

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 27 | 10:30 a.m. | Legacy Event Center | Thief River Falls

2

### DISTRICT 2

Stacy Blawat

#### NEW DIRECTOR NEEDED:

Blawat not seeking reelection

7

### DISTRICT 7

Aaron Chervestad

#### NEW DIRECTOR NEEDED:

Chervestad not seeking reelection

8

### DISTRICT 8

Cecil Anderson

## 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 27, 2024, at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2023 in review, financial reports, and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded, and 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*

## DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

### PETITIONS DUE FEBRUARY 26

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., is organized as a cooperative and is owned by its members. The membership elects a board of directors to represent them in the operation of the cooperative. Three directors will be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 27 at the Legacy Event Center. The directors whose terms expire in 2024 are Stacy Blawat, District 2; Aaron Chervestad, District 7; and Cecil Anderson, District 8. Stacy Blawat and Aaron Chervestad have decided not to run for reelection.

All nominations will be done by petition, including the incumbents. Any 10 or more members who reside in District 2, 7 or 8 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. These names will be placed in the nomination at the annual meeting. If there is more than one nomination per district, the nominee's name will then be placed on the election ballot at the annual meeting, March 27 at the Legacy Event Center.

Petition forms are available at the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls. Contact Stephanie Johnson, cooperative manager, at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168 for more information.

The cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President ..... Stacy Blawat  
Vice President ..... Peter Mosbeck  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Mark Hanson  
Directors ..... Cecil Anderson,  
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,  
Colette Kujava, Jennifer 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.*



**We Love Our Community**

by Stephanie Johnson

With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the cooperative.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural Minnesota many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community (30193 Kamen O. Williamson) to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here, too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that's you!) that we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our cooperative has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean education scholarships or contributing more to Operation Round Up, a program that helps local area nonprofit organizations and other worthy programs.

Since 1993, Operation Round Up has donated over \$660,000 to community projects, youth programs, elderly services, local food shelves, area fire departments, local ambulance services, and many other community nonprofit organizations.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You

empower RLEC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape (28535 Maureen Opsahl) is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.

**Area high school scholarships**

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

Since 1990, RLEC has awarded 432 scholarships totaling more than \$189,000. The majority of these scholarships are funded from unclaimed capital credits. If, after seven years, capital credit checks mailed out by RLEC to past members are not cashed, the state of Minnesota allows RLEC to donate these monies. Your cooperative has decided to donate these monies as scholarships to graduating seniors who qualify as a RLEC member dependent.

Each scholarship awarded is valued at \$500 each. RLEC 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.

**Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

On Dec. 31, 2023, after a severe ice storm blanketed Cass County Electric Cooperative's system during the holidays, six Red Lake Electric Cooperative lineworkers came to their aid, along with other electric cooperatives in western Minnesota and North Dakota. The storm caused damage to about 1,200 poles, which caused numerous outages across Cass County's entire system. I would like to thank these dedicated lineworkers and their families for sacrificing a portion of their holiday to help others in need. I know the members of Cass County Electric appreciated the help. This is what we call Cooperation Among Cooperatives!



# NEW YEAR, NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2024

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 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**

### GEO THERMAL 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**



# THE PROS AND CONS OF COAL

Coal has been an essential resource on our nation's electric grid for decades. But like all power supply options, it comes with its own set of strengths and challenges.

The following coal pros and cons illustrate why Minnkota Power Cooperative (our power supplier) maintains a diverse portfolio of coal, wind and hydropower – and why coal's strengths outweigh its challenges.

## STRENGTHS

### 24/7 RELIABILITY

Coal-fired power plants provide a stable and continuous source of electricity, which is important for maintaining a consistent baseload power supply. Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station can produce coal-based power every minute of every day, as electricity (23272 Leonard Geske) needs to be used the moment it is generated.

### RESILIENT OPERATIONS

Coal-based power plants have consistently proven they can operate in extreme conditions – from 100-degree summer days to 30-below-zero winter nights. While resources like wind and solar are dependent on ideal weather conditions, coal-based power plants can operate through the harshest of conditions.

### ECONOMIC STRENGTH

Dependable power generation leads to stable costs. North Dakota's coal-based power plants provide competitively priced electricity that people across the Upper Midwest depend on. In North Dakota alone, the coal industry creates thousands of jobs in mining and power plant operations, and still more in those industries that support coal generation.

### CONCENTRATED LAND FOOTPRINT

A 2020 report from the Brookings Institution found that electric generation from wind and solar requires at least 10 times as much land per unit of power produced than coal-based power plants. The concentrated nature of a coal power plant also means fewer transmission lines need to be constructed to bring electricity from generation point to substation.

## CHALLENGES

### EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT

Coal-based power plants must manage emissions levels to ensure environmental stewardship. Approximately \$425 million in state-of-the-art technology has been invested at the Milton R. Young Station to capture emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter and more. Plus, Minnkota is pursuing Project Tundra, a carbon capture and storage system that would significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### BYPRODUCT MANAGEMENT

Generating electricity from coal requires the management of byproducts, like coal combustion residuals (CCR). Much of the bottom ash from the power plant is responsibly recycled into materials, including shingle grit and sandblasting material. CCRs that cannot be recycled are safely stored (24464 Darlene Houle) in approved storage cells. Plus, some CCRs can be reused safely to strengthen concrete, wallboard, bricks and more.

### TEMPORARY LAND DISRUPTION

While coal mining does require the use of land, Minnkota and its partners at BNI Coal have developed an award-winning land reclamation program that returns these areas to their natural state (or better) once mining is complete.

# FIND PEAK VALUE WITH OFF-PEAK WATER HEATERS

Our region isn't known for its vast mountain ranges with high, towering peaks. The peaks we see are of the ENERGY variety – but Red Lake Electric has a program that beats those energy peaks and saves our members some serious bucks on their electricity bills. It's called the off-peak program, and an easy way to participate is by installing an electric water heating system (25999 JoAnn Deroiser) on your cooperative's program.

An average household spends up to 20% of its monthly electric bill on water heating, and an electric water heater is often more efficient than gas or propane models. So, make sure you are maximizing all the peaks "off-peak" has to offer when it comes to water heaters.

## 1 A MOUNTAIN OF SAVINGS

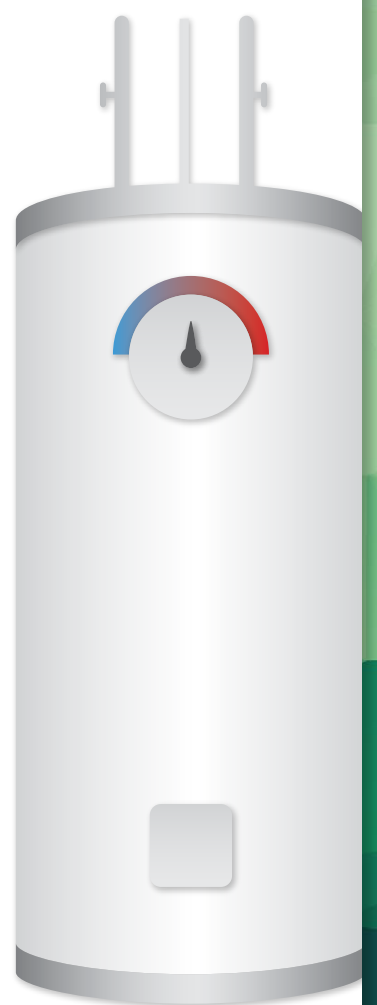
The peak in saving starts with installation. Not only will your water heater qualify for a reduced rate when set up on off-peak – up to half the standard rate – but there are also co-op rebates available up to \$500!

## 2 A SPIKE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

On the off-peak program, your electric water heater will warm your water during lower-demand times of the day. The water tanks are specially insulated so there is little to no heat loss over 24 hours.

## 3 HEIGHTEN RELIABILITY

During peak energy times of the day, our electrical grid can experience some serious strain. When your electric water heat is on the off-peak program, your water is heated during periods of lower demand which helps keep the reliability of our grid strong!



With large-capacity electric water heater tanks ranging from 80-100 gallons (or larger), you never have to worry about having enough hot water for your entire family! Visit [ValueofElectricity.com](http://ValueofElectricity.com) to learn more about electric water heaters and how you can get peak savings when joining Red Lake Electric's off-peak program!





# FOR SALE ON BIDS

*All units as is. Submit bids to Red Lake Electric Cooperative by Wednesday, March 13th at 10 a.m.*



## 1977 Bombardier Muskeg track digger

- 4305.8 Hours
- Serial #321770018
- 4-cylinder Perkins Diesel engine has less than 1000 hours on it. The engine was replaced in 2000 at about 3400 hours.
- Telelect Boom and Digger
- Serial #15E2L-1036DN
- Max Lifting Capacity 9000 lbs.
- Approximate vehicle weight 18000 lbs.

### Crawler Equipment:

- Perkins Diesel Engine
- Manual 4-Speed Transmission
- Hydraulic Brakes
- Reinforced Rubber Belting Tracks with Steel Grouser Cleats.

### Body Equipment:

- Hydraulic Front Winch
- Pintle Towing Hitch
- Hydraulic Tool Circuit at rear

**Minimum Bid: \$4,000.00**

**YOU  
HAVE THE  
POWER TO:**



- View daily and monthly energy use.
- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.



Go to [redlakeelectric.com](http://redlakeelectric.com) and experience the power of SmartHub today!



**Operation Round Up®  
grant applications  
due Wed., Feb. 28**

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. 28, 2024.

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 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, \$660,071 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment (28554 Brian D Shimp) of the community within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Laura Kasprovicz, Thief River Falls; Stacy Bierman, Thief River Falls; Pamela Vettleson, Plummer; 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](http://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 (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.



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.

## McGriddle Muffins

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground sausage
- 2 cups pancake mix (your choice)
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 cup shredded cheese (cheddar or your preferred type)
- Cooking spray (for greasing muffin tins)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the Oven: Set your oven to 400 degrees.
2. Cook the Sausage: In a skillet over medium heat, brown the ground sausage, breaking it into small crumbles as it cooks. Once fully cooked, set it aside.
3. Prepare Pancake Batter: In a mixing bowl, mix together the pancake mix, water, maple syrup, and shredded cheese until you have a thick batter.
4. Incorporate Sausage: Fold the cooked sausage crumbles into the pancake batter, ensuring even distribution.
5. Prepare Muffin Tins: Lightly grease the muffin tins with cooking spray.
6. Fill Muffin Tins: Spoon the sausage and pancake batter mixture into the muffin tins, filling each cup about two-thirds full.
7. Bake: Bake in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes, or until the muffins are golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center (31200 Adam Barth) comes out clean.
8. Cool and Serve: Let the McGriddle muffins cool in the tins for a few minutes before moving them to a wire rack to cool completely.

9. Enjoy On the Go: These muffins are perfect for a quick breakfast. Store them in an airtight container in the fridge and reheat as needed. Serve with additional maple syrup if desired.

**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS...  
WIN A WEEK IN WASHINGTON, D.C.!**

**JUNE 18-23, 2024**

# THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

- ★ Visit historic monuments and museums
- ★ Build lifelong friendships
- ★ Boost your community service and engagement
- ★ Meet with your U.S. Representatives and Senators



**Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative.  
Learn more at [redlakeelectric.com/member-services/youth-tour](http://redlakeelectric.com/member-services/youth-tour)**

Application  
deadline:  
**Feb. 23, 2024**

# WHAT IS backfeed?

Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.

Backfeed happens when a person connects their portable generator to a wall outlet, which allows power to flow in reverse – that is, the alternate power source feeds energy back through their home's electrical system, their meter and back into the power lines.

Potentially deadly backfeed can also happen with permanently installed generators that are not used or installed correctly. They should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, who will install either an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator. The job of this switch is to transfer a power source safely from its primary source to a backup source.

To keep utility crews safe, never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system, and ensure transfer switches are professionally installed and working properly. Electric lineworkers thank you in advance.

Learn more at:

 **Safe Electricity.org**

