

MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH

General Manager



Thanks for Coming!

To all members and friends of Minnesota Valley who took time to be with us at your Annual Meeting this past month—thank you! We

had a nice turnout at the Prairies's Edge Casino Resort. The meeting went well and it was good to see so many member-owners come personally to hear how their business has been doing.

Think Electric Heat for Next Winter

Propane prices were a bit wild this past winter to say the least. If it made you think of alternatives give us a call at 320.269.2163 and ask to talk to someone in our Member Services Department about installing electric heat for next winter. We have discount rates for electricity used for space heating. There are many types of electric heat for any application. The most efficient proven technology is a ground source heat pump. We have many members with heat pumps heating their homes on the coldest months for under \$70. Our dual heat rate of 4.4¢ per kwh on standard electric resistance heat compares to \$1.06 propane in a high efficiency furnace. If you need a new

central air conditioner this summer, think about an air source heat pump. That way you can cool your home in the summer and heat your home in the winter and get discount rates for both seasons. An air source heat pump is just an air conditioner used in reverse to bring heat in during the winter.

We All Need to Remember This Winter

We are just coming out of one of the coldest overall winters we have had in a long time. One of the coldest in these modern times as our government and its regulators continue the rush toward "all things renewable energy." Mother Nature has just sent us a reminder of what we need to do with our national energy policy.

Please do not let your elected officials and their subordinate agencies, such as EPA, forget this winter as they try to control what we can use to heat our homes and keep our lights on. Wind and solar are simply not going to keep the lights on alone during our harsh winters at any price. Gas prices are highly volatile and will not be consistently affordable during cold winters

to make electricity let alone heat your home or business. The recent propane price spikes give a glimpse of what a reliance on too much gas generation would look like. Additionally, make no mistake, the environmental types are going after gas right after they get coal shut down. Natural gas emits carbon just like coal.

If we continue to let our government shut down our coal plants through regulation, we are going to be in serious trouble. This winter in the upper plains region of the country and into Canada during the coldest periods there was little generating capacity to spare. If we continue shutting down coal fired plants, there will be less reliable generating capacity available when we need it during the coldest periods of winter.

We need dependable, reliable and low-cost electricity generators as the green stuff simply can't cut it. People's lives depend on reliable and affordable electricity. Mother Nature will continue to send reminders. The sooner we listen, the sooner energy will be affordable again.

Minnesota Valley Light & Power Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2014 in observance of Good Friday. Have a Happy Easter!

5% Loans Available to Minnesota Valley Members

Minnesota Valley members can obtain a no hassle loan for improvements to their homes or buildings for weatherization, electric heating, air conditioning and wiring upgrades. The maximum loan amount is \$15,000. The loan term is not to exceed 7 years and has a 5% interest rate. The

payments for these loans will be stated and included with your monthly electric billing statement. This program is easy to use and alleviates the need for members to seek outside lending sources. A completed application form and a credit check are required to

BUSINESS OFFICE • CANDICE JAENISCH

Office Manager



qualify for this program. As always, the margins of the cooperative are returned to the members through capital credit retirements. Please call the Business Office at 320.269.2163 for more information.

Winner of the Youth Tour Trip to Washington, DC



Sara Antony, daughter of Mark and Karla Antony of Marshall, is the winner of the Youth Tour trip to Washington, DC. Sara will be joining around 1,500 delegates from all over the country June 13th-19th, 2014. Sara will get a chance to visit with congressional representatives, tour some of the most famous museums in the world and make memories and friends that will last a life time.

Congratulations Sara!

Scholarship Winners



Rachel Stevens will graduate from Montevideo High School in June. She is the daughter of Jan and Marc Stevens of Montevideo. Rachel will be attending the Nicolet Bible Institute specializing in Christian Studies next fall.



Haily Citrowske will graduate from Canby High School this spring. Haily is the daughter of Ruth and Greg Citrowske. Haily will be attending the University of North Dakota to study Business.



Erin Devereaux will graduate from Lakeview Public School this spring. She is the daughter of Kathy and Dennis Devereaux. Erin will be attending the Normandale Community College for Hospitality Management.



Whitney Bartz is the daughter of Vickie and Darrell Bartz of Montevideo and attends Montevideo Senior High School. She will be attending St. Cloud Technical and Community College in St. Cloud to get her degree in Nursing and work in pediatrics.



Holly Hayden will graduate from Canby High School this spring. Holly is the daughter of Lori and Timothy Hayden. Holly will be attending either the University of Minnesota, Morris or the University of Sioux Falls. Holly plans on pursuing a degree in the medical field.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Feb 2014	Jan-Feb 2013	Jan-Feb 1994
Kwh Purchased	45,748,206	42,622,734	15,920,747
Kwh Sold	43,388,364	40,492,704	12,793,889
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$1,940,435	\$1,886,087	\$937,344
Patronage Capital Margins	\$441,606	\$346,863	\$169,446
Reserve For Taxes	\$46,621	\$50,000	\$49,776
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	42.42	44.25	31.61
	February '14	February '13	February '94
Total Plant	\$61,671,643	\$60,312,047	\$14,933,331
# Of Members Receiving Service	5,252	5,243	5,146
Average Residential Bill	\$252.60	\$230.43	\$129.30
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,951	2,668	2,130
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,886	3,660	2,486
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	41,006	40,821	29,730

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your number, you will receive a \$10 energy credit or \$20 if you are an Operation Round Up participant. Call the office to claim your credit.

There were no winners from last month's issue. Keep looking!





ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • JOHN WILLIAMSON



Manager of Engineering & Operations

Spring is here, right? As always, each year begins muddy and sloppy as we struggle to get places where we need to go. This year will be no different.

We are working on a tie line (between substations) north of Dawson. The picture to the left shows the use of a "MudSucker," which uses water pressure to bust up the soil and then a vacuum to suck the mud out of the ground. This exposes underground cables that are in close proximity to where a power pole needs to be placed. This procedure lets us know where the cable is so no damage occurs to public infrastructure.

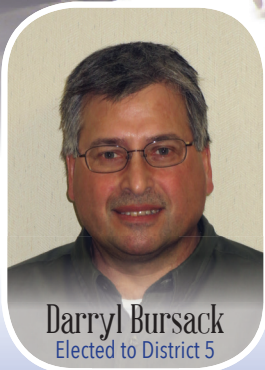
If you have a project for us, or even just a question about a new service or upgrade, please give the office a call and we will do what we can to resolve it. C three thirty-five zero one We always have an ongoing list of projects with no lack of work to be performed.

Minnesota Valley R.E.C. will be accepting applications for the summer Pole Treating Crew until April 30th, 2014.

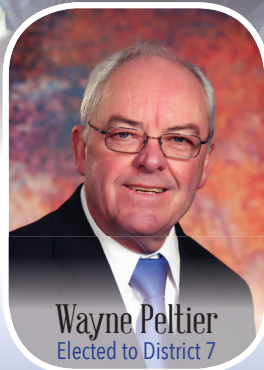
Applications are available at the Minnesota Valley R.E.C. office or you can call and have an application mailed to you.

Large Crowd Attended Annual Meeting

Minnesota Valley held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 22nd, 2014 at the Prairie's Edge Casino Resort Convention Center near Granite Falls. Over 800 members and their families attended.



Darryl Bursack
Elected to District 5



Wayne Peltier
Elected to District 7

These three children were the lucky winners of the children's drawing. On the left is *Emma Jacobson*, winning the convertible, center is *Macey Kling*, winning the iPod and on the right, winning the bicycle, is *Austen Pringle*.

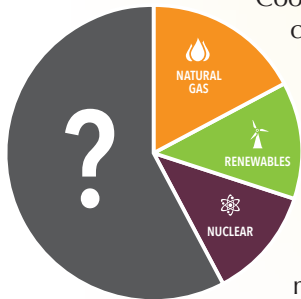




Member Services Manager

Your Voice Can Still Be Heard

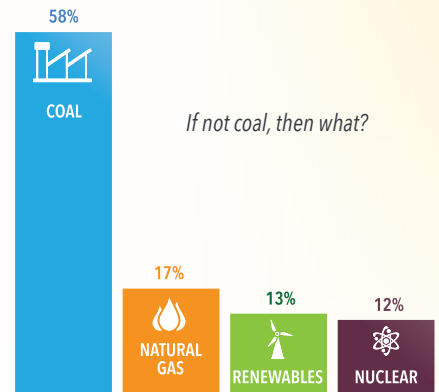
As of the first week of March, Minnesota Valley Cooperative has had 587 comments to the EPA about the crippling restrictions they want to impose on coal generation facilities. Originally our nation's energy policy included an "All-of-the-Above Strategy" that included coal as a vital electrical generation fuel source, but now the EPA thinks that approach should not include the coal that we depend on. Electric cooperatives believe and advocate for an "All-of-the-Above" strategy to our nation's energy policy.



Cooperatives control more than 5 GW of renewable energy capacity and lead the industry in promoting residential efficiency. Cooperatives are investing in new nuclear power plants. Cooperatives are also researching an array of technologies to help reduce all types of emissions, including greenhouse gases, from our power plants. We urge federal and state policy makers to work with us on a plan that will help us protect the environment while preserving affordable electric service for the nation's 42 million co-op consumer-members. Urge EPA to look at "All-of-the-Above" at www.action.coop.

Cooperative Fuel Mix

A breakdown of the fuel mix that generated electricity sold by 837 distribution cooperatives to 42 million consumer-members nationwide in 2009.



Get Ready for Summer

I never thought those words could sound so good! We have had a long winter, and it is finally getting to the point where we can really enjoy listening to a weather report again. I three zero eight zero four With spring upon us, you should really be looking at getting your air conditioning units serviced for the coming cooling season. Minnesota Valley offers a cooling system inspection program where your air conditioner will be serviced by a cooperative technician to assure you can keep your cool this summer! Please call the Member Services Department to get an appointment now.

Energy Saving Tip

The light-emitting diode (LED) is one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing lighting technologies. Quality LED light bulbs last longer, are more durable, and offer comparable or better light quality than other types of lighting. Using over 80 percent less energy and designed to last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs, LEDs can be energy savers for years to come!

Solar Commentary

The article below was taken from the *January/February 2014* issue of the PKM Electric Cooperative News. PKM is a rural electric cooperative headquartered in Warren, Minnesota. The entire article and paybacks can be found on PKM's website at www.pkmcoop.com. We urge you to visit their site to read it in its entirety yourself.

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With the Minnesota legislative session beginning, we have a concern about possible solar legislation in the coming months. We hate to keep picking on solar, but some of us paid \$22 last month for just the wind energy surcharge. Wind, of course, was added to our energy mix in part because of Minnesota state mandates.

On the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website one can look at current solar systems the DNR installed at state parks and offices, and it shows when they were installed, cost of install, kilowatt-hour (kWh) production, etc.

As it seems with many government investments into green energy, the paybacks just don't pencil out unless you give a tax credit or require consumers to

pay for solar rebates. Remember this is our tax money the state is spending, and it is just the beginning if we allow this to continue. Not long ago Gov. Dayton publicly criticized Minnkota Power, PKM's power provider, for entering into expensive wind contracts, but wasn't that a government mandate?

The DNR website offers a glimpse of how solar works in at least one area. It doesn't indicate a good rate of return on the significant investment made to this point. We should ask our government leaders to take a more common sense approach with renewables and other energy issues. Decisions by government leaders affect us for years; remember they already have the investor-owned utilities paying a tax to help pay for solar rebates. That means consumers, ultimately, are paying for it.

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