



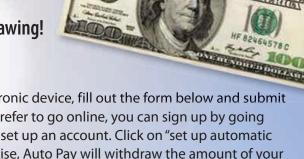
Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

Win \$100 or a Kindle Fire

Sign up for Auto Pay and paperless billing today!

- Sign up to pay your electric bill with Auto Pay and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 energy credit or a Kindle Fire tablet.
- Sign up for paperless billing and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 energy credit or a Kindle Fire tablet.
- Sign up for both options and you will be entered in each drawing!
- Both drawings will be held Oct. 31, 2019.



ELECTRONIC BOOK

Signing up is simple. To sign up for Auto Pay without using an electronic device, fill out the form below and submit with a blank voided check to Red Lake Electric Cooperative. If you prefer to go online, you can sign up by going to **www.redlakeelectric.com** and clicking on SmartHub. Sign in or set up an account. Click on "set up automatic payments" and set the payment date. If you don't designate otherwise, Auto Pay will withdraw the amount of your electric bill on the 25th of each month.

If you are already an Auto Pay customer, set up an account in SmartHub and sign up for paperless billing. You will receive an email each month when your bill is ready. You will then be able to sign into SmartHub and see your statement.

We also have a free app for your smartphone so you can access your statement wherever you are.

If you have any questions, call 800-245-6068 or email info@redlakeelectric.com

I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (R.L.E.C.) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify R.L.E.C. in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow R.L.E.C. to act on it.

Name (Print)	R.L.E.C. Account #
Bank Name	Checking or Savings Account #
Sign here to authorize	

Please return this sign-up form with a blank voided check to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.



P.O. Box 430 • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 Phone: 218-253-2168 • Toll Free: 800-245-6068 After hours: 218-253-2200

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AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 218-253-2200

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com Email: <u>info@redlakeelectric.com</u>

> 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:

Ronald Ditsch - 218-779-6758

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 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.



From the Manager's Desk

by Stephanie Johnson

By the community, for the community

hen you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Red Lake Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how
RLEC was built by
members who came
together to bring
electricity to our community, cooperatives are
conveners for the common
good. Your electric co-op exists to
provide safe, reliable and affordable
energy to you, the members of the coop. Equally (22316 Milton G. Bakken)
important is our mission to enrich
the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. RLEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We participate in Operation Round-up and other worthy programs that benefit our local communities.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of RLEC as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



- ✓ Treat every firearm as if it were a loaded firearm.
- ✓ Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger. When you look through the sight, look beyond your target. Make sure there isn't another hunter in your sight or a building or structure, such as an electric facility.
- ✓ Never point a firearm at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- ✓ Never shoot at electric power lines or electric facilities such as substations or transformers. Not only is it extremely dangerous, but it is also against the law.
- ✓ Always carry a firearm so that the muzzle is under control.
- ✓ Firearms must always be unloaded when carried into camp or not in use.
- Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstruction.
- Unattended firearms must be unloaded.
- ✓ Never climb a fence or ditch with a firearm. Never (26980 Glen A. Vettleson) climb into a tree stand with a loaded firearm - remove the ammunition first.
- ✓ Never shoot at flat, hard surfaces or the surface of water. The bullet can hit the surface and travel parallel to it for a long distance.
- ✓ If you see a power line on the ground, don't touch it! Touching an energized power line could kill you. Notify the local utility of a downed line as soon as possible.
- ✓ Always avoid alcohol and drugs while hunting.





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.

Crockpot White Chicken Chili

1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts

1 yellow onion, diced

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 can chicken broth (12 oz.)

1 can cream of chicken soup (12 oz.)

2 cans Great Northern beans, drained and rinsed (15 oz.)

2 cans diced green chiles (4 oz.)

1 can whole kernel corn, drained (15 oz.)

1 tsp. salt

½ tsp. black pepper

1 tsp. cumin

¾ tsp. oregano

½ tsp. chili powder

¼ tsp. cayenne pepper

small handful fresh cilantro chopped 8 oz. reduced fat cream cheese softened

1/4 cup half and half

Add chicken breasts to bottom of slow cooker. Top with salt, pepper, cumin, oregano, chili powder and cayenne pepper. Top with diced onion, minced garlic, Great Northern beans, green chiles, corn, chicken broth, cream of chicken soup and cilantro. Stir. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours or on high for 3-4 hours.

Remove chicken to large mixing bowl. Shred, then return to slow cooker.

Add cream cheese and half and half. Stir, then cover and cook on high for 15 minutes, or until chili is creamy and slightly thickened.

Stir well and serve with desired toppings.



In observation of Veterans Day, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Monday, Nov. 11.





In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.

> Thank you to all military personnel, past and present, who have served and are serving this great nation, the United States of America.

Member Appreciation

Thank you to those who made the trek to our headquarters in Red Lake Falls on Thursday, Oct. 3, for our member appreciation lunch; we hope you enjoyed yourself. Kaylee Cusack, communications specialist from Minnkota Power, made another appearance with the all-electric Chevy Bolt. She enjoyed visiting with all of the people; she truly likes when a member stumps her on a question so she can do more research. Red Lake Electric employees and directors served a hot lunch to the 160 attendees.









Winners of the kids movie basket:

• Timmy Pahlen, son of Sam and Kayla Pahlen of Red Lake Falls

Winner of the tabletop electric grill:

• Luke Kaushagen of Thief River Falls

Ten winners of \$25 energy credits:

 Bruce Eskeli, Plummer; Harvey Solheim, Crookston; James Wright, Plummer; Barb Janssen, Crookston; Kathy Stich, Red Lake Falls; Myron Iverson, Thief River Falls; Donavan Erlandson, Thief River Falls; Sue LaCoursiere, Plummer; Andy Moran, Red Lake Falls; and Ed Kukowski, Newfolden







Operation Round Up® grants total \$12,350

he Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 19 grants to area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$12,350. Since its inception in 1993, 911 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$563,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 95% of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

The following four organizations were awarded Round Up funds to help the disadvantaged:

- Violence Intervention Project of Thief River Falls: \$1,000 for their Umbrella Tree Program that provides supervised child visitations.
- Red Lake County Victim Services: \$250 to help with expenses for victims of a crime.
- TRF Area Food Shelf: \$1,000 to help stock shelves with food.
- Strandquist Area Food Shelf: \$500 to help cover cost of food for those in need.

Five area grants for the general public:

- St. Hilaire Community Club: \$500 to help support new playground equipment.
- American Cancer Society Red Lake Co. Chapter: \$500 for gas

cards to cancer patients in Red Lake County.

- NCH Trails to Treatments: \$500 to help cover costs for cancer treatments for area residents.
- Northland Community & Technical College Pioneer 90.1 KRSQ:
 \$500 to help cover cost of a stream encoder.
- Marshall County Area Veterans Memorial Park: \$500 to help cover cost for flag and flag poles to encircle memorial garden.

Three area emergency service providers were awarded grants:

- Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service: \$500 to help purchase automatic blood pressure cuff, pagers and training manikin.
- Plummer Volunteer Fire Department: \$750 to help purchase projector and laptop.
- Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 to help upgrade portable lighting.

Monies to benefit the youth were awarded to these four organizations:

- Early Childhood Family Education (Red Lake County): \$750 to help fund field trip for parents and preschool-aged children.
- Marshall County Social Services: \$500 to support Christmas sharing tree and food basket projects.
- Christmas for Pennington County: \$500 to help purchase Christmas gifts for its annual holiday program.

• Intercounty Nursing Services: \$400 to help cover cost for "Feeling Fit & Fine" for youth.

Two organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received the following grants:

- LSS Senior Nutrition Program (Red Lake Falls): \$1,000 to help provide low-income seniors with meals.
- Middle River Community Living at Home/Block Nurse Program: \$1,000 to help with transportation cost to bring seniors to medical appointments.
- Tri-Community Living at Home/ Block Nurse Program: \$700 to cover costs for health promotion and activities.

The RLE Trust board of directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are: Tishara Melcher - president, Middle River; Diane Kolstoe - vice president, Oklee; and Julie Stennes - secretary/treasurer, Thief River Falls. Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Stephanie Johnson of Gatzke, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Office or by (24870 Bob and John Proulx) visiting its website at www. redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline for Operation Round Up grant applications is Feb. 21, 2020.

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

Northwest Community Action

Badger, MN

Serves East Marshall County

218-528-3258

Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329

Fax: 218-528-3259

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN Serves West Polk and

West Marshall Counties

218-281-9080

Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729

Fax: 218-281-0705

Red Lake Community Action

Agency

Red Lake, MN Serves Beltrami County

218-679-1880

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of 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.



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

smart

KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Has your address changed? Do you have a new cellphone number? Dropped your landline? Then it is time to contact your electric cooperative to verify and/ or update the information we have on your account. By keeping your contact information up to date, you can ensure (21584 Darin J. Adams) your cooperative is able to reach you regarding billing and account information, outage notifications, capital credits and more.

If you don't have the correct phone number linked to your home address, it makes it more difficult for you to report an outage or for the co-op to notify you, when possible, of a prearranged outage.

You can verify and update your information by logging into SmartHub. Don't have a SmartHub account yet? It's easy – see the instructions below. You may also email info@redlakeelectric.com or call the office at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068 to verify and update your contact information.



Use SmartHub on a desktop or mobile app to:

- · Pay your bill
- · View energy usage
- Compare usage
- Manage account settings

New to the SmartHub mobile:

- · Manage paperless billing settings
- · Add additional service providers for multiple accounts



The SmartHub mobile app gives you even more control over your electric account right from your smartphone or tablet. Choosing paperless billing is now even easier, with the option to discontinue your printed bill through the app's settings menu.

To get started:

- · Visit www.redlakeelectric.com and click on the SmartHub logo on the homepage.
- Enter your RLEC account number, last name and email address to create your SmartHub account.
- · You will receive an email to finalize your registration.
- Complete your registration and download the SmartHub (29469 Eric Snow) mobile app for total control over your electric account.

Halloween health and safety tips

Fall celebrations like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times for children, who can dress up in costumes, enjoy parties and eat yummy treats. These celebrations also provide a chance to give out healthy snacks, get physical activity and focus on safety. Check out these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests.

Going trick or treating?

- Swords, knives and other costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.
- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-ortreating to help you see and others see you. WALK and don't run from house to house.
- Always test makeup in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to

- prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use crosswalks wherever possible.
- Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.
- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Never accept rides from strangers.
- Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flameresistant costumes.

Expecting trick-or-treaters or party guests?

Follow these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for everyone.



- Provide healthier treats for trick-ortreaters such as low-calorie treats and drinks. For guests, offer a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Use party games and trick-or-treat time as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could cause someone to fall.
- Keep candle-lit jack-o'-lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, (27901 Gene Sletten) landings and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of the reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.

Source: cdc.gov





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

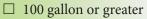
Other electric heating systems

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



\$350 rebate

☐ 56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

☐ 55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

No. of the last of

□ 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



☐ Electric vehicle (EV)

\$50 rebate

Charger Charger

Residential – Electric golf carts, ATVs, lawn mowers, etc. \$50 rebate

Commercial - Forklifts 7ambonis etc

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