

# ***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*



## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 | 10:30 A.M.**

**LEGACY EVENT CENTER | THIEF RIVER FALLS**

### **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 29, 2023, at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2022 in review, financial reports, bylaw amendment and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded, and a lunch will be served. Please contact general manager Stephanie Johnson to make arrangement for dietary needs.

All members are encouraged to attend.

**/s/ Mark Hanson, Secretary**

### **DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS, PETITIONS DUE FEBRUARY 27**

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 29 have elected director candidates at the recently held district meetings.

The names of the candidates are Bonnie Christians, Crookston, District 1; Jennifer Linder, Oklee, District 4; and Mark Hanson, Red Lake Falls, District 5.

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 27, 2023.

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 29 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.

#### 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](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**

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 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 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.*



## Beat the peak

by Stephanie Johnson

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Red Lake Electric Cooperative must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply – regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family’s habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Red Lake Electric must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use, or “peak hours.” These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening (24592 Timothy J Hal-ling) as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Red Lake Electric typically pay more for electricity – either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power – during those morning and evening “energy rush hours.” In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it’s especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the “peak times” concept is a bit puzzling, here’s an easy way to think about it, and it’s similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and

demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it’s more expensive. When they don’t, it’s cheaper – like a bargain matinee or an “early bird” special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turning it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy (21870 Orlen Homme) throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.



## Operation Round Up® grant applications due Wed., Feb. 22

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 Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

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 98% of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies (21915 Layden M Han-son) 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, \$636,241 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of

the community within the outside service area (20111 Valerie L Norman) boundaries of RLEC.

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

To apply for an Operation Round Up® grant, 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: **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.



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 56750-0430.

## White Chocolate Raspberry Poke Cake

### Ingredients

- 1 box white cake mix and ingredients to make it
- 1 cup raspberry syrup
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 11 oz bag white chocolate chips
- 4 cups buttercream frosting

### Instructions

1. Make cake mix according to directions. To maintain white color of the cake, follow directions to only use egg whites.
2. Before baking, sprinkle ½ cup of white chocolate chips over the cake. Bake according to directions in a 9x13 pan.
3. Once the cake is cool enough to touch but still warm, use a spoon end to poke holes in the cake.
4. Pour raspberry syrup over top. Set cake aside.
5. Melt 2/3 cup of white chocolate chips in a bowl. Once melted, incorporate the can of sweetened condensed milk. Pour this mixture over the cake. The white chocolate mixture and the raspberry syrup should be melting into all those little holes you created.
6. Set aside to cool completely.
7. Once cool, spread buttercream frosting over the top (or substitute whipped cream for a less sweet version). For prettiest results, spread a thin layer of buttercream over top and put in freezer for 5 minutes until layer hardens slightly. Then finish frosting. This will help prevent the cake and raspberry mixture from getting mixed in with the icing.
8. Sprinkle remaining white chocolate chips over top.



## 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 2022 in review, proposed bylaw amendment, rate increase, 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. Johnson talked about the proposed bylaw amendment that will be voted on at the annual meeting and also talked about the rate increase that will start April 1, 2023.

In Kelli Brateng's report from member services, she shared the many options available for electric heat and electric water heater rebate incentives. Brateng gave an update the off-peak control hours (25630 Michael Wollman) and cost comparison of off-peak electric heat to propane and fuel oil.

The District 1 meeting was held the afternoon of Feb. 7 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Gentilly. Cooperative members in attendance unanimously elected Bonnie Christians, the incumbent director, as the director candidate from the district.

The District 4 meeting was held Feb. 7 at Oklee Community Hall, Oklee. Jennifer Linder was unanimously elected as the new director candidate of the district.

The District 5 meeting was held on Feb. 6 at Community International Church, Thief River Falls. Incumbent director, Mark Hanson, was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

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



## PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

The board of directors recommends that the members adopt this bylaw amendment as it allows Red Lake Electric flexibility for the director nominating process. Below are the existing and proposed changes for **Article II Meeting of Members: Section 10. Nomination and Election of Directors**. The complete bylaws of Red Lake Electric Cooperative can be requested by calling the office or you can find them on our website: [www.redlakeelectric.com/about-us/articles-bylaws/](http://www.redlakeelectric.com/about-us/articles-bylaws/).

### Existing:

#### 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.

### Proposed:

#### Section 10. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

(a) Nomination of Directors by Petition or Nominating Committee. Members seeking to run for the Board of Directors shall, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting, submit to the cooperative office a completed candidate packet and petition, as provided by the Cooperative upon request, by

which the Cooperative will verify said member's qualifications to be an eligible candidate for the director position. Nomination for director must be made by petition. Any Ten (10) or more members who reside in any one district may make a nomination in writing to the Secretary over their signatures. 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.

If the members in any district shall have failed to nominate a nominee(s) in writing as provided above, then a Nominating Committee of this Cooperative shall nominate one (1) or more members who reside in said district for said director position(s). Said Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors on an annual basis, said appointment to be made not less than ninety (90) days before each annual meeting. Said Nominating Committee shall be selected from the resident Members of the districts of the Cooperative, so that each such district shall have one (1) Member on said Nominating Committee.

A Nominating Committee Member may not be a Director of the Cooperative; or a parent, spouse or co-habitant of an existing Cooperative director, officer, employee, representative, or agent; or a known Director candidate.

Further, a Nominating Committee Member should recognize that he or she functions as a person occupying a place of trust and should not accept an appointment to the Nominating Committee if he or she has a conflict of interest, or can reasonably foresee any conflict of interest, with any duty the Nominating Committee Member owes to the Cooperative. In the event that a Nominating Committee Member is appointed and subsequently becomes aware of a conflict of interest, or a potential conflict of interest, then that Nominating Committee Member has a continuing obligation to disclose the same to the Chair of the Nominating Committee or to legal counsel for the Nominating Committee for a determination by the latter as to whether such conflict of interest, or potential conflict of interest, should necessitate the resignation of the Nominating Committee Member from the Nominating Committee, or abstention from voting on a particular issue or such other appropriate action(s) as is necessary to protect the best interests of the Cooperative.

It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate one or more nominees for each district that is scheduled for an election but for which no candidates have been nominated by the petition process twenty (20) days prior to said annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall submit their nomination or nominations to the Secretary, in writing and signed by at least two (2) members of said Committee, and the nomination(s) shall be listed in the notice of annual meeting and their names shall be printed on the election ballot.

No Member may be elected to a Director position unless nominated in the manner provided by this subsection. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.



# 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.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative receives a diverse mix of coal, wind and water from its wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, to meet your 24/7 electricity needs. Future power supply decisions take into account numerous factors, including permitting; capital, operating and maintenance costs; existing

generation mix; reliability and resiliency; and projected member demand for electricity.

Decisions to build or purchase from new generation resources are carefully considered. Building any new generation (30438 Bridget Fielder) 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.

## What is considered when power supply decisions are made?



### LIGNITE COAL

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abundant, domestic fuel source</li><li>• Stable pricing</li><li>• Can reliably run 24 hours per day</li><li>• Technology has been developed to address emissions (exploration of Project Tundra)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extraordinarily difficult to permit</li><li>• Cannot economically rail lignite coal due to high moisture content</li><li>• Can be difficult to ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production</li><li>• Releases CO<sub>2</sub>. Anticipate CO<sub>2</sub> regulations, although CO<sub>2</sub> capture technology is rapidly advancing</li></ul>



### NATURAL GAS

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lower CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels than coal</li><li>• Can be run 24/7 or used during peak events</li><li>• Can respond rapidly to dispatch</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fuel costs can be volatile and impacted by events outside of the U.S.</li><li>• Pipeline infrastructure not adequate for projected demand</li><li>• Still releases CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li></ul>



### NUCLEAR

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No air emissions</li><li>• Can reliably run 24 hours per day</li><li>• Smaller, modular reactors are in development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High capital cost and increasingly expensive fuel</li><li>• Radioactive waste that must be properly disposed of and monitored</li><li>• Extraordinarily difficult to permit and build</li><li>• Cannot ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production</li></ul>



### HYDRO

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No fuel cost</li><li>• Low-cost energy to consumer</li><li>• No air emissions</li><li>• Can respond rapidly to dispatch</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nearly impossible to permit</li><li>• Affects fish and wildlife habitat</li><li>• Alters the natural flow of rivers</li><li>• Virtually no resources left to develop (some dams being removed)</li></ul>



### WIND

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No fuel cost</li><li>• No air emissions</li><li>• Cost-competitive with other resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has intermittent production (produces about 45% of its potential on an annual basis)</li><li>• Requires investment in backup generation resources</li><li>• Grid-scale battery backup (20455 Beverly J Klegstad) technology is still in its infancy</li><li>• Turbines take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources and can impact bird and wildlife populations</li><li>• Cannot operate in extreme cold and ice conditions</li></ul>



### SOLAR

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No fuel cost</li><li>• No air emissions</li><li>• Costs are slightly higher than other resources, but are trending downward</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has intermittent production (produces about 15-19% of its potential on an annual basis)</li><li>• Requires investment in backup generation resources</li><li>• Grid-scale battery backup technology is still in its infancy</li><li>• Solar panels take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources</li><li>• Production affected by clouds, snow and extreme cold temperatures</li><li>• Panel production degrades over time</li></ul>

## NEW YEAR, NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2023

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 (26289 Gerald Deboer) for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

### 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.

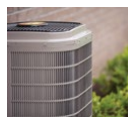
**Rebate of \$75 per kW**

#### 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 \$600 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 \$75 per kW**

#### Other electric heating systems

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

**Rebate of \$25 per kW**

### Electric Water Heater Rebates

*Must be on off-peak*

100 gallon or greater

**\$500/unit**

56-99 gallon

**\$400/unit**

55 gallon or less

**\$150/unit**

New construction (50 gallon)

**FREE unit (primary residence only)**

#### Bonus rebates:

**Add \$250**

if converting from natural gas or propane.

**Add \$100**

for new building construction (shops, cabins, etc.).

### Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates

**240V Level 2 Charger**

*Must be on off-peak*

Electric vehicle or hybrid

**100% rebate**

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**