



NewsFlashes

NOVEMBER 2023



LREC crews switch out poles and eliminate overhead wires for a new substation switch to be installed by our power provider, Great River Energy. The high voltage transmission switch provides the Ten Mile Lake substation with power.

Keeping LREC in Position to Serve You Now and in the Future

LREC exists to serve our members and our communities. We are committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity and other energy-related services while improving the communities we serve. These services are delivered to you by the people at LREC who are committed to providing you with the best member experience possible. I am proud of the way LREC continues to put itself in a great position to serve you now and well into the future. This column highlights new employees joining the LREC team and LREC's willingness to continue to evolve as the needs of our members change over time.

We are excited for our recent additions to the LREC team. We hired seven new linemen this year who will be there for us day and night, just like all the linemen have done before them. We are excited about our new electronic systems supervisor who will lead LREC into the future upon retirements of longtime and dedicated employees. We are grateful to our retiring employees for transferring their knowledge and skills so we can continue to be the cooperative you deserve.

We are excited about how LREC is evolving as an organization by hiring people with diverse backgrounds and experiences who are mindful of our service, history, and cooperative spirit, and take purposeful actions while bringing positive energy to the cooperative. Another part of LREC's evolution includes the strategic network and alliances we continue to build, such as working with Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Star Energy Services, Safety and Health consultants, and a data analyst consultant, all of which provide very specific expertise and support when called upon.

Tim's CEO Column continues on back page →



OFFICIAL NOTICE

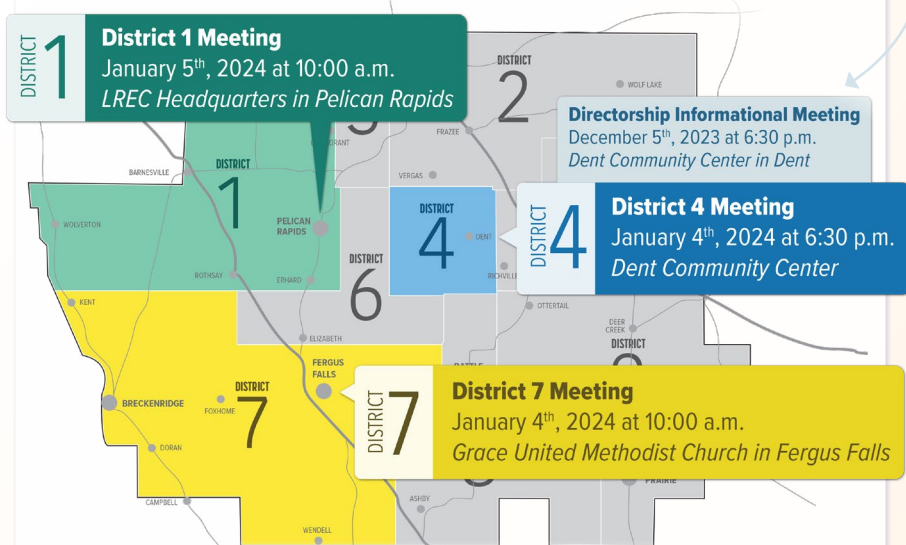
2024 District Meetings

Candidates for the LREC Board of Directors will be nominated in districts 1, 4, and 7 at the district meetings. Meetings will be held in each of the three nominating districts. All members are invited, although only members of each district can vote. Livestreams of the meetings will be available as well.

- 1 **District 1:** January 5th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
LREC Headquarters, Pelican Rapids
- 4 **District 4:** January 4th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Dent Community Center, Dent
- 7 **District 7:** January 4th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, Fergus Falls

District 4 Members

There will be an informational meeting on directorship for those interested in becoming a director for LREC.



Interested in Being a Director?

Any member interested in becoming a candidate for the Lake Region Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should contact us at (800) 552-7658, or email glarson@lrec.coop to learn more about the election process and responsibilities of being a director.

Save the Date

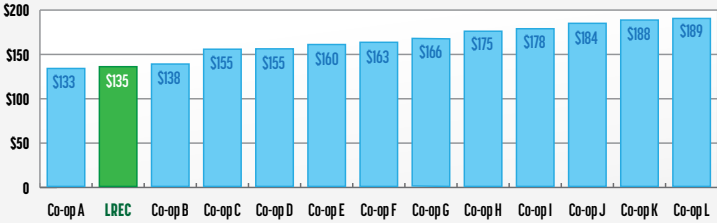
Annual Meeting

APRIL 18

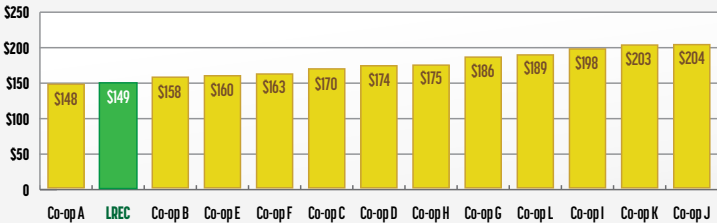
CEO Column (continued from front page)

We are thankful for the support of the LREC Board of Directors when it comes to investing in our reliability. It continues to trend positively because of our dedicated and hard-working employees, system upgrades, technology like AiDash that improves our vegetation management program, and Exacter that improves reliability by identifying equipment that needs to be replaced or fixed before it causes an outage. The people of LREC, together with the equipment available to them, are all here to serve you and provide you with the best member experience possible.

2023 Winter Comparison Rates

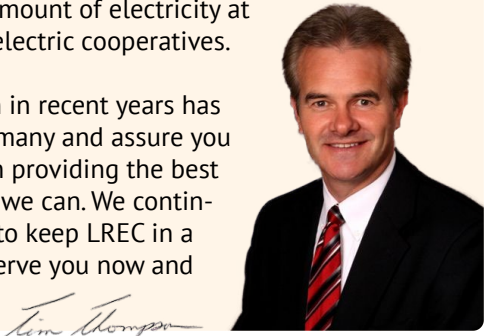


2023 Summer Comparison Rates



This year we have seen rate structure changes. The graphs above compare LREC to a peer group of other Minnesota electric cooperatives. The graphs reflect the monthly costs of LREC members who use 1,000 kW of electricity per month and compare what it would cost to use the same amount of electricity at other Minnesota electric cooperatives.

We know inflation in recent years has been difficult for many and assure you we are focused on providing the best service and value we can. We continue to take action to keep LREC in a position to best serve you now and in the future.



Rate Change Communications

LREC has been discussing the 2023 rate change that took effect in September since November 2022 during both member meetings and in our newsletter, *NewsFlashes*. We've collected all the articles, notices, and illustrations at www.lrec.coop/rates for the convenience of our members. You can visit the link or scan the QR code to the right with your mobile device.



If you would like to see how the rate change impacts you personally, LREC built a rate calculator at ratecalc.lrec.coop. There you can type in your information and see how the new rates may change your bills over the next year.

The LREC offices will be closed for **Thanksgiving** on November 23rd-24th. Happy Thanksgiving!

For **Christmas and New Years**, the offices will be closed on December 25th-26th and January 1st-2nd.

Dual Fuel Members: Please Make Sure Your Back-up System is Ready

If you have a dual fuel heating system, **now** is the time to be sure your back-up heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply. Don't wait until the first control event to find out you need a fill. Also, please check both your electric and non-electric heating sources to ensure they are both on and working properly.

If you aren't currently taking advantage of our dual fuel program, please contact our Energy Management Specialists at (800) 552-7658 to learn how you can save more!



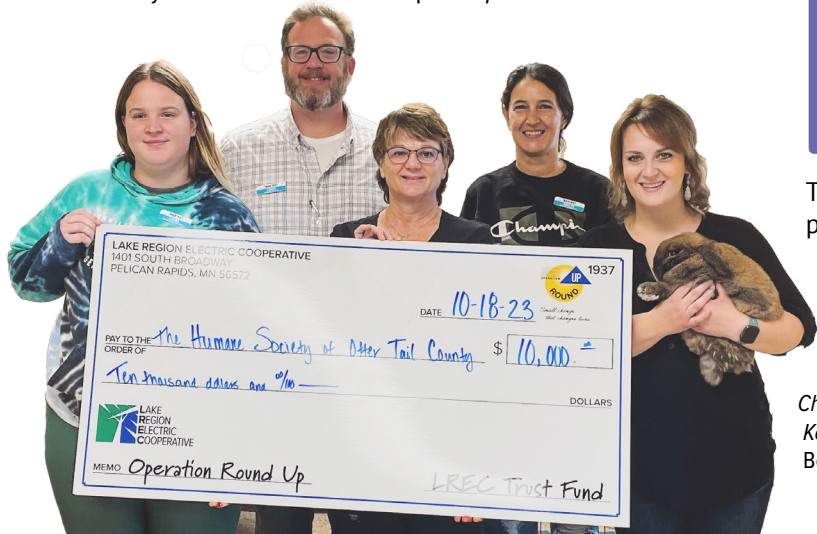
DUAL FUEL OPTIONS: STEFFES ROOM HEATER, STEFFES WHOLE-HOUSE FURNACE, PLENUM HEATER, IN-FLOOR HEAT, AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS (ASHP), AND MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMPS

\$20,250 Awarded to Local Organizations Through ORU



Funded by the contributions of Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) generous members, the Operation Round Up (ORU) Board of Trustees recently awarded \$20,250 to various community organizations. Within the monies awarded was LREC's largest donation to an organization to date.

The *Humane Society of Otter Tail County (HSOTC)* was the recipient of a \$10,000 contribution for its building expansion project (or as they call it, expanding their "pawprint"). As the HSOTC states, "We are confident that a shelter expansion at our existing location would allow us to care for more animals with greater efficiency." ORU is excited to help this *pawsitive* endeavor.



The eight other organizations that received funding during the quarterly ORU meeting include:

- * \$2,500 to the *Henning Fire Department Relief Association* for wildland fire response equipment
- * \$1,000 to *Save the Trinity* for their Trinity Center Kids Quilt Camp
- * \$2,500 to the *Pelican Rapids Community Theatre* for production of *The Music Man* the musical
- * \$750 to *Save the Trinity* for their Santa Days
- * \$1,500 to *Tonseth Lutheran Church* for the purchase of an AED machine
- * \$500 for the *Antrim Family Foundation's* annual Memorial Kids Fishing Tournament to raise awareness for connective disorders
- * \$1,000 to *LongView Carbon Farms* for the creation of education materials
- * \$500 to the *New York Mills Arts Retreat* for the Longest Night Music Festival

Through ORU's efforts since 2007, this charitable fundraising program has awarded \$626,370. Funding for ORU stems from LREC members rounding up to the nearest dollar on their electric bills each month. If you would like to participate in ORU, please visit www.lrec.coop/oru.

Left to right: Customer Service Associate Laura Kielb, Executive Director Chris Cannon, ORU Board Trustee Patty Johnson, Shelter Manager Jaclyn Keenan, LREC employee Candace Rastedt, and Holland Lop bunny Butter. Both Butter and his brother Brickie are available for adoption.