

Volts&Jolts

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

Bregier retires after 47 years

After 47 years of employment at Red Lake Electric, Finance Manager Shirley Bregier's career will come to a close on July 31.



Shirley Bregier Finance Manager

Bregier joined Red Lake Electric in 1972 as a loan clerk. Later her title changed to accounting assistant. You can imagine in 47 years of employment job titles changed to "keep with the times." In 2008, she was promoted to accountant, then office manager before being promoted to finance manager, which she has been since 2010.

When asking Shirley what she's going to enjoy most about retirement, she says, "Looking out my living room window on -30 degree morning, smiling while drinking my coffee knowing I don't have to leave the house to go to work."

We wish you well during your retirement, Shirley. You will be greatly missed!

Pahlen joins Red Lake Electric staff

Red Lake Electric Cooperative recently hired Cindy Pahlen of Red Lake Falls as an Administrative Assistant. Cindy is a Red Lake Falls native; she was employed by Unity Bank for the past 19 years.

In this position, Pahlen will greet members both on the phone and as they walk through the door. She will also process the daily mail, process electronic payments through Red Lake Electric's Smarthub website, contact new members, organize (28226 Steven L. Yonke) the Operation Round Up® grant applications for the Trust Board and program the automated meter reading (AMR)

devices which are installed in our meters.

Pahlen and her husband, Jay, live in Red Lake Falls with their three children: Hunter, 18; Riley, 16; and Reese, 12.



Cindy Pahlen, Administrative Assistant

Meet Ross with Allegiant Utility Services



Red Lake Electric is deploying a new Automated Metering Information (AMI) system across its service territory. Red Lake Electric has contracted with Allegiant Utility Services to help with the upgrade.

Ross will be visiting members' properties and upgrading their meters. He will wear a white hard hat along with an identification badge. His vehicle will also have the Allegiant logo as well as the Red Lake Electric logo displayed.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our office at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168. We are going to do our best to keep our Facebook page updated with the area that Ross is changing out meters.

Rec Volts Jolts

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& Administration
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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, western Marshall and Red Lake Counties:

Wayne Bergstrom - 701-520-9771

Pennington and eastern Marshall Counties:

Bryan Holmes - 218-686-1413

Most of Polk County:

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 weekday 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.



Structured to serve our members

by Stephanie Johnson

ecent news articles have falsely asserted that electric cooperatives are not regulated and question the value of self-governance or why cooperatives are different from other utilities. We want to set the record straight on these points.

We don't take for granted what it means to be different from other electric providers. We appreciate and embrace our differences because it means we can serve you, our member, in a manner that best meets your needs. While there are dozens of positive ways electric cooperatives differ from other utilities, everything we do revolves around (26551 Chad Peterson) our unique business model and our local, notfor-profit structure.

Like all electric cooperatives in the state, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) is owned by our area's neighbors, friends and community members. Because of this member-ownership structure, the directors you elect to govern the cooperative are entrusted to make decisions that are in the best interests of our local

This type of self-governance is successful in many forms - through schools, churches, credit unions and various types of cooperatives. While this structure allows for local decision-making, it's imperative to recognize that selfgoverned organizations – including RLEC - must adhere to all local, state and federal laws and regulations. Electric cooperatives are, in fact, significantly regulated.

We have considerable oversight through hundreds of Minnesota statutes and by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). We follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, National Electrical Safety Code® standards and Environmental Protection Agency regulations, to name just a few. Where PUC regulation primarily differs for electric cooperatives versus utilities is in rate regulation. The PUC plays a regulatory role for investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in the rate-making process to provide checks and balances between shareholders and ratepayers. Without this oversight, it could

be in the IOU's interest to charge as high of rates as possible to return profits to their shareholders.

Because the board members who are setting rates for RLEC are also members and users of co-op-generated electricity, there is no benefit in charging any more than necessary for power. RLEC undertakes extensive cost-of-service studies to ensure rates are appropriate and adequate to solely cover the costs of providing service.

To govern effectively, RLEC's directors bring a diverse and well-rounded background to the boardroom. Our directors have financial skills, industry knowledge, an understanding of regulatory and legislative policymaking and an aptitude for determining the ongoing and future strategic direction of the cooperative.

Since 1938, the cooperative business model and core principles have been guiding us as we make long-term decisions to ensure reliable, safe, affordable energy for our members. We're proud of our track record of powering homes, businesses, schools and other essential services in our communities. If you have questions about our policies or our cooperative structure, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Shirley Bregier retires

I want to add my sincere thanks to our longtime employee Shirley Bregier on her upcoming retirement from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Shirley has been working for the cooperative since 1972, so not having her in the office as our manager of finance will take some getting used to. More than 47 years of service is quite an accomplishment when you consider the changes Shirley has witnessed and worked through. Shirley's ability to meet the challenges of an ever-changing industry is a credit to her. Keeping current with technology enabled Shirley to remain a productive and valuable employee of the cooperative. I will miss Shirley! Because of Shirley, I have gained valuable knowledge during my first year as general manager. Congratulations, Shirley! Thank you for a job well done.



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

Reflecting on 47 years at RLEC

sit here in my office reflecting on my career at Red Lake Electric as I write this, my last article for the Volts & Jolts. I think about how much has changed and how fast the time went by. It seems like just a short time ago I was sitting across the desk from the office manager at the time, Ed Etterman, when he asked if I could show up to work the next morning. I said yes, not realizing I would continue to show up for more than 47 years.

It is now time to shut down my computer and turn off the office light and move on to another adventure, retirement! It has been an interesting and a very rewarding career. RLEC has given me a lot of opportunities,

allowing me to work with great fellow employees and directors, as well as meeting and serving you, the RLEC members and friends.

As I go out the door, I know I am leaving your cooperative in good hands. RLEC has an excellent group of employees and directors that are ready and willing to serve you. They are committed to keeping your lights on!

So now as I turn off my light, I will shed a tear of sadness and then smile, hoping our paths cross again soon. In the meantime, I will go bore my grandchildren with my stories.

Recipe Corner



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

Bruschetta Pasta Salad

3 cups cooked pasta

5 tomatoes (chopped – I use vine ripened because they have the most flavor!)

2 green onions (chopped)

1 tbsp. red onion (chopped finely)

1-2 cloves garlic (minced)

1 bunch basil (chopped)

1 tbsp. olive oil

2-4 tsp. balsamic vinegar

(to your taste)

1/3 cup shredded parmesan cheese Salt & fresh ground pepper to taste

In a bowl, combine the tomatoes, onions, garlic, chopped basil, olive oil, balsamic vinegar and parmesan cheese.

Let this mixture rest for at least 15 minutes. Then toss the tomato mixture with the cooked noodles. Season with (25987 Gerald L. Rhode) salt and fresh ground pepper.

You can serve and enjoy this recipe right away, or let it rest for up to an hour before enjoying!



Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarter facility will be closed

Monday, Sept. 2

in observance of Labor Day.

In case of an electrical outage or emergency, dial the after-hour phone number, 218-253-2200.

Take control of your smarthub!

Now you can see your daily and monthly usage, pay/view your bill online, plus a whole host of other useful services with SmartHub. SmartHub is a free and secure online energy portal at www. redlakeelectric.com that allows members to do the following things:

- View daily and monthly energy use.
- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.

Scan the QR code for online access to SmartHub

If you have questions regarding SmartHub, call us at 218-253-2168 or send an email to info@redlakeelectric.com.

2010 Scholatship Recipients

Each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative provides scholarships for graduating seniors at each of the high schools operating throughout the Cooperative's service area. The recipients are selected by the scholarship selection committee of the recipients' high schools. There were 26 recipients this year with each student receiving \$500. The funds for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits. Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients!



Nichole Arveson Goodridge High School Michael & Claudine Arveson



Travis BarthLincoln High School
Kevin & Bonnie Barth



Torie Bugge Lincoln High School Shawn & Kelly Bugge



Elysa Christensen Crookston High School Brian & Jessica Christensen



Mercedes Coan Goodridge High School Robert & Deanna Coan



Isaac Eskeli Red Lake County Central High School David & DeAnn Eskeli



Sydnie Gunderson Red Lake County Central High School Jamey & Suzanne Gunderson



Jakob Hall Lincoln High School Greg & Melissa Hall



Gracie Hannon Lincoln High School Todd & Kae Hannon



Caitlyn Johnson Lincoln High School Ira Johnson



Abby Kiesow Grygla – Gatzke High School Bruce & Angela Kiesow



Jaden KiesowGrygla – Gatzke High School
Trevor & Keri Kiesow



Brooke Knott Lafayette High School Jason & Janelle Knott



Connor Lambert
Red Lake County Central
High School
Scott & Shannon Lambert



Allison Larson Crookston High School Craig & Melinda Larson



Jessica Olson Warren-Alvarado-Oslo High Philip & Denise Olson and Ross & Leanne Novacek



Maria Olson Crookston High School Darrin & Stephanie Olson



Hunter Pierson Lafayette High School Patty & Andy Olson



Aries Qualey Win-E-Mac High School Alecia & Josh Haverkamp



Keegan Rustad Greenbush High School Mark & Jane Rustad



Dawson Rystad Red Lake County Central High School Justin & Cindy Rystad



Cynthia Sampson Goodridge High School Jennie Sampson & Morris Sampson



Kaleb Siulestad Goodridge High School Rick & Sue Ann Sjulestad



Leah Sorvig Lincoln High School R. Scott & Dorinda Sorvig



Rachel Wieland Lafayette High School Todd & Jennifer Wieland



Mercedes Wilson Lincoln High School Juanita Hagl





Operation Round Up® grant applications deadline Sept. 6

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Friday, Sept. 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% 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, \$550,466 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 a financial statement from the organization.

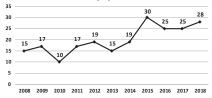
Grant application forms are available (24601 Ruth Peterson) on the Cooperative's website, www. redlakeelectric.com.

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

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your **Red Lake Electric Cooperative**

Vehicle & Equipment Contacts



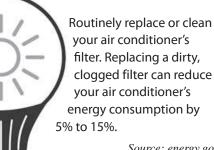
In hopes that something can be learned from knowing the mistakes of others, examples of how these accidents occurred in Red Lake Electric's service area:

- · Combine auger hitting power line
- · Backhoe digging into buried cable
- · Vehicle backing into pole
- Tractor hitting and breaking pole
- · Tree falling onto power line while cutting
- Cultivator snagging a guy wire
- · Crop sprayer hitting power line
- Wind blowing ladder into secondaries

Harvest is just around the corner and this is the time when we see most line and equipment contacts. Please think safety as you go about your work.

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.



Source: energy.gov

Can you help us locate any of the following?

The following people have refunds due to them. Checks mailed to their last-known address have been returned by the Postal Service. If you can provide a current address for someone who is listed or the name and address of an heir if they are deceased, call or write Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750; 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

ADOLFS, KEVIN ANDERSON, HEATHER A. ANDERSON, LAWRENCE ANDERSON, MARK A. ANDERSON, MIKE ANDERSON, MILDRED ANDERSON, OLGA E. ANDERSON, STEVE ANDERSON, W. S. ARMSTRONG, KELLY AWENDER, KEVIN M. BANK OF AMERICAN, FSB BARRETT. JOHN H. BARRETT ROBERT M BARRY MOHRBACHER, KELLY A. BASARGIN, VARS BATES A I BERGDAHL, SCOTT D. BERGER, PATRICIA A BERGGREN. GOSTA "GUS" L BLAIR, TAMMY BOHACH, DEBRA J. BORDERS, MICHAEL S BOWMAN, DAVID BRENNAN, SHELLY BRIERLY, JUSTIN BRISTOW, CAL & SHIRLEY BUCKTA, JEREMY BURRACK, MARGARET LULL BUTLER, EARL & JENNIFER CARTER CYNTHIA CASAVAN, JENNIFER CASAVAN, MARGARET CHERNUGAL, RICHARD CLARK, SUSIE E CLINTON, KIM CLOUD, LAWRENCE G. CONDOR, LINDA & S JACOBS CONDOR-MOSER, FRED & LINDA CULLEN, WALTER J. DAHLIN, DEBRA DANIELSON, TODD DEMMERLY, DELOIS DOEMEL, VIONA DUMMER RICHARD I DUNI FVY INC DURHEIM, MONA R. DYBEDAHI JASON I ECKERT, MIKE ENGVALL, JIM ERICKSON, GEORGE ESKELL AMELIA EVENSON, MARY ANN FALDET, ALVINA FICK. JASON FINKE, GARY FLAHERTY, KEVIN & DOROTHY FOGARTY, SCOTT

FORSBERG CAROL I

FOSTER, MICHAEL

FRANK, WANDA M.

FOSS, JODI L.(SATHER)

FULLER, ERMA HANSEN GARCEAU, BRIAN GARNER GAIL GARTHUS, BARBARA GEBUR, LESLIE P. GENEREUX, GABE & RONETTE GILLESPIE FARMS GILLUND, CODY GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH GRANT, ELLIOT & DARLENE GUNDERSON, VERNA GUZMAN, GILMA HAGEN, BARBARA HALBERG DORIS HAMILTON, PAMELA HANSON, DOUGLAS S. HARSTAD DOYLE HART, KEVIN HAUGEN, DUANE HAUPT, EUNICE HAYES. JAMES HEBERT, DARCY HEGGE, LOREN HENDERSON, DONNA & CHARLES HICKS, JAY M. HILLTON HOG FARM HINCF, CRAIG HINCE, RONALD J. HJELLE, HILTON HOLEN, MICHEAL L. HOLMSTROM IRENE HUD/FIRST PRESTON HUOT, ROY INTERSTATE BRANDS IVERSON, JERALD IVFRSON, KEVIN JANSSEN, JUSTIN JOHNSON, JEREMY F. JONES, ALRAY JORDAN, JENNIFER & BECKY JR CONSTRUCTION JUDD, GEORGE D. JR. KAINZ, DELORES KAISER, AARON F. KAIRAKDAIFN HFIMER KEZAR, CARL G. KINSMAN, JOHN P. KISCH, CULVER KLEMA, JOHN KOENIG, TIMOTHY M. KORPI, CHRISTINE KOSTRZEWSKI, DEWAYNE KOUKARI, RAYMOND M. JR. KRANZ, GREGORY M. KRUFGER, KURT F. LANCTOT, SARALEE LANDRUS, BECKY LANG, BRENDA LARSON LOREN LARSON, NATHAN E.

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LEACH, STANLEY

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Thank you for the Red Lake Electric scholarship I was awarded. I really appreciate it and will use it toward pursuing my college education.

Maria Olson, Crookston High School

Thank you for your scholarship. It is greatly appreciated and will be going toward furthering my education at MSUM. This scholarship will help pay my tuition.

> Sydnie Gunderson, Red Lake County Central High School

I would like to thank you for the scholarship. I will be making sure I put it to good use in the upcoming years. With the help of this scholarship, I will move closer to my goal of furthering my education with the bare minimum of debt.

Jakob Hall

Thank you for the opportunity to receive the generous scholarship through Red Lake Electric Cooperative. I plan to use the money to defray the cost of my tuition when I attend North Dakota State College of Science of Culinary Arts.

Allison Larson, Crookston High School

Thank you for helping me achieve my education goals. Receiving this scholarship will help reduce my financial burdens and aid as I continue my education. Upon completion of my degree (double major in physics and mechanical engineering), I will pursue a career in an innovative game-change company.

Travis Barth, Lincoln High School

I am honored to be a recipient of the Red Lake Electric scholarship. Each bit goes a long way and I'm so deeply grateful. I am looking forward to attending Northland Community and Technical College in the fall to finish the last year of my criminal justice degree.

Gracie Hannon, Lincoln High School

Thank you so much for the scholarship. I will use this money to help pay my tuition and expenses when I attend MSU - Moorhead in the fall. I am planning to get my masters in speech pathology, and your financial assistance is greatly appreciated.

Leah Sorvig, Lincoln High School

Thank you very much for awarding me a Red Lake Electric scholarship. I am very honored with this opportunity! Thank you for your generous support toward my upcoming future. I plan to attend BSU as a freshman. I hope to major in (29124 William C. Reynolds) construction management and graduate with my bachelor's degree of science.

Torie Bugge, Lincoln High School

I would like to thank you for the Red Lake Electric scholarship! I have officially been accepted into Northland Community and Technical College and will start my nursing journey this summer. I hope to graduate with my RN (registered nursing) degree, and eventually specialize in pediatric, obstetrics and/or neonatal care.

Caitlin Johnson

Thank you RLEC Trust

We thank you for your contribution to the Power of Produce Club at the Thief River Falls

Farmers Market. This is a great investment for the youth of our community.

PoP Club TRF

A special thank you from the St. Hilaire Fire Department for your continued support. Your gift will be applied to our training needs. We plan to purchase multimedia equipment to further ways to train our firefighters and first responders. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Seth Tveiten Fire Chief, SHFD

Thank you for your generous grant you gave us to provide entry fee for 31/2 to 5-year olds and their parents to the Headwaters Science Center in Bemidji. We had a total of 48 participants from Red Lake County. There was a lot of hands-on learning experiences enjoyed by both young and old.

Margret Hamrum, RLCC ECFE Plummer site; Wanda Nelson RLF ECFE; Joni Bjerklie RLCC ECFE Oklee site and Head Start

Thank you so much for your generous grant to North Country Horsemen Trails to Treatments. NCH Trails to Treatment is in its eighth year of granting funds to those who are receiving medical care for cancer and are in the need of financial assistance. Our volunteers are dedicated to the long-term success of this grant program, and as of mid-April 2019 we've issued 780 grants totaling \$415,300. Your generous contribution from Operation Round Up to our program is greatly appreciated.

NCH Trails to Treatment Committee

Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.



Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.



Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.



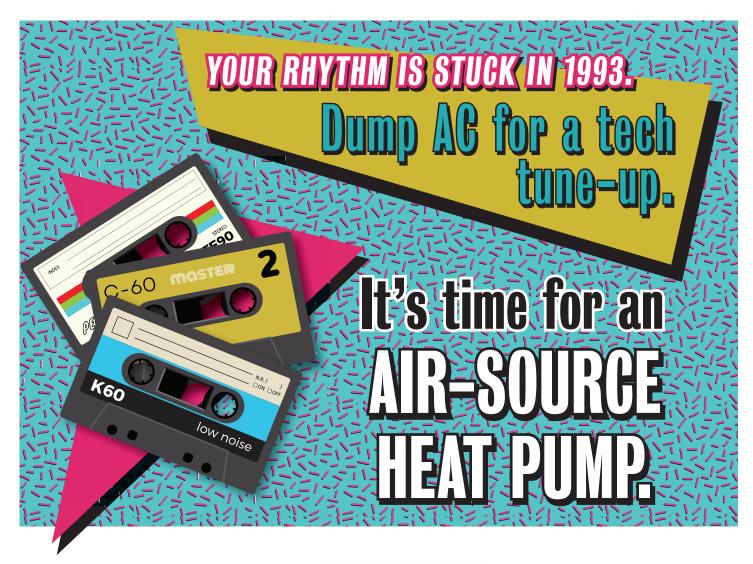
Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.



If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: Safeelectricity.org





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- Slammin' sustained savings
- Wicked warmth AND chill cooling for versatile **year-round comfort**



Call member services at 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068 to start saving today.



www.redlakeelectric.com