



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Caucus Meetings

This past month we held District Caucus Meetings in Cottonwood and Clarkfield. In addition to having a general discussion about cooperative issues, these meetings are also where board candidates are put forth. In District 7, present director *Wayne Peltier* was the sole candidate put forth. In District 5, we had two nominees put forth by those in attendance—incumbent *Darryl Bursack* and *Ross Eischens*. These candidates will have their names on the ballot at the Annual Meeting on April 4th at the Prairie's Edge Casino near Granite Falls. Voting will be by district. Thank you to the members from those districts who took time to attend and participate in their Caucus Meetings.

Annual Meeting is Owners' Meeting

We, at Minnesota Valley, work hard at keeping you, the members, informed about what is happening with your business with newsletters, mailings and meetings. One of the cornerstone events of keeping you informed about your business is the Annual Meeting. Each year the members gather to hear about and discuss their cooperative's business and to put forth directors to govern the direction of the organization. What a great business model cooperatives are. As a member-owner, it is YOUR electric company. We hope to see you at your company's Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 4th at the Prairie's Edge Casino near Granite Falls. We will have capital credit retirement checks of almost \$1.6 million available that day! If you paid a light bill in 2006 or 2007, we will have a check for you when you register.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting

Mid-month we will be in St. Paul for our statewide association's Annual Meeting. Our association's name is the Minnesota Rural Electric Association or MREA. The primary purpose of MREA is to provide safety education for our linemen. They also provide education resources to all employees and directors in the state, as well as coordinating our lobby in an effort to ensure legislation is friendly to affordable electric energy and issues important to rural Minnesota. As part of that meeting, the board met with all area elected representatives to discuss issues we believe are important to Rural Minnesota and our cooperative's mission to provide reliable low-cost electric energy.

Velde to NRECA

In addition to being a director on our MREA board, our director Tim Velde was seated this month as Minnesota's Director on our national association. The National Rural Electric Association, or NRECA, represents more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the United States. They administer employee benefit plans for participating cooperatives, spearhead communications, advocacy and public relations initiatives as well as carry out our federal government relations activities. This is an elected position by all electric cooperatives in Minnesota. Congratulations to Tim! We thank him for his time and effort to work on issues important to rural America and rural electrification.

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Friday, April 10th in observance of Good Friday.

Save the Date

Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association's Annual Meeting is **Saturday, April 4th** at Prairie's Edge Casino in Granite Falls.

Breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. and the business meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

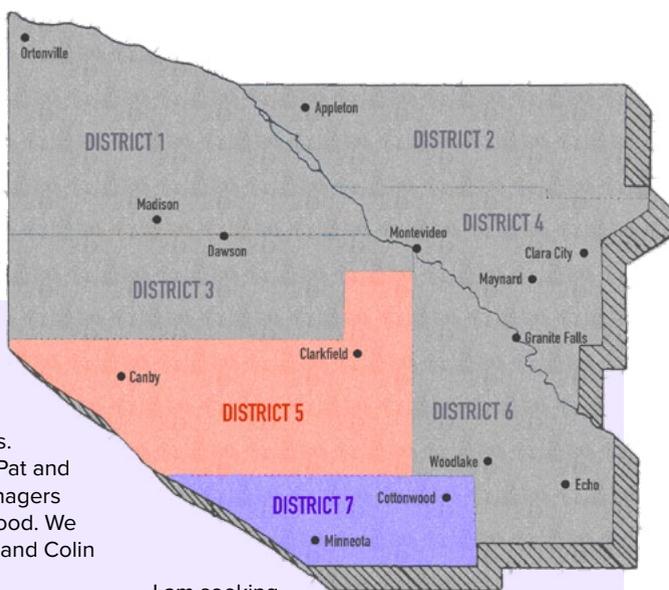


Coming Soon: Standby Generators

Minnesota Valley is excited to launch a new generator program. Coming this spring, Minnesota Valley will be selling and installing Generac Standby Generators. Come to the Annual Meeting for more information on this new program!



2020 Director Candidates



District 7

Wayne Peltier



I have been farming southwest of Cottonwood for 40 plus years. For the past 24 years, my wife, Pat and I have been co-owners and managers of P & K Fabricating in Cottonwood. We have three sons: Shawn, Quinn and Colin and six grandchildren.

I have been a director at Minnesota Valley Cooperative for 21 years, currently serving as president of the Basin Electric Board of Directors. I have also served on the Cottonwood School Board and the Cottonwood Co-op Oil Board.

I am seeking to represent District 7 on the Minnesota Valley Board because I believe my 21 years on this board and my involvement with Basin Electric have prepared me for the challenge of serving in this capacity.

District 5

Darryl Bursack



Occupation: Darryl is a semi-retired farmer and seed salesman in Oshkosh Township, Yellow Medicine County.

Family: Darryl and his wife of 44 years, Susan, have three grown daughters: Angela, Ashley and Alyssa. They have five grandsons and two granddaughters.

Community Involvement: In the past, Darryl served on the Yellow Medicine Pork Producers for eight years and as the president three years. He served nine years on the Canby Cenex Board, was a 4-H leader for many years and a church board member for four years.

Present Experiences: Darryl has been the District 5 director for Minnesota Valley for the past six years. For the past two years, he has served as the board representative for Operation Round Up.

Darryl is involved in a men's golf league, the Gideons and family activities.

Reasons for Running: It has been a privilege to serve as District 5 director for Minnesota Valley for the past six years and I believe I can take those years of experience and growth into the next three years to serve my district and my cooperative well. To me, getting to be an active part of the rich history and future of rural electricity and a part of our member-owned cooperative has been exciting, a learning experience and an honor. Together, we will continue to provide reliable, clean and affordable electricity to our homes, businesses and communities.

Please join me on April 4th, 2020 at Prairie's Edge Casino for a morning of great food, prizes, information and member participation. It will be worth your drive and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Ross Eischens



Spouse: Amanda, works at Schwan's in Marshall. We will be married in July.

Family: Our son, Parker, is a senior at Minneota High School.

Occupations: I have been farming part-time since 2002 and began full time in 2007. We farm three miles east of St. Leo raising corn, soybeans and wheat.

Community Involvement: I am a member of St. Leo's Catholic Church serving on the Cemetery Committee. I am current President of the YMC Soybean Growers Association, President of the Yellow Medicine County Farmers Union since November 2019 (previ-

ously served as Secretary/Treasurer), and on the Board of Directors for the Minneota Amateur Baseball Association.

Reason for Running: Reliable, affordable electricity is the lifeblood of living in rural America. Without it, we have nothing. I believe the co-op is the ideal way of bringing electricity to our rural members. Local control and governance ensures a quality and reliable product for the benefit of everybody.

Additional Information: I would like to encourage every member to attend the Annual Meeting and be present in the activity of our electric co-op. Having your voice heard is fundamental to good governance of our co-op. I would be grateful of your support.





Manager of Operations

Well, we have just about made it through another winter and now we can enjoy the longer days and working outside in warmer weather.

The last day of January kept our crews busy with outages in the southern part of the system. Consumers on Canby, Minneota, Vallers, Wood Lake and Echo Substations were affected by blinking lights and outages. These were caused by the snow and ice buildup on the wires. The crews not only had a tough time getting around because of the heavy snow, but also the fog that set in. At times, a lineman had to walk in front of the truck to make sure it stayed on the

road. Some of the outages may have taken longer to fix than usual.

The crews are continuing with pole change outs, line patrol and re-building line northwest of Madison. There must be some members thinking of spring as they have contacted the office with questions about upgrading their service. G two sixteen zero three This is a great time to inquire about a service change, so everyone is ready when the time comes. Some equipment that might need to be ordered for you can run into weeks to get here.

I am really looking forward to spring and hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting in April.

Minnesota Valley R.E.C. will be accepting applications for the summer Pole Treating Crew until April 15th, 2020. Applications are available at the Minnesota Valley office or on our website, www.mnvalleyrec.com.

Meet Your Employees



Name	Scott Kubesh
Hometown	Olivia, MN
Family	Wife: Chris; Children: Baylie, Alycia and Carson
When did you start at Minnesota Valley?	I started in September 2004 as a 1,000-hour employee, then was hired full time in March 2005. I am now a Member Services Technician.
What do you like best about working here?	Working with fellow employees and meeting, connecting and interacting with the membership.
What do you like to do in your free time?	Spending time with family and friends, traveling and watching sporting events.
What did you want to be when you grew up?	A history teacher. I have always been interested in the past and how our world has progressed from early beginnings.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Jan 2020	Jan-Jan 2019	Jan-Jan 2000
Kwh Purchased	22,831,247	24,061,016	14,261,135
Kwh Sold	21,429,307	22,552,158	12,935,761
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$965,672	\$1,139,112	\$384,720
Patronage Capital Margins	\$145,483	\$114,314	\$87,829
Reserve For Taxes	\$22,083	\$21,333	\$22,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	42.30	47.34	26.98

	January '20	January '19	January '00
Total Plant	\$77,747,419	\$73,787,713	\$32,264,927
Number of Active Services	5,279	5,276	5,205
Average Residential Bill	\$265.28	\$288.14	\$132.22
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,959	3,199	2,084
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	4,059	4,274	2,485
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	41,651	46,157	26,377

CLAIM BY MARCH 25TH FOR:

\$50

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

Respect the Orange Signs

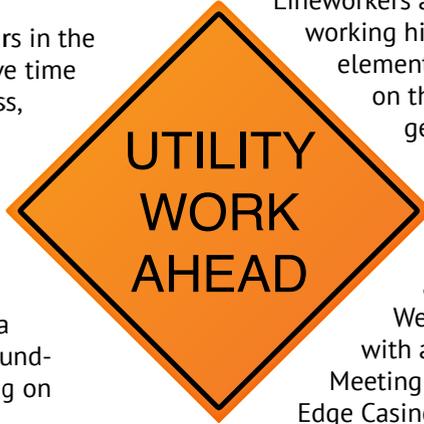
Move Over and Slow Down in Work Zones

For many people, there aren't enough hours in the day. Because of that, many people use drive time to be productive. They might call their boss, text their best friend or apply mascara. Multitasking can be an effective use of time, but not while driving. The coming month of April is "National Distracted Driving Awareness Month". We will soon enter the time of year when utility construction peaks. We ask that you take extra care and pay more attention to your surroundings and the utility work that may be going on around you.

Minnesota Valley's crews work on power lines year round, but the construction peak is more concentrated during the summer months. Some of the construction work being done has to be performed on the road surface or in close proximity. This puts our crews in more danger due to the flow of traffic.

In 2017, 799 people died in work zone accidents, according to the U.S. DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). K two fifteen zero four Although this reflects incidents that took place in road construction zones, know that accidents, injuries and deaths can happen in any roadside work zone, including utility work zones.

That is why we ask you to help keep our crews safe by slowing down and following any other instructions – including moving over to give them space – anytime you see orange warning signs and cones that lead up to a work zone. Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone not only endanger workers on the ground, but also themselves. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put an elevated lineworker in danger by causing the bucket he or she is in to move or sway.



Lineworkers already have enough to contend with by working high up on power lines while out in the elements. Their profession consistently places on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' most dangerous jobs. Do your part; please don't add noncompliant drivers to the mix.

Annual Meeting Generator Display

Minnesota Valley will soon be offering an automatic standby generator service. We will be kicking off the new program with a standby generator display at the Annual Meeting to be held on April 4th at the Prairie's Edge Casino and Resort. A generator technician will be available to answer any question you may have. Also, please come and enjoy a great breakfast and partake in the Cooperative's business matters for the morning.

Electrical Safety Myths
Don't always believe what you hear

MYTH	VS	FACT
When live wires fall to the ground, they are automatically de-energized.		Always assume every downed power line is energized.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

Basin Tour Drawing

If you have not been on the Basin Tour before and would like to be in the drawing to go, please fill out this form and return it to our office by Tuesday, March 31st, 2020. If we do not get enough members signed up who are present at the Annual Meeting, we will draw from the names turned in on this form. We will contact you after the Annual Meeting if your name was drawn. The Basin Tour is scheduled for July 21st-23rd, 2020.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Minnesota Valley Account Number: _____

Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

Minnesota Valley Co-op News

Published monthly by:
Minnesota Valley Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Website

www.mnvalleyrec.com

Address

501 South 1st Street
P.O. Box 248
Montevideo, MN 56265

