



FEBRUARY 2019

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

Why you should attend our annual meeting

It's that time of year again – annual meeting time! On behalf of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we'd like to personally invite you to join us on April 3, 2019, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. We look forward to gathering with you – members of the co-op community – to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community – it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Red Lake Electric and get to know your co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible (3915001.01 Andrew W. Audette) for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

This is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our local communities. Our employees and directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them too.

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. Make it a point to join us on April 3, 2019, at our annual meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!

Director nominations, petitions due March 4

Each year the terms of three of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) directors expire the day of the annual meeting. Members of each of the three districts whose terms of the present directors will expire April 3 have elected director candidates at the recently held district meetings.

The names of the candidates are Colette Kujava, Newfolden, District 3; Randy Versdahl, Red Lake Falls, District 6; and Peter Mosbeck, Red Lake Falls, District 9.

Their names will be placed in the nomination at the annual meeting. Any other member within these districts wishing to have their name placed in nomination must do so by petition. The petition is due in the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls by 10 a.m. March 4.

At least 15 members of the district must sign the petition for the director nominee. The nominee's name will then be placed on the election ballot at the annual meeting (6902018.07 Mikayla S. Tabert) April 3 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

Petition forms are available at the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls. Contact Stephanie Johnson, Cooperative Manager, at 800-245-6068 or 253-2168 for more information.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

– OF –

ANNUAL MEETING

All members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., are hereby notified of its annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2018 in review, financial reports and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded and a sit-down lunch will be served.

All members are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Mark Hanson, Secretary

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Director qualification requirements

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Is not a member of the Cooperative and receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected.
- Was an employee of the Cooperative within three years preceding a director candidate's nomination.
- Will be, is or at any time during the three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination was employed by a labor union, which represents or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.
- Is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of any employee of the Cooperative.
- Is a person who is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of an incumbent director who is not up for re-election at that time.
- Is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business.
- Is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director.

Published 10 times a year, January through May, July and September through December, by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in the interest of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. Email: info@redlakeelectric.com.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Randy Versdahl
Vice President Stacy Blawat
Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hanson
Directors Cecil Anderson,
Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,
Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Peter Mosbeck

Stephanie Johnson General Manager
Shirley Bregier Manager of Finance
& Administration
Steve Conely Manager of Electric
System Operations
Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168
Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068
Fax: (218) 253-2630



AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 218-253-2200

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com
Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG 1-800-252-1166 or 811

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Northwest corner of Polk and western Marshall Counties:
Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Pennington and eastern Marshall Counties:
Bryan Holmes – 218-686-1413

Red Lake and most of Polk Counties:
George Stage – 701-306-3511

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The inspectors can be reached week-day mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



Manager's Comments

by Stephanie Johnson



Area high school scholarships

Around this time each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) mails out letters to area high school scholarship supervisors notifying them of the Red Lake Electric's scholarship program available to graduating seniors.

Since 1990, RLEC has awarded 309 scholarships totaling more than \$127,000. The majority of these scholarships are funded from unclaimed capital credits. If, after seven years, capital credit checks mailed out by RLEC to past members are not cashed, the state of Minnesota allows RLEC to donate these monies. Your Cooperative has decided to donate these monies as scholarships to graduating seniors who qualify as a RLEC member dependent.

Each scholarship awarded is valued at \$500. RLEC currently donates to 12 area high schools. If you have a senior planning to further their education, please encourage them to apply at their school for the Red Lake Electric scholarship.

81st annual meeting

We are planning your cooperative's 81st annual meeting, which is set for Wednesday, April 3, at the Ralph Englestad Arena in Thief River Falls. This will be our 14th consecutive annual meeting held in the Imperial Room at the arena. The annual meeting is a great time for you to ask questions and meet with the board of directors and staff. Please join us for your cooperative's business meeting, door prizes and a great meal.



ELECTRIFYING WORD SEARCH!

Can you find the words associated with electricity in the puzzle at right? Use the word bank if you need a hint.



Word Bank

ELECTRICITY	POWER
CIRCUIT	SWITCH
WATTS	VOLTAGE
CURRENT	BULB
WIRES	CHARGE





Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier



Meetings

The Red Lake Electric district meetings for 2019 are history. It was nice to see many of our members at these meetings. I enjoy visiting with you and hearing your comments and concerns. It is also an opportunity to actively participate in Cooperative Principle No. 2, democratic member control, by being able to nominate a member from your district to represent you on the Cooperative's board of directors. With the district meetings behind us, the focus now turns to the annual meeting, which will be held April 3 in Thief River Falls.

Capital credits

Your Red Lake Electric board of directors recently approved the payment of \$480,000 in capital credits. If you were a member in 2000 and are still a member receiving an electric bill from Red Lake Electric (RLEC), your portion of this payment will appear on the electric bill you receive in March. If you are a newer member, you may wonder what capital credits are. Capital credits reflect a member's ownership in the Cooperative. Simply put, capital credits are the amount of revenue left over at the end of the business year once all the

operating expenses have been paid. At the end of 2018, the Cooperative had margins (revenue minus expenses) of \$588,825. Being we are a not-for-profit cooperative, this amount will be divided between the 4,367 RLEC members based on how much each member paid for their electricity in 2018. This assignment of capital credits will remain in each member's account to be used by the Cooperative to build new or rebuild aging infrastructure, improve capacity and operate the Cooperative. Your Cooperative has an equity plan in place which guides the board in the annual evaluation of retiring capital credits to the membership. When a payout is approved by the board of directors, the oldest capital credits are paid back first. RLEC retires credits on a rotation which helps the co-op maintain an ideal equity level. If you have moved and no longer receive (3709010.02 Rosalie Leighton) an electric bill from RLEC, you will receive a check in March.

Like always, if you have a question or concern, please call our office at 1-800-245-6068 or e-mail us at info@redlakeelectric.com. Watch for your capital credit payment, and I hope to see you at the annual meeting on April 3.

Recipe Corner



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to info@redlakeelectric.com or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Cherry Crumble

*½ c. butter softened
1 c. brown sugar
1 c. flour
1 c. quick oats
1 21-oz can cherry pie filling*

Mix first four ingredients together. Use half of mixture as a pie crust; pack firm in a pie plate. Add cherries on top of crust. Sprinkle other half of mix on top.

Bake 30 minutes or until brown on top at 350 degrees.

AMI update



Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) is deploying a new Automated Metering Information (AMI) system across its service territory. RLEC employees will visit the member's properties to upgrade their meters.

If your residence has an off-peak meter and you are not home at the time of the meter upgrade, your main meter will be upgraded and a door hanger will be left. The door hanger will kindly ask you to contact the office to set up an appointment for us to change out your off-peak meter. Meter changeouts will only be completed during our normal business hours. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Phone: 218-253-2168

Email info@redlakeelectric.com

VOTING DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

Members that are corporations, churches, townships, schools or other government units may vote at the annual meeting. This form must be filled out, signed by officers and presented at the annual meeting registration desk or returned with a mail ballot.

The _____ has, at an official

Name of Member

meeting, designated _____

Name of Delegate

to represent us at the 2019 annual meeting of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attest _____

Chairman or President

Attest _____

Clerk or Secretary



District meetings held in January

Three district meetings were held within Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) service area at the beginning of February. Topics reviewed at the meetings included 2018 in review, Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) update, energy rebate incentives, website tutorial and available payment options.

In her manager's report, Stephanie Johnson discussed current year accomplishments as well as projects RLEC will work on in 2019. Current year discussion included energy sales, new service construction and safety. Looking ahead, the Cooperative will continue its work on replacing meters with automated metering infrastructure, which will consist of 7,500 new meters. RLEC is about 25 percent completed with this conversion.

Shirley Bregier, finance manager, gave a short tutorial of the Red Lake Electric website and payment options available to members. Bregier touched on the new online bill pay option, Smart Hub, which will be available in April.

In her report from member services, Kelli Brateng shared the many options available for electric heat and electric water heater rebate incentives. Brateng also informed

members on the option to receive text or email notifications during load management periods. She also gave an update on the employee services available in the member service department.

The District 9 meeting was held the evening of Feb. 4 at Black River Lutheran Church, rural Red Lake Falls. Cooperative members in attendance unanimously elected Peter Mosbeck, the incumbent director, as the director candidate from the district.

The District 3 meeting was held Feb. 5 at Newfolden Community Center, Newfolden. Colette Kujava was unanimously elected (7525004.02 Shawn A. Qualley) as the director candidate of the district.

The District 6 meeting was held Feb. 6 at Terrebonne Town Hall, rural Red Lake Falls. Incumbent director Randy Versdahl was unanimously elected as the director candidate of the district.

A total of 63 members and friends attended the three meetings. Door prizes were awarded and refreshments were served.



Fourteen members listen to general manger Stephanie Johnson give a review of 2018 and what to look forward to in 2019.



Donavan and Verla Erlandson of Thief River Falls were lucky winners; Donavon won a Dewalt utility knife and Verla a pair of gloves.



Other door prize winners at the District 9 meeting were June Mosbeck, electric knife, and Charles Naplin, a bird feeder, both of Red Lake Falls.



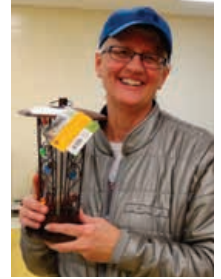
Members of District 9 enjoyed pie and fellowship after the meeting thanks to Deb Cota and Sharon Naplin.

District 9

Monday, Feb. 4
Black River Lutheran Church
Red Lake Falls



Thirty-one members and friends attended the District 3 meeting held at the Newfolden Community Center.



Brenda Ademek of Newfolden won a bird feeder.

District 3

Tuesday, Feb. 5
Newfolden Community Center
Newfolden



Christie Klipping welcomed and registered the members as they came into the Newfolden Community Center.



Members enjoy fellowship before the meeting.



Carol Dahl of Newfolden was the winner of a Red Lake Electric goodie bag at the District 3 meeting.

District 6

Wednesday, Feb. 6
Terrebonne Town Hall
Red Lake Falls



Keith Leines of Red Lake Falls was the lucky winner of a crockpot; other door prize winners were Al Ste. Marie, bird feeder, and Rusty Remick, kitchen knife set, all of Red Lake Falls.



The District 6 meeting was held Feb. 6 at the Terrebonne Town Hall, rural Red Lake Falls.



Andy Knott volunteered to chair the meeting, and Linda Ulrich was appointed secretary.

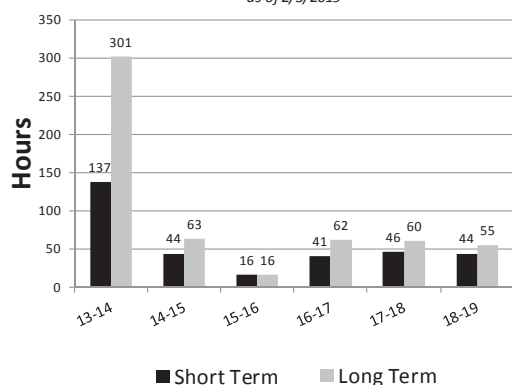
QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your
Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The chart below shows the amount of control time estimated for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's off-peak customers this heating season (4414002.04 John G. Sorenson) and a comparison of the seasonal control over the past five years. Off-peak control hours are impacted in a number of ways including weather, variable energy output from Minnkota's wind energy resources and energy availability in the wholesale energy market.

Off-Peak Control Hours

as of 2/3/2019



200-250 control hours estimated for 2018-2019 heating season.

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

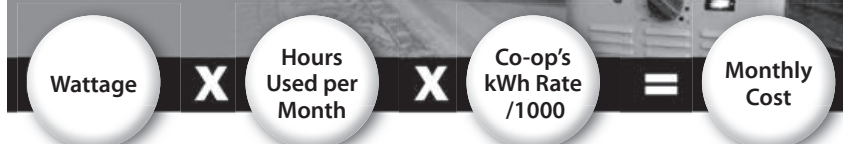
Source: energy.gov



Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT COSTS TO RUN A SPACE HEATER?

Calculate the cost before plugging one in.



Most space heaters are 1500 watts. If you're operating a space heater eight hours a day and your rate is 10.2 cents per kWh = $(1500 \text{ watts} \times 240 \text{ hours/month} \times .1020 \text{ cents/kWh}) / 1000 = \$36.72/\text{month}$

FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete, qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

Inter-County Community Council

Oklee, MN
Serves East Polk, Pennington
and Red Lake Counties
218-796-5144
Toll-free: 1-888-778-4008
Fax: 218-796-5175

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN
Serves West Polk,
West Marshall County
218-281-9080
Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729
Fax: 218-281-0705

Northwest Community Action

Badger, MN
Serves East Marshall County
218-528-3258
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329
Fax: 218-528-3259

Red Lake Community Action Agency

Red Lake, MN
Serves Beltrami County
218-679-1880

ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date _____ Account Number _____

Social Security Number _____

Signature _____



Operation Round Up® grant applications due March 6

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Wednesday, March 6.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC, headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today 96 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$538,266 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community within the outside

service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Julie Stennes, Thief River Falls; Tishara Melcher, Middle River; Diane Kolstoe, Oklee; Stephanie Johnson, Gatzke; and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operation Round Up grants, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed and submitted along with (5313001.08 Mike Stickler) a financial statement from the organization.

Grant application forms are available on the Cooperative's website: www.redlakeelectric.com.

For more information contact Stephanie Johnson, general manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

CLASSIFIEDS

Members are invited to use this FREE WANT AD service.

If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Want Ad Order Form FREE for RLEC members

For sale and wanted items only. All ads must be 50 words or less. Ads are published for Red Lake Electric members at no charge. Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. RLEC reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.

You can submit your ad by fax, email or mail. Fax ads to: (218) 253-2630; email ads to: redlake@minnkota.com; mail ads to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Include your name, address and telephone number. All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless noted otherwise.

Use the form below to submit your ads.



Through the Infinity Renewable Energy program, you can decide how much of the electricity you purchase is generated by renewable resources.

Contact RLEC today to learn more about how you can participate in the program.



Watch for guy wires – the cables that anchor power poles. Electrical transformer boxes can also be hidden by snow. Driving at a safe speed will help you identify and avoid them before it's too late. If you see damaged electrical equipment, stay away and call RLEC immediately.



Don't want to write a check? Want to save on postage?

Sign up for the free Bill4U payment option to make paying your bill easy. Just go to www.redlakeelectric.com and click on the Bill4U icon. If you have any questions or need more information, call Red Lake Electric 800-245-6068.

New year. Great rebates.

Electric Heating Rebate Checklist

Must be on off-peak.



☐ Electric plenum heaters

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

☐ Electric thermal storage heaters

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$60 per kW

☐ Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

**Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton
17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$500 per ton**

☐ Geothermal heat pumps

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

**Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton
Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton**

☐ Electric underfloor boiler

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$50 per kW

☐ Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$20 per kW

Electric Water Heater Rebate Checklist

Must be on off-peak



☐ 100 gallon or greater

\$350 rebate

☐ 56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

☐ 55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

☐ Bonus rebates:

Add \$250
if converting from
natural gas or
propane.
Add \$100 for
new building
construction.

Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Checklist – 240V Level 2 Charger

Must be on off-peak



Residential
Charger Commercial
Charger

☐ Electric vehicle (EV)

\$50 rebate

☐ Residential – Electric golf carts, ATVs, lawn mowers, etc.

\$50 rebate

☐ Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 rebate

**All equipment must be new and installed
on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.**

Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program.

Contact Member Services for more details!

218-253-2168