



NewsFlashes

MARCH 2025



Meet Your Interim CEO: Dan Husted

With CEO Tim Thompson announcing his new position with Crow Wing Power in Brainerd, Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) Board of Directors has named Dan Husted to serve as interim CEO until a permanent replacement is hired. Husted began his role as interim CEO at the end of February.

Husted and his wife, Sarah, are longtime members of the Pelican Rapids community. Sarah works as a substitute teacher, primarily at Viking Elementary School. The couple

has two daughters, Elizabeth (a doctor with Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin) and Mackenzie (a registered nurse at Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center, also in La Crosse).

Husted is looking forward to being back at the Cooperative as the search for a permanent CEO is underway. "A lot of changes have occurred in the four years since I've been gone," he says. "We have several new employees and new board members who I am looking forward to meeting."



Meet Your Interim CEO is continued on page 2 →

LREC's Annual Meeting is April 24th

Please make plans to join us for our Annual Meeting on **April 24th, 2025**.

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.

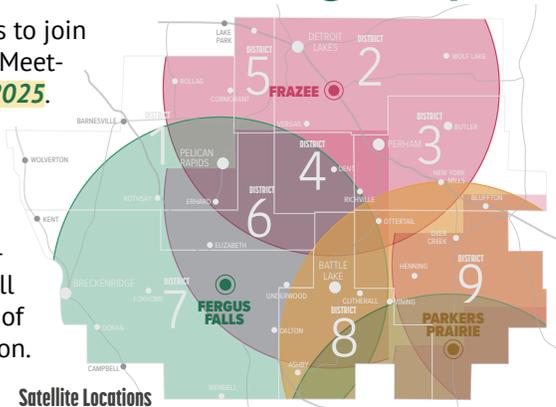
Primary Location

Fergus Falls at Life Church

Satellite Locations

Frazee at Frazee Community Center

Parkers Prairie at Prairie Event Center



OFFICIAL NOTICE

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 24th • Dinner: 5/5:30 p.m. // Meeting: 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 24th, 2025** at Life Church (901 County Highway 116, Fergus Falls, MN) to take the following action: approval of prior meeting minutes; election of directors; 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

Meet Your Interim CEO Continued from front page.

Husted retired from LREC in 2021 after nearly 18 years of service at the Cooperative. He brings with him a background full of experience in energy services, communications, and customer service. At the time of his retirement, Husted was serving as LREC's Vice President of Business Development.

During his tenure at the Cooperative, he was involved with the implementation of a long list of programs and initiatives. Examples include the geothermal program, community solar program, LED lighting program, Lake Region Energy Services natural gas company, first-of-its-kind wind solar project, MyMeter, and community storage.

As interim CEO, Husted plans to focus on continuity and stability. "Tim has done an outstanding job and has things well in place. As the interim CEO, I will continue to prioritize

the Cooperative's goals of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, along with beneficial energy services offerings, for our members."

Husted mentions a recent member quote featured in the February NewsFlashes CEO column. The member wrote how LREC really cares for and serves its members. Husted says this is always something he keeps in mind, adding how that is really what it's all about. If members have a concern or an idea, he invites them to give him a call and let him know.

"I would like to thank the directors on Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Board for their confidence in my ability to be the interim CEO while they conduct their executive search," he concludes. "It is an honor to serve the Board and the members of LREC once again."

OPERATING SUMMARY

As of December 31st, 2024 • Unaudited Results

	2023	2024
Operating Revenue	54,709,273	56,524,175
Deferred Revenue	(500,000)	800,000
Net Operating Revenue	54,209,273	57,324,175
Cost of Purchased Power	34,429,002	35,523,287
Operations Expense	3,053,661	3,303,833
Maintenance Expense	4,087,589	4,561,207
Consumer Accounts Expense	1,329,401	1,448,774
Customer Service & Information Expense	842,351	799,077
Administrative & General Expense	2,698,127	2,849,241
Depreciation Expense	4,791,153	4,958,918
Tax Expense	305,597	275,945
Interest Expense	1,969,697	2,155,261
Total Cost of Electric Service	53,506,579	55,875,542
Operating Margins	702,694	1,448,633
Non-Operating Margins	3,032,320	2,008,718
Total Margins	3,735,014	3,457,352

BALANCE SHEET

Total Utility Plant	160,085,860	168,363,936
Net Utility Plant (after depreciation)	101,439,249	105,807,883
Other Assets	50,155,651	49,814,230
Total Assets	151,594,900	155,622,113
Total Margins & Equities	69,158,633	71,019,210
Total Long-Term Debt	70,528,879	71,581,774
Other Liabilities	11,907,389	13,021,129
Total Liabilities & Equities	151,594,900	155,622,113

STATS

Kilowatt Hours Sold	470,734,142	455,678,033
Total Miles of Line	5,875	5,891
New Services This Year	406	438
Services Retired This Year	98	152
Total Services in Place	29,956	30,263

2025 Director Election

Official ballots will be mailed for **District 3** the week of March 31st. There are three options for voting — *online voting*, returning *paper ballots* by mail, or voting at the *annual meeting*. Election results will be announced during the annual meeting. The District 3 director candidate's bios can be found on [page 3](#).

1) Online Voting

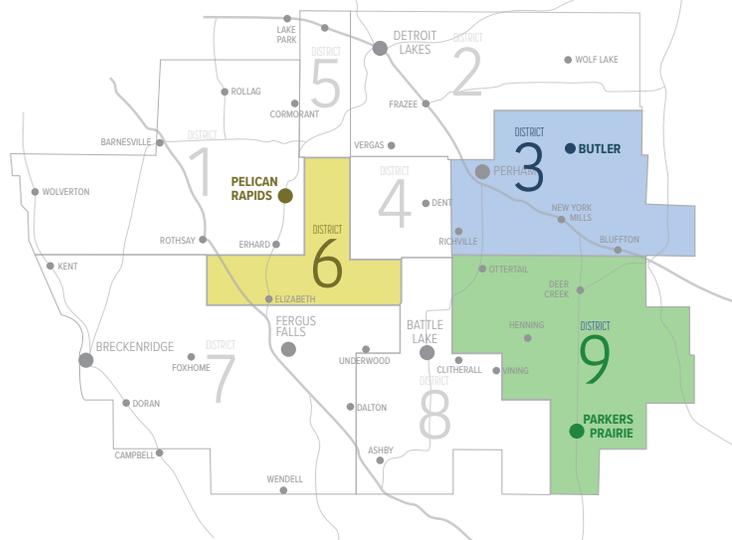
Online voting opens at 8 a.m. on March 31st and will close at 10 a.m. on April 24th. Log into your SmartHub account and find the "Vote Now" button, which will lead you to your online ballot.

2) Paper Ballots

Paper ballots must be received by Survey and Ballot Systems no later than April 24th in Eden Prairie, MN, so please mail with plenty of time.

3) In Person

Though we encourage members to submit their ballots ahead of time, 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 3 Director Candidate Bios

Mike Brasel



PERSONAL DETAILS

My wife and I live in Corliss Township a few miles northeast of Perham. We have three boys. The oldest works at Midwest Machinery in Wadena. The youngest two are in 11th and 12th grade at Perham High School.

EDUCATION/MILITARY

I was in the nuclear Navy for six years (1993-1999) where I maintained and operated nuclear powered guided missile cruisers. I have a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Old Dominion University and a Masters of Business

Administration from University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

WORK HISTORY

I worked for Dairyland Power Cooperative for 10 years as a Project Manager and Plant Manager at various power plants. The last 12 years I worked for NuScale Power designing and developing nuclear power plants. I recently moved to Deep Fission where I am the Vice President, Nuclear Programs for the design of the microreactor.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I am the Vice Chair of the Perham Health board of directors representing Corliss Township. I have also served on the Perham Area Community Center Board and Finance Committee during the recent renovation.

WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON LREC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My extensive experience in the power industry allows me to understand and provide a unique perspective to LREC through a time of great change in the power industry. My fellow LREC directors have trusted my knowledge and elected me to the Great River Energy (our wholesale energy provider) Board for the last four years. With your vote, I will continue to contribute to even higher leadership positions within GRE and at the national level.

Perry Swanz



PERSONAL DETAILS

I have lived at my current location on a farm near Butler for 23 years. My wife and I raised four children there and we have been married 29 years.

EDUCATION/MILITARY

1988-1994: Three years active duty regular army stationed in Germany. Three years South Dakota Army NG.

1996: Machinist diploma, Lake Area Tech College, Watertown, SD

2005: Electrical Lineworker diploma, MSCTC Wadena

WORK HISTORY

Machinist for 10 years. After line school, 1,000-hour seasonal position with Todd-Wadena co-op then the city of Grand Marais, apprentice lineman.

2006: 15 years at Otter Tail Power as a transmission/distribution power lineman, 3 years maintenance/ boiler operator. I am currently employed at M State as the line school College Lab Assistant.

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR DIRECTOR

My diverse work background as both a journeyman power lineman and a boiler operator in a coal-fired power plant, uniquely qualifies me to be a great asset to the Board. I have a thorough understanding of not only what it requires to distribute energy safely and reliably, but also the complexities of generation/transmission. Also, I believe it is crucial to encourage reliable baseload generation and raise public awareness to this issue to avoid running deficits in the near future. I do have a deep concern that collectively throughout the country we are transitioning away from our traditional resources for generation at an alarming pace which I do not believe is sustainable. As your director, I would commit myself to this important task as well as supporting the great work that the co-op is already doing.

Thank you for your consideration.

District 6 and District 9 Director Bios

In **District 6**, Charlie Blixt 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.

Charlie Blixt



PERSONAL DETAILS

My wife Elaine and I have been married for 47 years and have three adult children and eight grandchildren. I live in Friberg Township and have been a member of LREC for 41 years. I graduated from Augsburg College with a degree in education.

CAREER

I am currently employed with USI Insurance Services LLC,

formerly CHS Insurance, and have worked for them for 35 years. I am 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 also taught school and coached for 5 years.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I was a Pelican Rapids School Board member 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 Boy Scouts Scout Master for 10 years. I also have been appointed to and am a current board member of the Minnesota Petrofund which is a state program that cleans up pollution from petroleum spills.

Gary Olson



PERSONAL DETAILS

I was born and raised on a family farm and have farmed in the Parkers Prairie, MN area most of my life. My wife and I have been married for 38 years and have one grown son. I enjoy snow-mobiling, attending classic car shows, working on my classic cars, and going on road trips with my family.

SCHOOLING & EDUCATION

High School Graduate, PPHS (Parkers Prairie, MN)

Associate Degree in Carpentry, ATCC (Alexandria, MN)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I have a strong passion in being involved with the community I have raised my family in and contributing to organizations that I believe in.

I currently serve as Board President for Prairie Lakes Mutual Insurance Company, Board Director for Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) and as the Endowment Fund President for the First Lutheran Church.

I have formerly served as the Board President for the Central Minnesota Irrigators, First Lutheran Church in Parkers Prairie, and my local Lions Club and have been a Lion for 35 years. Additionally, I served as a Board Director for Midwest Bank and represented East Otter Tail County in the Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program.

WHY I WANT TO BE A LREC DIRECTOR

Lake Region Electric Cooperative has taken great care of our family and farm's electric needs for years, and more recently, our natural gas needs.

I currently serve on LREC's Board of Directors representing District 9. Lake Region Electric Cooperative has new challenges ahead with the 'Carbon Free by 2040' mandate. I would like to continue to be of service and use my nearly four decades of board experience as LREC makes decisions to generate energy in ways that are good for our members and our planet.

Join The Energy Corner Today!



The Energy Corner (TEC) is a member engagement program developed by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) to facilitate

accurate and timely information to our membership about the energy evolution, economy transition, and cooperative happenings. As a whole, TEC will optimize the member experience by remaining your local trusted source of energy information. To do this, LREC employees will disseminate news articles, news releases, case studies, and other researched-backed data to participants in this private group. Members can comment, share, and engage in conversations with other persons within the group, also offering their

suggestions and feedback. To cater to members of varying ages and schedules, TEC will operate on a completely virtual basis. Visit www.lrec.coop/energycorner to sign up today!

TEC has the following goals:

- ◆ Provide truthful, accurate, and current information to our membership, eliminating false narratives and untruthful sources
- ◆ Connect our membership by spurring conversations, ideas, and suggestions
- ◆ Engage with members who tend to be more energy focused, potentially leading to new concepts or innovations utilized by the cooperative
- ◆ Continue the energy conversation beyond the scope of localized and in-person events, creating a greater forum for discussion

Operation Round Up Applications Due March 15th

Have a community project that needs funding? Applications for Operation Round Up grants are due by March 15th. To be considered, complete the Operation Round Up funding application form at www.lrec.coop/oru before then.

Operation Round Up is a significant way LREC members come together to make a difference in our community. Extra change generated from rounding up the monthly bills of participating members is used to fund requests by local charitable organizations. These small amounts — between \$0.01 and \$0.99 — all add up to make a big impact. *Please consider signing up to be part of Operation Round Up and make an impact in our community.* Sign up at www.lrec.coop/oru.



Energy Forum

Save the date: Friday, June 6th — light breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m.



NO POWER? NO PROBLEM.

Don't be left in the dark. Our standby generator systems provide peace of mind, and they keep your life uninterrupted. Your lights stay on, and the furnace or AC continues to keep your family comfortable.

- ◆ From Briggs & Stratton—*The Power Experts!*
- ◆ Comes with an Omnimetrix monitoring system
- ◆ Automatically starts when your power goes out
- ◆ The standby generator system intelligently powers your whole house, automatically powering what you need when you need it most
- ◆ Runs on natural gas or LP
- ◆ Sold and installed by LREC
- ◆ Eligible for 48-month **EASY-PAY** payment plan
- ◆ Available to everyone — not just LREC members!

13 kW POWER PROTECT	18 kW POWER PROTECT	26 kW POWER PROTECT
Starts at \$10,573.18	Starts at \$11,345.03	Starts at \$12,641.28

Visit www.lrec.coop/generator or scan the QR code to learn more.

