District 6; and Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, District 9.

Their names will be placed in the nomination at the annual meeting. Any other member within these districts wishing to have their name placed in nomination must do so by petition. The petition is due in the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls by 10 a.m. February 28, 2022.

At least 15 members of the district must sign the petition for the director nominee. The nominee's name will then be placed on the election ballot at the annual meeting March 30 at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls.

Petition forms are available at the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls. Contact Stephanie Johnson, Cooperative Manager, at 800-245-6068 or 253-2168 for more information.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

All members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. are hereby notified of its annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2021 in review, financial reports and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded and a lunch will be served. Please contact general manager Stephanie Johnson to make arrangements for dietary needs.

All members are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Mark Hanson, Secretary

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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

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
Email: 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

Red Lake and Polk 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 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.



**Area High School Scholarships
and Annual Meeting**

by Stephanie Johnson

Area High School Scholarships

Around this time each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative mails out letters to area high school scholarship supervisors notifying them of the Red Lake Electric scholarship program available to graduating seniors.

Since 1990, Red Lake Electric has awarded 389 scholarships totaling (23903 Larry Roisland) more than \$193,000. The majority of these scholarships are funded from unclaimed capital credits. If, after seven years, capital credit checks mailed out by Red Lake Electric to

past members are not cashed, the state of Minnesota allows Red Lake Electric to donate these monies. Your cooperative has decided to donate these monies as scholarships to graduating seniors who qualify as a Red Lake Electric member dependent.

Each scholarship awarded is valued at \$500. Red Lake Electric currently donates to 12 area high schools. If you have a senior planning to further their education, please encourage them to apply at their school for the Red Lake Electric scholarship.

84th Annual Meeting

We are planning your cooperative's 84th annual meeting, which is set for Wednesday, March 30th, at the Legacy Event Center east of Thief River Falls. This will be our first annual meeting held at the Legacy Event Center. The annual (28205 Melissa Breuer) meeting is a great time for you to ask questions and meet with the board of directors and staff. Please join us for your cooperative's business meeting, door prizes and a great meal.

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Wednesday, March 30

10:30 a.m.

**Legacy Event Center
Thief River Falls**

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEETING

It's that time of year again – annual meeting time! On behalf of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we'd like to personally invite you to join us on March 30, 2022, at the Legacy Event Center. We look forward to gathering with you – members of the co-op community – to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community – it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Red Lake Electric and get to know your co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

This is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our local communities. Our employees and directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too.

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but we encourage you to take part (20748 Avis Dyrud) in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So make it a point to join us on March 30, 2022, at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!

**Red Lake Electric Cooperative
Director qualification requirements**

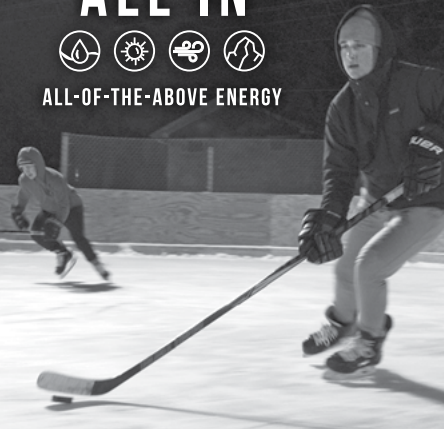
No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- 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 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 re-election 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.

ALL IN



ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY



This is hockey territory.

We know the more sticks you have on the ice, the stronger your power play becomes.

That's why we start every season with a deep bench of energy resources.

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

The 5 Rs OF ENERGY

Your co-op remains focused as industry changes

The electric utility industry is in the midst one of the most challenging times in its history as new policies, technologies and consumer expectations are driving significant change. Red Lake Electric Cooperative works closely with its wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, on a focused strategy that prioritizes the five Rs of energy: reliable, responsible, resilient, responsive and reasonable.

Complementing these core principles is a drive toward innovation, including carbon capture technologies, electric vehicle advancement (21834 David L Peterson) and the addition of enhanced communication and outage reduction equipment on power delivery infrastructure.

No matter what the future holds, your cooperative is ready. This includes embracing the opportunity to reimagine how electricity is provided, while realizing a vision of greater dependability, strong security, increased environmental stewardship and affordability for consumers across the region. Explore the five Rs below and learn more about how your cooperative keeps quality service to you, its members, as its top priority.



Reliable

24/7 reliability requires a focused strategy and long-term investments. The most reliable generation resource in your cooperative's energy portfolio is coal-based power because it has the ability to operate on a continuous basis. Power line infrastructure is also built and maintained to ensure reliable service can be maintained throughout the year.



Responsible

Environmental responsibility is vitally important to your cooperative's energy strategy. About 42% of the electric generation capacity your cooperative receives is derived from carbon-free resources, like wind and hydro. Large-scale emission control technologies have been installed at power plants, while the implementation of carbon capture technology is also being thoroughly researched and evaluated.



Resilient

Your cooperative works to ensure it has power generation, transmission and distribution resources that are resilient against weather extremes from a 100-degree heat wave to a 30-below-zero deep freeze. But resiliency doesn't stop at Mother Nature. Energy experts monitor the electric grid 24 hours a day to protect vital systems from hackers and other wrongdoers.



Responsive

As circumstances change on the electric grid, your cooperative can use its highly successful demand response program to temporarily control off-peak heating, water heating and electric vehicle charging systems. This action protects cooperative members from volatile energy market pricing and increased costs. In exchange, cooperative members who volunteer for the program receive a discounted electric rate, which is typically half of the standard electric rate.



Reasonable

Maintaining competitive electric rates is a key focus for your cooperative. While the cost of many goods (29196 Jarrod A Johnson) and services have increased steadily over the years, electricity remains a relative bargain. The average homeowner uses about \$5 of electricity per day. That is less than the cost of a fast-food meal to power your life.

The value of an air-source heat pump

Half of your home's energy use flows to heating and cooling, so why not make the process as efficient, affordable and responsible as possible? Red Lake Electric Cooperative can help!

If you're replacing your system or building new, an air-source heat pump (ASHP) offers the perfect balance of comfort and savings, both in the hot summer and the frozen winter. The technology has advanced rapidly and is now powerful enough for our weather here in Minnesota.

How does it work?

The equipment functions just like an air conditioner, but uses the reverse process to warm your home when it's cold. It's a heating system and A/C in one, reliably powered by electricity. A heat pump is so efficient because it doesn't generate heat – it simply transfers existing heat where you want it.

The mechanics of an ASHP are innovative but the process is simple. When it's warm

outside, the heat pump pulls the warm air out of your home and moves it outside. When it's cold outside, it works in reverse, pulling the heat from the outdoor air and transferring it inside. When it's too cold to pull enough heat out of the chilly air – or if you're a part of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's popular off-peak program – the system can easily switch to a backup energy source, maintaining comfort and efficiency.

What do I save?

The off-peak program allows you to receive a reduced electricity rate, close to half of the standard rate. Plus, Red Lake Electric Cooperative offers large rebates on ASHP equipment. In addition to saving money, an ASHP will also help you limit your use of propane or natural gas, protecting you from volatile pricing and shortages.

You'll ultimately consume less, save more and electrify your future. That's the value of an air-source heat pump.

If you want to learn how your co-op can help you save with an ASHP, call us at **218-253-2168** or visit redlakeelectric.com.



See the video at
ValueofElectricity.com



District meetings held in February

Three district meetings were held within Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) service area the beginning of February. Topics reviewed at the meetings included 2021 in review, energy rebate incentives, off-peak control and energy cost comparison.

In her manager's report, Stephanie Johnson discussed current year accomplishments including energy sales, new service construction and safety.

In Kelli Brateng's report from member services, she shared the many options (30409 Conway T Hamm) available for electric heat and electric water heater rebate incentives. Brateng also informed members of the option to receive text or email notifications during load management periods. She also gave an update on the off-peak control hours and cost comparison of off-peak electric heat to propane and fuel oil.

The District 3 meeting was held the afternoon of Feb. 2 at Newfolden Community Center, Newfolden. Cooperative members in attendance unanimously elected Colette Kujava, the incumbent director, as the director candidate from the district.

The District 6 meeting was held Feb. 2 at Red Lake Falls Community Hall, Red Lake Falls. Randy Versdahl was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

The District 9 meeting was held Feb. 3 at Black River Lutheran Church, Red Lake Falls. Incumbent director Peter Mosbeck was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

Door prizes were awarded, and pie and coffee were served.



District 3



District 6



District 9



Operation Round Up® grant applications due Feb. 25

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up® at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Friday, Feb. 25, 2022.

Operation Round Up® is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today 97% of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$611,791 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community

within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Julie Stennes, Thief River Falls; Stacy Bierman, Thief River Falls; Diane Kolstoe, Oklee; Stephanie Johnson, Gatzke and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operation Round Up® grants, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization.

Grant application forms are available on the cooperative's website: www.redlakeelectric.com

For more information contact Stephanie Johnson, General Manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

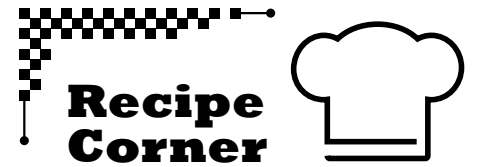
NOTICE OF NAMES

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 (999999.99 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.



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 and experience the power of SmartHub today!



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.

Mocha Bars

Cake:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cup butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup strong coffee
- 1 cup flour
- 3/4 cup cake flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 3 egg whites

Frosting:

- 1/2 cup butter, room temperature
- 3 cup powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons cream
- 3 cup finely ground peanuts

Vanilla Glaze:

- 1 2/3 cup powdered sugar (more if needed)
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2-4 tablespoons milk

Instructions:

1. Heat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a 9" x 13" pan.
2. In a clean, dry, large bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form when beater is lifted. Set aside.
3. With mixer on medium speed, beat butter until softened and light in color, about 3 minutes. Add sugar and continue to beat until very light, scraping down sides. Turn mixer to low and mix in coffee until completely combined.
4. In a medium bowl, combine flours and baking powder. Stir dry ingredients into batter being careful not to overmix.
5. Gently stir a quarter of the egg whites into batter. Fold the remaining egg whites into the batter.
6. Pour into prepared baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes until the cake springs back lightly. Cool for 15 minutes and remove from pan onto a wire cooling rack. When completely cool, cut into 24 squares.
7. To make frosting, with mixer on medium speed, beat butter until softened and light in color, about 3 minutes. Lower speed and add cream, mixing to incorporate completely. On lowest speed, add powdered sugar, beat until smooth and creamy.
8. Frost all sides of cakes and roll in chopped peanuts.

Energy Efficiency Incentives

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

Electric Water Heater Rebates

Must be on off-peak

100 gallon or greater

\$350 rebate

56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

Bonus rebates:

Add \$250
if converting from
natural gas or propane.

Add \$100 for new
building construction.



Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates

240V Level 2 Charger

Must be on off-peak

Electric vehicle or hybrid

\$50 per kW

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW



Residential
Charger



Commercial
Charger

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program.

Contact Member Services for more details!

218-253-2168

Electric Heating Rebates

Must be on off-peak

Electric plenum heaters

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

Electric thermal storage heaters

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$60 per kW

Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.



Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton

17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$500 per ton

Geothermal heat pumps

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.



Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton

Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton

Electric underfloor boiler

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers heat consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$50 per kW

Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$25 per kW