



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

General Manager



Thank You, Joe

May 1st will be Joe Schultz's last day at Minnesota Valley. Joe is one of our Line Foremen and has been a Journeyman Lineman for Minnesota Valley for over 30 years. No matter the weather or event he had going on in his personal life, Joe would drop what he was doing and head out to put the lights back on. Over the years, there have been many times when he was out for a couple of days without sleep, only to come home for a few hours of shuteye and then go back out again. Joe was truly dedicated to his craft of being a great lineman. His work ethic and sense of duty to always be ready to do what it takes to get the members' lights back on has been a great example for his fellow linemen and our younger linemen over the years. Thank you as well to Joe's wife, Stephanie, who has always been understanding of the life and hours of a lineman. We wish you both well in your future plans. Thanks, Joe! You will be missed!



Annual Meeting Cancelled for This Year

After much consideration of the many logistical problems the virus has created, our Board decided to cancel our Annual Meeting for the year. However, we did have some cooperative business that had to be taken care of. In **District 7**, *Wayne Peltier* was nominated at his Caucus Meeting and ran unopposed, so the Board seated him for another 3-year term. In **District 5**, incumbent *Darryl Bursack* and *Ross Eischens* were nominated at their Caucus Meeting to be put on the ballot for a vote that was to be held at the Annual Meeting. They both agreed to a mail ballot process. Ballots have been mailed out to members in District 5, which are to be returned to our office by April 15th. We, of course, will let you know how that election turns out. Capital credit checks of over \$1.5 million have been mailed out. There will be no Basin Tour this year. We appreciate your understanding. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, give us a call. Please do not worry about your power; we will do what it takes to keep your lights on. I hope to see you at next year's Annual Meeting on March 20th, 2021 at the Lac qui Parle High School.

Minnesota Valley's New Partnership with Generac Power Systems



All of us at Minnesota Valley pride ourselves on providing reliable service, but there are times when outages will occur. To help our members remain comfortable when power is down, we have added Generac Generators to our cooperative's line of products and services. Whether outages occur in the heat of summer or the cold of winter, having an automatic standby generator can add safety and comfort to your home.

We are now selling and installing Generac home backup generators for our members. A certified electrician from our Member Services Department can help you get an automatic standby generator installed at your home or shop. Partnering with Generac Power Systems will allow us to provide our members with a reliable product to serve their needs for many years.

Among the Generac advantages, is its ability to sense power loss within seconds and switch on and off automatically. Members who happen to be out of town during an outage, won't have to worry about returning home to a fridge full of spoiled food. These generators offer automatic operation with no need to refuel. They also hook directly into your home's electrical panel. Installation will include a whole-house transfer switch to ensure that the generator does not back feed our lines.

Call and talk to our Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 for more information and schedule a **free in-home assessment** to get a quote for your standby generator.

A Generator with Benefits

- ✓ Automatically delivers power during an outage
- ✓ No need to refuel
- ✓ Multiple fuel options
- ✓ Installation includes transfer switch
- ✓ Different sizes to fit your needs



Meet Your Employees



Name	Mark Sweno
Hometown	Milan, MN
Family	Daughters: Jessica & Kristin Son: Derick and his wife Ashley Grandkids: Brandon, Kaitlin, Mark, Brooke, Devin and Collin Special friend: Deanna
When did you start at Minnesota Valley?	October 2006 as Custodian
What do you like best about working here?	The variety of what I get to do at my job and working with the inside staff.
What do you like to do in your free time?	Visit my kids and grandkids: travel places either in my Mustang convertible or on our motorcycles with Deanna.
People would be surprised if they knew:	That I am a jack-of-all-trades, but only a master of one. I was a master meat smoker—sausage maker at Gary's Red Owl in the 1980s and 1990s.

Plan Ahead to Call Before You Dig

Digging without locating underground utilities, even the smallest digging projects, could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages or cause severe electrical shock. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 811.

The 811 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come and mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint. So make sure to plan ahead and call in advance.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

- **Red**—Electric
- **Orange**—Communications, Telephone/CATV
- **Blue**—Potable Water
- **Green**—Sewer/Drainage
- **Yellow**—Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- **Purple**—Reclaimed Water
- **White**—Pre-mark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that 811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems or gas piping to a garage.

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**



Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit Call811.com.

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Find us on



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

The way March has gone, it looks like the underground plow will be busy earlier than normal with all the snow just about gone and not much moisture. Minnesota Valley crews look to be fairly busy this spring with requests for service upgrades, with most of them involving underground to be installed.

The crews have been replacing poles that they rejected when they were doing line patrol. Some of these are yard poles. We need to wait until all the frost is gone so they can dig around the poles to find the secondary wires as to not hit them when digging the new hole. Also, where

some of these are located on your property, the crews need to wait for the ground to firm up so they don't mud up your yard too bad. For four twenty seven zero four Another project we will start this spring is ½ mile east of Bellingham, which is 5 miles of single phase line that needs to be upgraded because of old wire, poles and added load to the line.

We wish Line Foreman, Joe Schultz, the best in retirement as he is retiring on May 1st. Joe began employment with Minnesota Valley in February of 1990 as a Journeyman Lineman. In October of 2005, he was promoted to Crew Chief and in 2018, to Line Foreman. With his retirement, means filling a lineman position in



the work force. We did this by hiring Tyler DeZeeuw (pictured above), an apprentice lineman from Montevideo. Tyler received his Powerline Construction and Maintenance Diploma from Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, South Dakota and was currently working for Karian-Peterson Construction.

2020 Scholarships

The selection committee for the Minnesota Valley/Basin Scholarship met and made its selections for the 2020 scholarships. The students selected are Sidney Geistfeld, Alex Formo, Madison Hinz and Morgan Johnson.



Sidney Geistfeld will graduate from Lakeview School in 2020. Sidney is the daughter of Robert and Paula Geistfeld. Sidney will be attending NDSU, studying Animal Science.



Alex Formo will graduate from Yellow Medicine East this spring. Alex is the son of Wayne and Lori Formo of Maynard. Alex will be attending Ridgewater College in Willmar, studying Ag Business.



Madison Hinz is the daughter of Dave and Stacy Hinz. Madison will graduate from Yellow Medicine East in 2020. Madison will be attending the University of Minnesota in Duluth, studying Biology.



Morgan Johnson is the daughter of Ed and Kathy Johnson of Boyd. Morgan will graduate this spring and will be attending SMSU in Marshall, studying Communications.



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\$60

No one claimed their credits last month, so we rolled them into this month's credit!

Find Your Location Number!

If you find your account number in this newsletter, you could receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If the credit goes unclaimed, that amount rolls over into the next month! If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.





MEMBER SERVICES // BOB WALSH

Member Services Manager

Generator Program Offered

Minnesota Valley will now offer the installation, wiring and service of Generac Standby Generators. We feel the offering of an automatic standby system is a perfect fit for your electric utility. In the event of an electrical power outage, your power needs will be taken care of by your automated system while we work to restore your electrical service. We chose Generac Generators because they are an industry leader in the standby generation field.

Generac is Here to Stay

Founded in 1959, Generac was the first to engineer affordable home standby generators, along with the first engine developed specifically for the rigors of generator use and is now the #1 manufacturer of home backup generators. They are also the leading designer and manufacturer of manual and fully automatic transfer switches and accessories for backup power applications. Q two twenty zero four A permanently installed Generac home backup generator protects your home automatically. It runs on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) fuel and sits outside just like a central air conditioning unit. A home backup generator delivers power directly to your home's electrical system, backing up your entire home or just the most essential items.

Automatic Operation

Don't worry about having to be there to start and turn off your Generac home backup generator because it does that automatically—whether you're home or away. Your Generac home backup generator runs on a natural gas or LP fuel supply. You no longer will have to fuel your generator. Save the gas cans for your other outdoor power equipment. Generac created the home backup generator category and is the lead-

er in the industry. Today, their generators are preferred by most homeowners who invest in home backup power.

Power Directly to Your Home

You'll never have to run an extension cord through a window or door again. Your Generac home backup generator safely delivers power right to your home's electrical panel. With the use of an automatic transfer switch, the generator automatically starts during a power outage and delivers power during the outage.

When your power is restored, the automatic transfer switch returns the home to utility power and turns off the generator. The unit will also test and exercise itself every month so when you need its services, it will be there for you.



Contact Us for Details

Minnesota Valley will be offering the 16 kW & 22 kW air cooled units to start with. The smaller product offering will hopefully allow us to better serve you as we transition into certification and installation of a broader product sampling. For more information on Generac standby generators, you can visit the Generac website at www.generac.com/all-products/generators/home-backup-generators. You can also contact our office at 800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163. We will help you with sizing, details and scheduling an on-site visit.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Feb 2020	Jan-Feb 2019	Jan-Feb 2000
Kwh Purchased	43,180,949	46,530,696	16,220,998
Kwh Sold	40,541,539	43,872,777	24,966,787
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$1,870,355	\$2,109,772	\$717,794
Patronage Capital Margins	\$222,035	\$274,824	\$146,989
Reserve For Taxes	\$44,167	\$42,666	\$44,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	43.31	45.34	27.85
	February-20	February-19	February-00
Total Plant	\$77,826,165	\$73,702,547	\$32,528,372
Number of Active Services	5,273	5,266	5,203
Average Residential Bill	\$244.98	\$273.43	\$125.91
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,629	3,095	1,921
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,635	4,049	2,312
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	41,816	42,075	23,710

Youth Tour Winner

Minnesota Valley will again be sending one area student to Washington, D.C., to represent us at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in 2020. The student selected this year is William Lecy, son of Chuck and Amanda Lecy of Echo. The trip is scheduled for June 20th-25th, 2020. Students who applied completed a personal information sheet and wrote an essay on an energy-related topic of their choice.

Congratulations, William!



Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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