



NewsFlashes

FEBRUARY 2024

Recap of District Meetings Held in January

Our district meetings were held on January 4th and 5th for LREC Districts 1, 4, and 7 in Pelican Rapids, Dent, and Fergus Falls, respectively. In **District 1**, incumbent and current Board Vice Chair *Kurt Krueger* was nominated as a director candidate. In **District 4**, *Lee Mindemann* and *David Pawlowski* were nominated as director candidates to fill the vacancy that will be left by Earl Rydell, who will be retiring from the board after serving in that capacity for 15 years. In **District 7**, incumbent and current Board Chair *Tom Jennen* was nominated as a director candidate. It is so great to see leadership come from the grassroots efforts or our members. I greatly appreciate all



LREC CEO Tim Thompson speaks with a member during the 2024 District 4 Meeting in Dent.

those who expressed a desire to run for a seat at your cooperative's table. In total, there were approximately 170 people who attended the meetings in person or virtually.

One of the best things about electric cooperatives is their grassroots nature. This allows all of us to take an active role in making important decisions to ensure LREC is the best cooperative it can be. As members of LREC, one thing we all have in common is our right to be active in the election process by nominating and electing other members to serve on our board of directors. It allows us to nominate and elect our friends and neighbors to serve as LREC directors, and it allows us to stay connected with those directors in ways that drive the cooperative spirit.

At the recent district meetings, I shared a presentation covering member



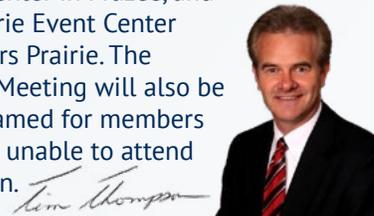
Members gather at the 2024 District 1 Meeting in Pelican Rapids.

engagement opportunities, the growth of our cooperative, member feedback from our annual survey, transmission and distribution upgrades that continue to improve our reliability, investments in our local grid, projects happening around our service territory, innovative technology being utilized by our employees, vegetation management, rate strategy, our productive employees, the positive impact of members participating in load management programs, the desire to create new revenue streams, the value of electricity, the financial strength of LREC, and the passion our co-op has for being involved in the communities it serves.



LREC CEO Tim Thompson presenting at the 2024 District 7 Meeting in Fergus Falls.

The 87th LREC Annual Meeting will be held on **April 18, 2024**, at 6:30 p.m. Like years past, there will be three in person meeting location options for members: Life Church in Fergus Falls, Frazee Event Center in Frazee, and the Prairie Event Center in Parkers Prairie. The Annual Meeting will also be livestreamed for members who are unable to attend in person.



Tim Thompson



For those unable to attend the meetings, they were livestreamed and the recordings are available at www.lrec.coop/2024districtmeetings or by scanning the QR code to the left with your mobile device.



Helping ND Co-op Members Affected by Ice Storm

One of the seven principles that cooperatives abide by is *Cooperation Among Cooperatives*. Lake Region Electric Cooperative put that principle into practice during the ice storms that severely impacted parts of North Dakota in late December. Seven LREC lineworkers went to help *Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative (DVEC)* in southeastern North Dakota. Extreme ice buildup on powerlines caused many poles to snap, resulting in extended outages for DVEC members. Here are several quotes from the lineworkers who went to help.

Q. What were your first thoughts when seeing the destruction?

A. This ice storm was a bad one and was probably the worst I have seen. We knew it was going to take a lot to repair, but it was much worse seeing it in person.

—Lineworker Tyler

Q. After hearing about the storm and destruction, what were your first thoughts?

A. Honestly, I had sadness for the members. Being without power during those conditions and some experiencing their own property damage, it can be very overwhelming. I was happy our co-op, the seven people sent, and I could help. The kindness shown by those we were able to assist was also impactful. They were super good people.

—Lineworker Anthony

Q. What was your favorite part?

A. Knowing the impact we were making for the members. The fact we could help them get back to their normal life was great. Also, the kindness people showed us was amazing and unforgettable.

—Lineworker Phil



**2024 ANNUAL MEETING
OFFICIAL NOTICE**

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's
87th Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 18th • 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. on **Thursday, April 18th, 2024** at Life Church (901 County Highway 116, Fergus Falls, MN) to take the following action: approval of prior meeting minutes; election of directors; 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.

Cecil "Bud" Hensel, Secretary/Treasurer

Annual Meeting Locations

Please make plans to join us for our Annual Meeting on **April 18th, 2024**. We will have three locations available, all of which will have a meal. The two satellite locations will view a livestream of the primary location.

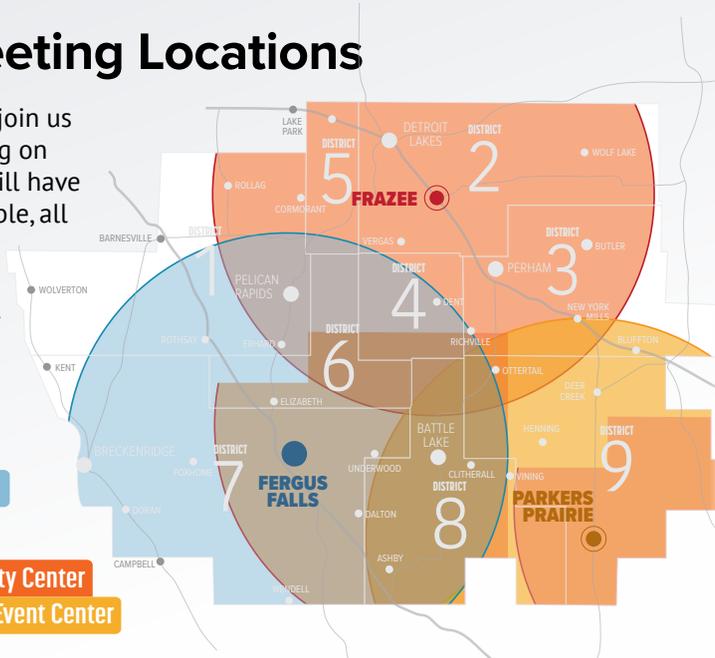
Primary Location

Fergus Falls at Life Church

Satellite Locations

Frazee at Frazee Community Center

Parkers Prairie at Prairie Event Center



Districts 1, 4, & 7 Director Candidates

In **District 1**, incumbent and current Board Vice Chair **Kurt Krueger** was nominated as a director candidate. In **District 4**, **Lee Mindemann** and **David Pawlowski** were nominated as director candidates. In **District 7**, incumbent and current Board Chair **Tom Jennen** was nominated as a director candidate. Currently, the director candidates for each district are as follows:

- **District 1:** Kurt Krueger
- **District 4:** Lee Mindemann, David Pawlowski
- **District 7:** Tom Jennen

Pending any other candidates via the petition process, any unopposed candidates nominated at the district meetings will be deemed elected by acclamation.

Operation Round Up Awards \$57,180 in Donations



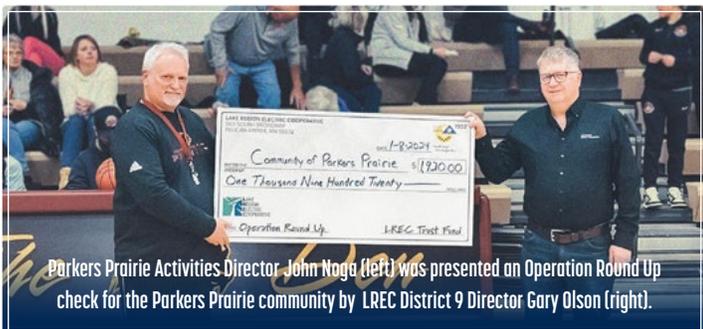
Fire departments, schools, and food shelves were among the organizations that received funds during Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) recent Operation Round Up (ORU) meeting. ORU Board Trustees were overjoyed to award \$57,180 between 112 local organizations within LREC's service territory.

"Whenever a group of volunteer individuals can come together and make an impact like this for our communities, it is always special," stated LREC's Vice President/CFO Amanda Fuller. "It is a privilege to serve as the Operation Round Up Executive Director and see the care and meaningful conversations around each donation request and awarded amount."

During the January 8th allocation, organizations received the following funding:

- * **\$17,700** between **23 schools** for *scholarships*
- * **\$15,600** between **26 fire departments** for *department expenses*
- * **\$6,720** between **14 food pantries** for the *March food drive*
- * **\$5,520** between **23 cities** for *community festivals*
- * **\$3,120** between **5 county extension offices** for *4-H programs*
- * **\$3,120** between **13 schools** for *post prom party expenses*
- * **\$3,000** to the **Barnesville Area Community Fund**
- * **\$2,400** between **5 county fair associations** for *fair expenses*

Through ORU's efforts since 2007, this charitable fundraising program has awarded **\$683,550**. "Since 2007, we have donated a substantial amount to our communities, and we couldn't do this without our generous members," says Fuller. "When members round up the change on their electric bill through Operation Round Up, we strengthen our communities and change lives."



Parkers Prairie Activities Director, John Naga (left) was presented an Operation Round Up check for the Parkers Prairie community by LREC District 9 Director Gary Olson (right).

2024 Energy Efficiency Rebates

Check out these rebates LREC offers our members! You can also stack these rebates with Inflation Reduction Act offerings. Want to learn more? Visit www.lrec.coop/ira.

Heating and Cooling

Heat Pump Systems *See note below	Ductless air source heat pump: Must be > 1 Ton, SEER2 ≥ 15.2 & HSPF2 ≥ 8.1	\$500
	Ducted air source heat pumps: Must be either 1) SEER2 ≥ 14.3 & HSPF2 ≥ 7.5, or 2) SEER2 ≥ 15.2 & HSPF2 ≥ 8.1	1) \$750* 2) \$1,000*
	Geothermal heat pump, closed loop (max \$4,000): new (1) or replacement (2)	1) \$400/ton 2) \$200/ton
Central Air Conditioners *See note below	Central air conditioner, SEER ≥ 15 or SEER2 ≥ 14.3	\$50/unit*
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heating Systems	Steffes ETS systems on short term storage	\$25 per KW
	All ETS systems on long term storage	\$50 per KW
Electronically Commutated Motor	Motor replacement only	\$50

Water Heating

Heat Pump Water Heater	Must be ENERGY STAR	\$500
ETS Water Heater (5.5¢ rate)	Must be at least 100 gallons and grid enabled with mixing valve	\$400
Peak Shave Water Heater (6.1¢ rate)	Must be at least 80 gallons and grid enabled	\$100

Miscellaneous

Electric Vehicle Charger Installation	Level 2 chargers: \$500 (must be on EV rate)	Up to \$500
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*Please Note: rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps and air conditioners are available only through qualified contractors. To find local qualified contractors, please visit www.lrec.coop/qicontractors which redirects to GRE's list of contractors.

All rebates are subject to change. Please contact LREC to verify availability.

Note: LREC offices will be closed on February 19th for continuing employee education and employee appreciation.