

Committed to Safety

Since their inception, electric cooperatives have acknowledged that operating safely is a priority. In fact, safety is an imperative. In our business there is absolutely no room for allowing compromising situations or taking shortcuts.

It is Lake Region's obligation to provide you with electricity in a manner that is safe. Just as important is our commitment to provide our employees with a safe workplace. Lake Region Electric Cooperative's workplace extends along 5,746 miles of distribution power lines.

A single injury not only hurts the employee, but our co-op, our business, and even our communities. Last year, two of Minnesota's serious accidents involving utility work occurred during storm restoration. It's during these times that our lineworkers and other employees must swing into action. They find themselves getting up at 2 a.m., or missing the big holiday dinner, etc., so power can be restored. The weather conditions are not always favorable—freezing rain, blowing snow, cold winds, or severe weather with lightning; often, it is simply nasty. And, just as you want your power back on quickly, our employees want to get back home into their warm bed, or to their child's ballgame, or that big ham dinner.

Yet, as much as we want power back on and to get back to our families, we cannot accept rushing as a work practice. With every job we do, we must always ask our workers to work safely and not put pressure on our employees to rush or hurry in doing

the work. When we hurry, mistakes occur, and someone may get hurt. When dealing with electricity, these mistakes can be deadly. We must never accept a standard that would encourage hurried and hazardous shortcuts.

So, what can we do collectively?

1. As a member of the co-op, understand that it is always our goal to get your power back on as quickly as possible. Yet, at the same time, we must ensure the work is done safely.
2. As we respond to outages and storms, the conditions can change as we dissect the situations and the extent of damages. We are making calculated decisions on SAFE power restoration.
3. If needed, we will call in more crews.
4. In larger storm outages, we even have the capability to bring in help from other co-ops through a mutual assistance pact, and sometimes they even come from other states.

Our standard is and always will be to take the time to work safely. It takes all of us, our co-op members and community, working together to keep this standard. It would be foolish to accept anything less. Because, when we work safely to get your power back on, we ALL get to enjoy the comforts of home.




2018 OFFICIAL NOTICE

Lake Region Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting • June 7th, 2018

Notice is hereby given that the annual member meeting of Lake Region Electric Cooperative will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 7th, 2018 at Life Church, 901 County Highway 116, Fergus Falls, MN, to take the following action: officers', directors', and committee reports; introduction of (3) directors deemed elected by acclamation for a term of three (3) years in district 1, 4, and 7; and all other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Registration and dinner begin at 5:00 p.m.

Joyce Valley, Secretary

Director Elections

District meetings with director nominations were held in February. The following director district elections are uncontested and in accordance with the Bylaws, the following persons are deemed elected by acclamation.

- **District 1: Denny Tollefson**
- **District 4: Earl Rydell**
- **District 7: Tom Jennen**

DENNY TOLLEFSON



DISTRICT 1

EARL RYDELL



DISTRICT 4

TOM JENNEN



DISTRICT 7

If no other candidates are nominated through the petition process, the unopposed candidates nominated at the district meetings will be deemed elected by acclamation. Annual meeting voting was changed at the 2012 Annual Meeting by the adoption of the *Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, Section 3.7 – Member Meeting Voting*.

You can read the *Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws* at www.lrec.coop/your-co-op/cooperative-governance

When you visit our website, you see a series of pictures scroll across with the following statements that describe our commitment to you, our members:

- ▶ **Ready in a moment's notice**
- ▶ **Service excellence every day**
- ▶ **Working in all weather conditions**
- ▶ **Working hard to keep your lights on**

SAFETY is a core value that is essential in each of these statements.

LREC offices will be closed
May 28th for Memorial Day.



A Partnership in Safe Power

Try this: from the moment you get out of bed until you leave the house in the morning count all the things you touch that are powered by electricity. It would start with your alarm clock or your cell phone's alarm, then the light for your bedroom as you stumble into the bathroom (another light) to use your electric toothbrush, etc. This exercise quickly shows us why having power to our homes and businesses is so important.

In May, we recognize the safety of this power through **National Electrical Safety Month** to remind our members and the public of the importance of always respecting electricity. When we don't, it can be unforgiving, even deadly.

We need your help to keep electricity safe—from the lines overhead to the outlet in your kitchen. Here are some key actions YOU can take to be a partner in safe power with us.

- ✎ Look for overhead power lines on your property and remind everyone to stay clear of them. Always remember that downed power lines are dangerous. Never approach a downed line because it can energize the ground. Instead, notify your co-op immediately.
- ✎ Know where your service panel is so you can properly shut down the power when working on electrical items in your home, such as installing a ceiling fan. Also, realize you may have more than one panel in your home or on your property.
- ✎ Talk to your family members about electrical safety because if you have never told them, then how do they know? Contact your co-op for information appropriate to their age.
- ✎ Use Tamper Resistant Receptacles for a permanent solution to outlet covers; they have built in shutters to prevent foreign objects from being inserted into the outlet. "A study by Temple University found that 100% of all 2-4 year olds were able to remove one type of plastic outlet cap within 10 seconds." (cited from ESFI.org)
- ✎ Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent electrocution; know how to properly test them. These are not only for use inside your home. Docks and boats can be sources of electricity due to faulty wiring or damaged cords. Surrounding water can become energized and you could become a victim of electric shock drowning. Make sure these areas use GFCIs.
- ✎ Don't forget about underground lines too; always call 811 to get a locate. Digging can be deadly and, besides, the law requires you to call!
- ✎ If you need to use a portable generator, make sure it has a transfer switch so backfeed does not harm others working on the line.
- ✎ Never use an extension cord as permanent wiring. If you need to use a cord on a temporary basis, inspect and use it properly.
- ✎ Plan ahead if you will be re-siding your home and your meter is located on your house. Never pull a meter yourself. Call the co-op to have it removed properly.

Operation Round Up Awards Over \$20,000 to Local Groups

Seventeen local organizations recently received funds through Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Program. A total of \$20,250 was awarded to support a variety of organizations within the co-op's service area.

The funds were distributed by the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees at an April 9th meeting.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary charitable fundraising program through Lake Region Electric Cooperative. The trust fund is overseen by a volunteer, nine-member board of trustees, who are selected to serve by LREC's board of directors. Since October 2007, LREC's Operation Round Up Program has awarded a total of \$178,838.64 to area organizations.

Act Now and Get **DOUBLE** or **TRIPLE** the Rebate on an Air Source Heat Pump!



It's the best of both worlds. Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. Act now to get incredible rebates while funds last!

SEER	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
14.5	\$480	\$1,000
15	\$580	\$1,250
16+	\$630	\$2,000

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

Sign Up for Auto Pay & Paperless for a Chance to Win \$100!



Log in to SmartHub and complete two steps: **1)** sign up for Auto Pay under **Billing & Payments**, and **2)** go paperless by turning off printed bills under **My Profile**. Each quarter all new sign ups will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 bill credit.

Q1 Winner: Catherine & Jace Hennagir from Perham



ORU Board of Trustees (L to R): Kathy Forsgren, Ruth Vetter, Tex Larson, Sandy Antonsen, Al Berube, Polly Reitan, Millie Ness, Eric Mounts

You're Invited!

Thursday, June 7th, 2018

Please plan to attend the annual meeting of Lake Region Electric Cooperative. Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 7th at Life Church in Fergus Falls. Join us at 5 p.m. for a meal catered by the Underwood Lions Club and Betty's Pantry, Ottertail. The business meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m.



We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. Bring this insert with you to the meeting to receive a \$10 bill credit.



Annual Meeting Registration Form

Complete and bring to the annual meeting to receive your \$10 bill credit.

Name

Address

Account No.

Email Address