

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

DL EC
RLEC

APRIL 2023

85th Annual Meeting

See page 4 for details



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.

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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

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:
Ronald Ditsch: (218) 779-6758

Red Lake and Polk Counties:
Todd Knaack: (763) 516-0344

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 in-
spection 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.*



The Power Behind Your Power *April is Lineworker Appreciation Month*

by Stephanie Johnson

You’ve likely noticed Red Lake Electric’s crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It’s no secret that a lineworker’s job is tough – but it’s a job that’s essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate lineworkers, I thought I’d share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That’s the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. If you have a fear of heights, this likely isn’t the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career – because it’s not just a job, it’s a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That’s because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Red Lake Electric’s lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready (21156 Laural Jarshaw) to leave the comfort of their home and

families unexpectedly, and they don’t return until the job is done. That’s why the lineworker’s family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in Red Lake Falls, Red Lake Electric has nine lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 2,642 miles of power lines across six counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today’s lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power.

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 (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.



Operation Round Up® grants total \$11,750

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 16 grants to area nonprofit and community organizations that totaled \$11,750. Since its inception in 1993, 1,027 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$636,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants (25249 Jeremy K Grove) from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, almost 98% of Red Lake Electric’s members voluntarily “round-up” their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

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

- Strandquist Area Food Shelf: \$500 to help purchase food to distribute and help repair roof.
- Red Lake County Victim Services: \$750 to help victim emergency expenses.

Six area emergency service providers were given grants:

- Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 to help purchase personal protective equipment for firefighters.
- Newfolden Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 to help replace turnout gear for all volunteers.
- Oklee Volunteer Ambulance Service: \$1,000 to help purchase epinephrine pens for ambulance.
- Viking Fire and Rescue: \$1,000 to replace firefighter SCBA equipment.
- Oklee Fire Department: \$1,000 to help upgrade “Jaws of Life” equipment.
- Goodridge Area Fire and Rescue: \$1,000 to help purchase a patient monitor.

One grant given to historical organizations:

- Goodridge Area Historical Society: \$500 to help with upkeep and maintenance of historical sites.

A grant to benefit the general public was awarded to:

- NCH Trails to Treatments: \$1,000 to help those affected by cancer in our area with out-of-pocket expenses and supply grants.

The following five grants were given focusing on senior care:

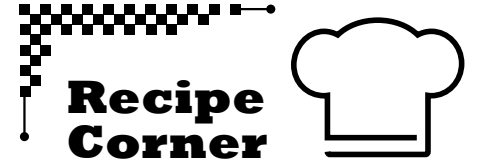
- Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care: \$500 to help with the cost of maintenance care home health for seniors.
- Tri-Community Living at Home/Block Nurse Program: \$500 to help support volunteer training.
- Goodridge Senior Citizens Center: \$500 to help repair the foundation of the Center.
- Middle River Senior Citizens: \$500 to help defray costs for outings, transportation for outside activities for seniors.
- Power of Produce Plus: \$500 to help seniors purchase locally grown fruit and vegetables from farmers markets.

The following organization received funds focused on youth programs:

- TRF Chapter of the MN Deer Hunters Association: \$500 to help send area youth to a Deep Portage Summer Camp.

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; Laura Kasprovicz – Vice President, Thief River Falls; Stacy Bierman – Secretary/Treasurer, Thief River Falls; and ex-officio directors including 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 Sept. 27, 2023.

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*



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.

Lemon Poppy Seed Bread

Ingredients

For the bread

- 1 ¾ cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup butter, melted
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- juice of 1 lemon
- zest of ½ lemon
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
- ¾ cup milk

For the icing

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons water

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 300 degrees and thoroughly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside.
3. Using a handheld mixer or stand mixer, beat together the melted butter and sugar until it turns a pale light color, about 3 minutes. Slowly add the eggs to the mixture with the mixer on low speed. Add the lemon juice, zest, sour cream and poppy seeds and mix until combined, about 1 minute.
4. Keeping the mixer on low, add half the milk and half the flour until combined. Add the remaining milk and the rest of the flour and gently fold using a rubber spatula until just combined.
5. Transfer batter to the loaf pan – it's okay if it doesn't fill all the way. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour 10 minutes to 1 hour and 20 minutes. Start checking it at 1 hour and 10 minutes to see if the top middle is set. Check for doneness (29783 Theodore S Klamm) by inserting a toothpick in the center. If it comes out clean it's done. Cool in pan for 20 minutes, then transfer to wiring cooling rack.
6. While the bread is cooling in the pan, add the powdered sugar to a bowl with the water and mix well. Pour the icing over the bread while on the wire rack, with a piece of parchment underneath. Allow to cool completely. Store in an airtight container for up to a week or in the freezer for up to three months.

85TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 85th annual meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative was held March 29 at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls. The meeting was attended by approximately 180 cooperative members and guests.

President Stacy Blawat called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was opened with the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Mark Hanson, and introduction of the board of directors and special guest by board president Stacy Blawat.

The meeting agenda included: approval of 2022 annual meeting minutes by secretary/treasurer Mark Hanson; the president's report and election of directors by Stacy Blawat; and the general manager's and financial report by Stephanie Johnson. Proposed bylaw changes were approved unanimously.

Stacey Dahl, Senior Manager of External Affairs for Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc. in Grand Forks, N.D., spoke at the

meeting. Dahl's presentation covered federal and state legislative updates, as well as Minnkota's carbon capture initiative, Project Tundra.

Annually employees and directors are recognized when surpassing five-year increments of service. The following were recognized: Bonnie Christians, District 1 director, and Steve Linder District 4 director (20 years); Laurie and Warren Malwitz, custodians (20 years); Peter Mosbeck, District 9 director (15 years); and Christie Klipping, senior accountant (10 years).

Door prizes were awarded, and a sit-down meal (22571 Marvin D Hermreck) was provided. The meal was catered by David Lee Catering of Thief River Falls.

Congratulations to our reelected directors, Bonnie Christians and Mark Hanson, as well as newly elected director Jennifer Linder. They were elected at the annual meeting and they will each serve three-year terms.

Directors Elected to Red Lake Electric's Board



Bonnie Christians
District 1



Jennifer Linder
District 4



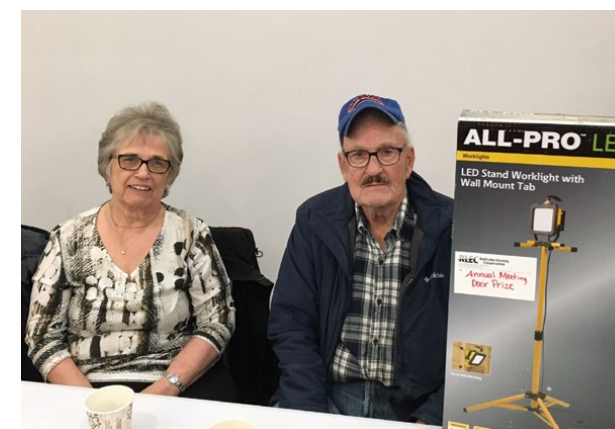
Mark Hanson
District 5



Gordy Hendrickson of Goodridge was the winner of the \$300 energy credit.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees help serve members donuts and coffee.



Gerald Sanders of Thief River Falls was the winner of the LED work light.

Winners of Door Prizes:

\$300 energy credit: Gordy Hendrickson, Goodridge

\$150 energy credit: Les Hofstad, Plummer

\$100 energy credit: Kim Nelson, Newfolden

\$75 energy credit: Andy Peterson, Trail

\$75 energy credit: Larry Kotrba, Goodridge

\$75 energy credit: Audrey Rogalla, Goodridge

Blackstone griddle: Roger Schmitz, Newfolden

Air fryer: Bonnie Bjorsness, Newfolden

LED work light: Gerald Sanders, Thief River Falls



Diane Kolstoe presents a \$1,000 Operation Round Up® check to NCH Trails for Treatments. Receiving the check was Marc and Shirley Horien.



A crowd of 180 members and guests gathered at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls to hear reports about their cooperative.

5 things to know about Beneficial Electrification

“Beneficial electrification” is the latest buzzword worth the buzz. In fact, you could call electric cooperatives BEEs (Beneficial Electrification Enthusiasts). Before telling you to join the hive, here are a few things you may not know about beneficial electrification.

1 Beneficial electrification’s definition boils down to this – plug in to reduce emissions and costs.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) defines beneficial electrification as “the use of electricity for end-uses that would otherwise be powered by fossil fuels (natural gas, diesel, propane, fuel oil, or gasoline), where doing so reduces emissions and saves consumers money.”

2 Beneficial electrification is easy to incorporate into many aspects of your life.

The biggest electrification innovations are in home heating (like air-source heat pumps) and transportation (like electric cars and pickups), but there are so many small ways you can start electrifying now, like:

Choosing a conduction cooktop instead of a gas range

Buying an electric lawnmower instead of gas-powered

Installing an electric water heater instead of propane-powered

3 Beneficial electrification doesn’t make demand too high – it balances the demand.

Beneficial electrification helps your co-op manage its electric load. Electric vehicle (EV) chargers, electric heating, electric water heaters and more can be enrolled (28083 Wade Alten) in our off-peak (demand response) program, allowing the co-op to balance high- and low-demand curves. That creates a stronger, more reliable electric grid!

4 Beneficial electrification protects you from volatile fuel prices.

You’ve seen it in the news: The price of gas for your car, fuel oil for your furnace and propane for your water heater has been trending higher over the past few years. With co-op electricity, you know your rate will remain stable throughout the year.

5 Beneficial electrification benefits your wallet – with the help of your co-op.

Your co-op will reward you for going electric, especially when enrolling in the off-peak program. You can receive hundreds of dollars in rebates on electric technology like EV chargers, water heaters and heat pumps, plus an ultra-low (22698 Jon Anton) off-peak electric rate. On top of all that, new electrified technology is increasingly efficient, meaning you’ll use less energy!

Learn more about how your co-op can help you electrify your life at ValueOfElectricity.com.

POWER PLANT TOUR

Tuesday - Wednesday
June 27-28, 2023



Milton R. Young Station

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative plan to co-sponsor a tour of the Milton R. Young Station power plant June 27-28, 2023.

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative’s headquarters in Grand Forks. An afternoon stop (30610 Jordan T Anderson) will be taken at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and a relaxing evening will be spent at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, N.D., which will include a banquet sponsored by Minnkota Power Cooperative.

The second day of the tour includes visiting the Milton R. Young generation station near Center, N.D. It will also include a drive through the open-pit lignite mines (weather permitting) to see the mining operation firsthand. You are

guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate in the tour is \$100 per person double occupancy, \$175 single occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour (24957 Renae Philipp) is open to all Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and/or spouses.

The tour group will depart from Red Lake Electric Cooperative’s headquarters in Red Lake Falls at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 27. The approximate time of return is 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 28.

Registrations and payment are due by June 1. If you have not taken this tour, sign up today for a learning experience.

Power Plant Tour Registration June 27 and 28, 2023

Signup deadline is June 1, 2023

NAME OF PARTICIPANT(S)

ADDRESS(ES)

Phone Number _____ Number of Participants _____

Account No. _____ Amount Enclosed _____

\$100 Per Participant Double Occupancy – \$175 Per Participant Single Occupancy

Return to RLEC, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750, along with your check. RLEC will contact you later with details. Your check or deposit will be returned if the tour should be canceled for some reason. If it becomes necessary for you to cancel out on the trip, it is required that you notify RLEC at least 48 hours before departure to be eligible for a refund. Registration for the trip is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limited number of openings. If you have previously taken the trip, you will be put on a space availability standby.



BNI Coal mine



Minnkota Power Cooperative Headquarters

NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION MONTH

APRIL | #ThankALineworker

When the storm hits and the lights go out, they work until the power is restored. They dedicate their lives to serving our communities on the hottest days of summer and the darkest days of winter. Every day, moments of our lives are powered by their hard work and determination to provide the most reliable energy possible. Thank a lineworker for their vital service to our region and our homes. Keeping the lights on is just what they do.

