



NewsFlashes

MAY 2022



CEO Column

Introducing QR Codes in our Newsletter

We are excited about incorporating Quick Response (QR) codes into our monthly newsletter to further engage with our members! To see a short video about LREC's June 2nd annual meeting, you can simply scan the QR code to the left with a mobile device (*smartphone or tablet*) that is equipped with a camera and QR reader application (*app*). We hope that many of you find that scanning these QR codes is a positive experience that assists with learning more about your co-op.

www.lrec.coop/annualmeeting



Annual Meeting

LREC will be celebrating its 85th anniversary at the annual meeting on June 2nd! All of you are invited to join us for what we anticipate being a fun and informational meeting. Join us in one of the following ways:

- ◆ In-person at the primary location of the annual meeting at *Life Church* in Fergus Falls
- ◆ In-person at a satellite location at the *Prairie Event Center* in Parkers Prairie featuring a live video feed of the annual meeting
- ◆ In-person at a satellite location at the *Frazee Community Center* in Frazee featuring a live video feed of the annual meeting
- ◆ Virtually from your home, office, or wherever you are located at www.lrec.coop/annualmeeting

We love our new annual meeting model, and we are upping our game to provide the three in-person opportunities with meals,

(Tim Thompson's CEO column is continued on the second page)

85th Annual Meeting June 2nd

Schedule of Events

5:00 p.m. Dinner will begin at *Life Church* in Fergus Falls

5:30 p.m. Dinner will begin at the satellite locations

5:30 p.m. Live music by Tim Eggebraaten

6:30 p.m. The 85th Annual Meeting begins



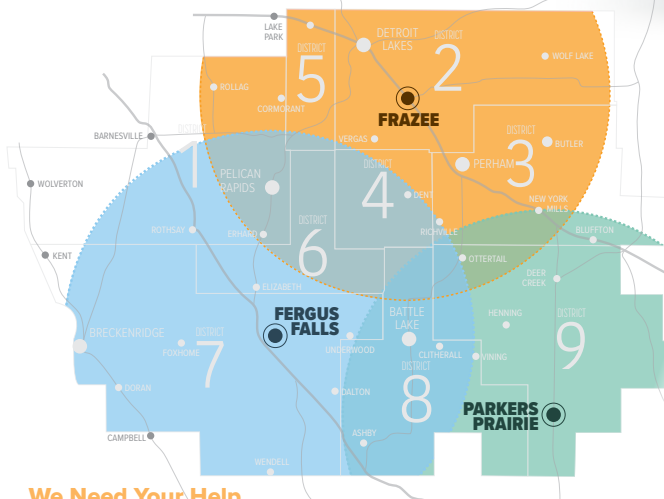
Primary Location

Fergus Falls at Life Church

Satellite Locations

Frazee at Frazee Community Center

Parkers Prairie at Prairie Event Center



We Need Your Help

We are requesting that all members planning on attending our meeting please fill out the survey at www.lrec.coop/annualmeeting. This information will help let us know how many meals should be available at each location.



2022 OFFICIAL NOTICE

Lake Region Electric Cooperative
85th Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 2nd • 6:30 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that the annual member meeting of Lake Region Electric Cooperative will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 2nd, 2022 at Life Church (901 County Highway 116, Fergus Falls, MN) to take the following action: approval of prior meeting minutes; election of directors; officers, directors, and committee reports; CEO Tim Thompson's address; and all other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Registration and dinner begin at 5:00 p.m. in Fergus Falls and at 5:30 p.m. in Frazee and Parkers Prairie.

Joyce Valley, Secretary

CEO Column (Tim Thompson's CEO column is continued from the first page)

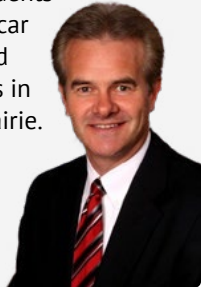
presentations, entertainment, opportunities to ask questions, and a \$10 bill credit. We are excited that 98% of our members will be within 25 miles from one of the three locations. In order to make sure we properly allocate enough meals to all three meeting locations, please fill out a survey to show the meeting location you will be attending by visiting www.lrec.coop/annualmeeting.

While meeting sites and meeting opportunities have changed throughout the years, we never fail to recognize the primary component that hasn't—the members, and the importance of delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to all of you. It is inspiring to think of those members before us who took on the task of organizing LREC 85 years ago. They did so because no other utility companies were willing to take on and overcome the daunting challenges associated with delivering electricity to rural areas. I am grateful to those founding members, and I want to do whatever I can to continue our co-op's strong tradition!

LREC Linemen Visit Area Schools

It was great to see some of our linemen recently provide safety demonstrations for students in area elementary schools. Many

great questions were asked by the students. Our linemen had a fantastic time while presenting at the schools. Students asked questions ranging from how to safely exit a car when there are downed lines, to why birds can land on power lines. The linemen made stops at schools in Frazee, New York Mills, Underwood, and Parkers Prairie. We greatly appreciate our linemen taking the time to engage with area students about safety. Here at LREC we continue to seek out new ways to connect with our members and communities.



Tim Thompson

Co-op News

GRE Update: Coal Creek Station & HVDC Line

By the time this newsletter gets to you, Coal Creek Station and the HVDC line may have been sold on May 2nd, 2022, the original closing date agreed upon between GRE and Rainbow and GRE and Nexus Line, LLC. We are closely monitoring the status of the transaction and will provide updated information to keep you all informed of this transaction.

Rates: Cost-of-Service Study

LREC's rate structure is in two parts—energy rate and facility charge. A cost-of-service study has been commissioned to determine whether there is a revenue neutral way for LREC to decrease its rates and increase its facility charge so that the costs are shared in the fairest way possible by our members. LREC, much like many other co-ops in the State of Minnesota, continues to gather data through studies like these to determine the most equitable way to allocate costs amongst its members.

Operation Round Up Funds Awarded to Organizations

Funds were granted to six local organizations throughout Lake Region Electric Cooperative's service area from the Operation Round Up Program. A total of **\$17,500** was awarded by the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees at the *April 11th*, 2022 meeting. The total amount awarded since 2007 is \$496,870. The next deadline to submit applications for Operation Round Up is **June 15th**.



- \$3,000 to **Dunvilla Shooting Club** to refurbish a cabin used for training
- \$2,000 to **Essentia Health St. Mary's Foundation** to integrate reading for children
- \$3,500 to **Home and Away Ministries DBA Ruby's Pantry** for food distribution program
- \$1,000 to **Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership** to provide basic home repairs for seniors, disabled persons, and low-income families
- \$3,000 to **North Country Food Bank** for mobile pantry program
- \$5,000 to **Welcome House** to support home for women in recovery and critical transitions

Keep Your Contact Information Current

Help us keep you informed by making sure your contact information is up to date. As people continue to drop their landlines to opt

for cell phones and as email addresses change, it is important to ensure we have your latest contact information. **There are a number of benefits to having updated contact information.**

- ▶ If the number you use is in our system, the outage management system is able to automatically recognize who is calling.
- ▶ For planned outages, you can receive a call, email, or postcard.

- ▶ It can speed up power restoration if we are able to contact you for more information regarding an outage or service issue.
- ▶ You can receive billing reminders and notices.
- ▶ Ensure your capital credit notices and checks are mailed to the correct address when they are retired.
- ▶ You can receive notices and other important information on cooperative services and programs.

You can update your *primary phone number, email, and mailing address* in SmartHub, by calling the office, emailing lrec@lrec.coop, or by filling out the form on the back of your bill stub. You can also update your information online at: www.lrec.coop/update



2022 Director Election



Official ballots will be mailed the week of May 9th. There are three options for voting this year—returning *paper ballots* by mail, *online voting*, or voting at the *annual meeting*. Election results will be announced during the annual meeting.

PAPER BALLOTS

Paper ballots must be received by Survey and Ballot Systems no later than June 2nd in Eden Prairie, MN, so please mail with plenty of time.

ONLINE VOTING

Online voting opens at 8 a.m. on May 9th and will close at 10 a.m. on June 2nd. Log into your SmartHub account and find the “Vote Now” button, which will lead you to your online ballot.

IN PERSON

If a member has not submitted a ballot by mail or online, he or she will be provided a ballot upon registration at the annual meeting.

District 6 Candidates

Charlie Blixt



My wife Elaine and I have been married 44 years and have three adult children and seven grandchildren. I live in Friberg Township and have been a member of LREC for 37 years. I graduated from Augsburg College.

I have been employed 35 years with USI Insurance, formerly CHS Insurance, as an insurance broker providing commercial business insurance and business risk

management services to large commercial agribusiness co-ops, petroleum co-ops, and private businesses. I work with co-op managers and boards. I also taught school and coached for 5 years.

I was on the Pelican Rapids School Board for 11 years, 2 of which I was president. I have served as president for two church councils, Trinity Lutheran Church in Pelican Rapids (current council member) and Tonseth Lutheran Church. In addition, I was the Pelican Rapids Scout Master for 10 years, helping more than 60 boys become Eagle Scouts.

Todd V. Bladow



I have been married for 40 years and have two adult children and two granddaughters. I live on Jewett Lake. I was born in Breckenridge, MN and spent my early years on the family farm near Mantador, ND. I graduated from Fergus Falls High School and attended college at Northland Community College and the University of North Dakota.

I am retired after working 37 years at Cargill as the chief inspector/aircraft

mechanic for corporate aircraft and at Ziegler Inc. as the director of maintenance of corporate aircraft. I'm a licensed pilot, aircraft mechanic, and inspector. In addition, I served on the City of Shakopee's Planning Commission and held officer positions for Minnesota's Corporate Maintenance Association and Business Aviation Association.

I enjoy leading and collaboration and have strong organizational and interpersonal skills. I will use my management and quality assurance experience to provide safe and healthy work environments, environmental sustainability, and effective operations.

District 3 and District 9 Director Bios

In **District 3**, Mike Brasel was nominated without opposition. In **District 9**, Gary Olson was also nominated without opposition. In accordance with Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Bylaws, they are deemed elected by acclamation*.

Mike Brasel



I live outside of Perham in Corliss Township with my wife, Kim, and three boys. I was born and raised near Perham. My career started in the U.S. Navy as an electrician and operator aboard two nuclear powered ships serving for six years.

I earned my degree in Mechanical Engineering and furthered my education with a Masters in Business Administration. I worked for Dairyland Power Cooperative in La Crosse, WI

for over 10 years where I held positions of Project Manager and Power Plant Manager.

I am currently the Director, Supply Chain Development at NuScale Power, responsible for supplier development and manufacturing of nuclear reactors, instrumentation and controls, and special lifting devices for new small modular nuclear power plants. I currently serve on the Perham Health Hospital District Board where I am on the Executive and Finance Committees and the Perham Health Foundation.

Gary Olson



Personal Details

I was born into a farm family and have farmed in the Parkers Prairie area most of my life. My wife and I have one grown son.

Schooling/Education

Graduate of Parkers Prairie High School; Associate Degree in carpentry, Alexandria AVTI

Community Involvement

First Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, active member, past council president;

Lions Club, past president, active member; Parkers Prairie Hospital, board member; Prairie Pine Mutual Insurance Co., board president; Represented East Otter Tail in Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program

Why I want to be a LREC Director

LREC has taken care of our family and farm electric needs for years and, more recently, our natural gas needs. I would like to use my trust in LREC and be of service to LREC as it makes decisions to generate energy in ways that are good for our members and our earth.

*Changes in annual meeting voting were made with the adoption of the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws at the 2012 Annual Meeting. If no other candidates are nominated through the petition process, the unopposed candidates nominated at district meetings will be deemed elected by acclamation.

Vegetation Management Supports Reliable Electricity

One of the primary ways Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) ensures reliable electric service to members is by following a vegetation management plan. The Cooperative uses a proactive, rotational system to control vegetation throughout its heavily wooded service territory. With the current cycle wrapping up, 2023 will mark the start of a new four-year cycle.

Lake Region's vegetation management process includes planned maintenance (including tree pruning or felling), reactive pruning, felling trees, mowing, and herbicide application. The Cooperative maintains an easement of 20 feet (10 feet on either side of the power line) to keep lines free from trees and brush. This helps prevent outages and creates a safer environment for line crews working to restore power.

"Trims are favored for trees outside our easement, while removals are preferred for those within," explains Abraham Nebgen, system arborist at LREC. "Reactive trimming and removal are performed for trees that pose a hazard to overhead line."

Mechanical trimming and mowing are also utilized. In areas with high trimming density, crews deploy a mechanical trimmer in conjunction with a mower. Mowing is used to address areas of high-density small

diameter trees. Herbicide is applied to stumps and used following mowing to help control vegetation.

With all vegetation management measures utilized by LREC, we are committed to keeping our members informed. Mailers, phone calls, and in-person communication

are all used to notify people about work plans affecting their property. Please allow crews to trim what's necessary to keep the power flowing for you and your neighbors.

If you notice a tree interfering with power lines, please notify the Cooperative at (800) 552-7658.

Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

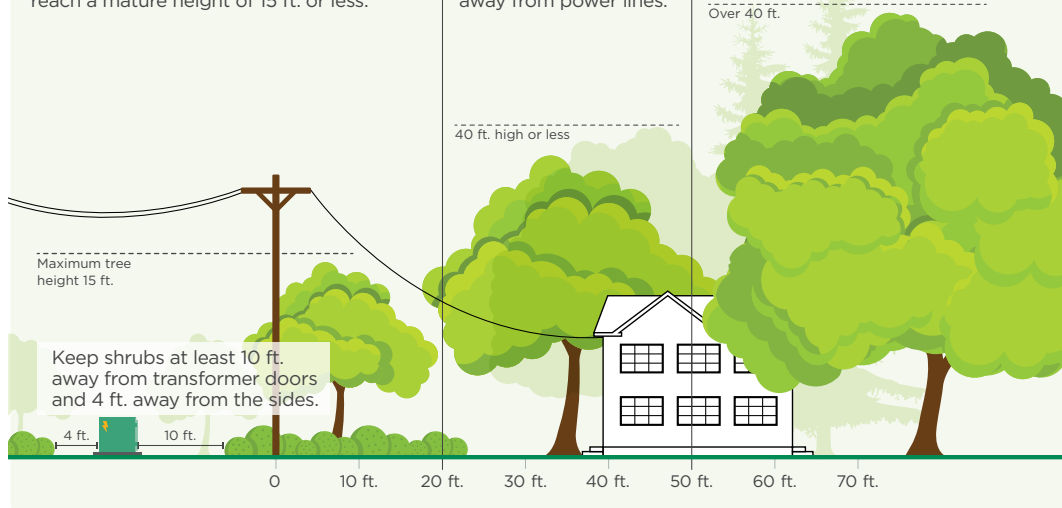
MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



Go Paperless & Get \$5 Bill Credit

Help us save money with paperless billing. You can choose to receive your monthly bill and NewsFlashes delivered via email. Your account information is always available online. Go paperless and receive a one time **\$5 bill credit!**

1. Visit *SmartHub* by clicking *View & Pay Bill*.
2. Log in or register for SmartHub.
3. Click on *My Profile*.
4. Choose *Update My Printed Bill Settings*.
5. Change your printed bill status to *Off*.

WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

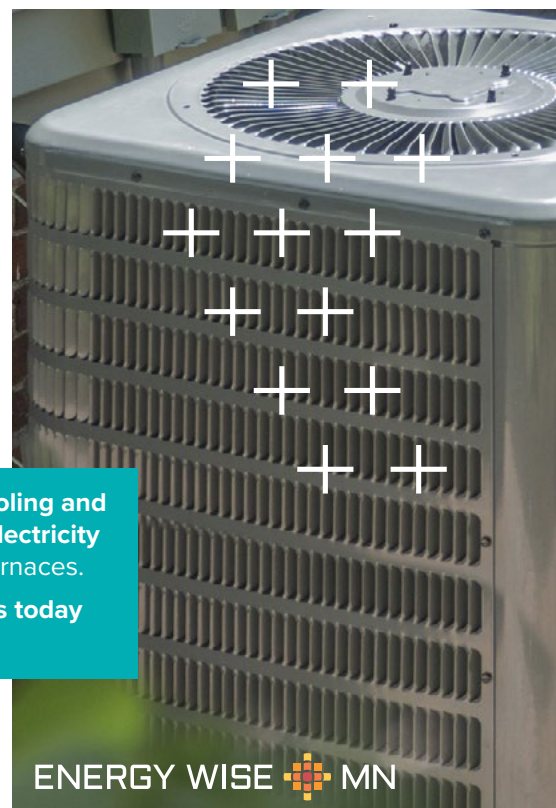
Take advantage of these hot promo rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump! Rebates are available through **June 30th**.

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$700
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$1,400

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Call our energy management specialists today at (800) 552-7658 to learn more!

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. Must be installed by June 30th to apply.



ENERGY WISE  MN

Visit us on Facebook and YouTube!

 facebook.com/LakeRegionElectricCoop

 youtube.com/LakeRegionElectricCo



Lake Region Electric Cooperative's 85th Annual Meeting

LREC will be celebrating its 85th anniversary at the annual meeting on **Thursday, June 2nd, 2022!** All of you are invited to join us for what we anticipate being a fun and informational meeting. This year we have added two satellite locations which will feature a *meal* and *livestream* of the primary location, as well as the ability to participate fully—including *voting*! See the reverse side for more information on the annual meeting locations.

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