

# MINNESOTA VALLEY Co-OP NEWS

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## MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



*General Manager*

### Enjoyable Annual Meeting

We had a great crowd of members and friends at the Prairie's Edge Casino for our Annual Meeting this past month.

We again had a breakfast buffet before the business meeting and concluded the business portion of the meeting before noon. We gave bucket rides to any adults and kids who wanted one before, during and after the meeting, which they all seemed to enjoy. We had door prizes and giveaways. All in all, we think it was an enjoyable morning. For those of you who came to spend time with us...thank you! Next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Lakeview School. If you've never been to one, hopefully you will plan on it next year. It's your business and your meeting—we do our best to make it enjoyable for you.

### Former Members Always Welcome

On occasion we hear that former members who have moved off the system wonder if they can come to the Annual Meeting. Absolutely, former members are more than welcome!

### Board Makes Annual Legislative Visits

In conjunction with our state association's Annual Meeting, your Board of Directors spent time visiting with most of the State Representatives and Senators from this part of the state. The meetings, for the most part, center on energy legislation that will affect you and your electric cooperative. They also focus on rural and agricultural issues. These annual visits are an important part of the directors' role to know our legislators and discuss our legislative position.

### Construction Underway

The unseasonably pleasant winter allowed us to get to work on the planned construction projects for the year. The roads and ditches firmed up early which allows us to work without causing damage to them as we rebuild line. We have a good amount of construction and maintenance projects to complete this year so it is good to be off and running.

## Annual Meeting Well Attended

Minnesota Valley held its Annual Meeting at Prairie's Edge Casino on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. There were 358 members registered and over 650 members and their families were in attendance for breakfast and the meeting. All directors were re-elected from their districts for a 3-year term.

Thank you to our members, board and everyone who helped make your Annual Meeting a success! It was a great day and we hope you were able to join us! Mark your calendar for next year's Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Lakeview School!



*Operation Round Up Board*

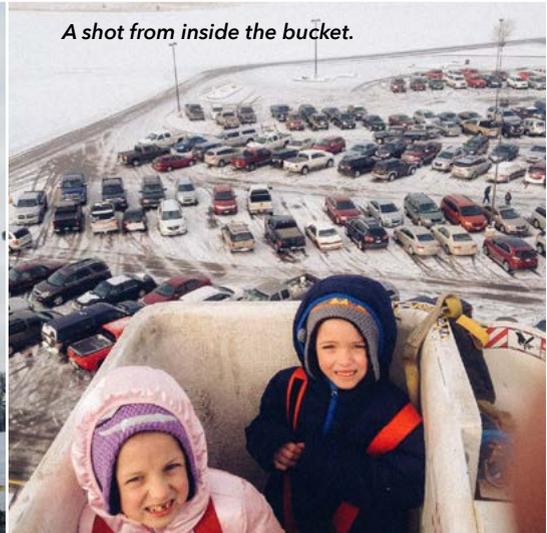


More photos from the 2016 Annual Meeting on page 2. →

# 2016 Annual Meeting Photos (continued from page 1)



Linemen Andy Johnson and Eric Wollschlager gave bucket rides.



A shot from inside the bucket.



The three winners of the kid's prizes.



General Manager, Pat Carruth, addressing the members.



Basin Electric CEO, Paul Sukut, updated members on Basin.



## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • JOHN WILLIAMSON



Manager of Engineering & Operations

Spring has sprung! This is great news for all of us warm-blooded people and the rest of the animals that survived the colder weather season. There seems to be good moisture in the soil, but not so much that we can't get things done where we need to.

Overall, it was a good winter for us with no major issues with power outages.

You will be seeing the crews scattered out around the system going about their work. If any of you are contemplating modifying your electrical system this year requiring work from our crews, please contact our office to get on the list. We always have underground projects we try and get installed before the crops are planted, so we will be working on them when possible.

It was great to see so many of you at the Annual Meeting.

## Comparative Report

|                                  | Jan-Feb 2016 | Jan-Feb 2015 | Jan-Feb 1996 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kwh Purchased                    | 41,273,927   | 44,093,245   | 29,473,392   |
| Kwh Sold                         | 39,320,582   | 41,866,512   | 26,886,046   |
| Cost Of Purchased Power          | \$1,693,675  | \$1,945,644  | \$862,071    |
| Patronage Capital Margins        | \$514,304    | \$489,854    | \$137,376    |
| Reserve For Taxes                | \$45,833     | \$49,541     | \$71,902     |
| Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)   | 41.03        | 44.13        | 30.06        |
|                                  | February '16 | February '15 | February '96 |
| Total Plant                      | \$66,706,124 | \$64,043,835 | \$27,593,178 |
| # Of Members Receiving Service   | 5,250        | 5,271        | 5,138        |
| Avg. Residential Bill            | \$215.41     | \$236.99     | \$106.66     |
| Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption | 2,399        | 2,770        | 1,557        |
| Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers     | 3,385        | 3,816        | 2,533        |
| Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)       | 37,734       | 41,160       | 29,247       |

## Make the Most of Ceiling Fans

*By Turning on the Fan, You Can Turn Up the Savings!*

If you are like most Americans, you have at least one ceiling fan in your home. Ceiling fans help our indoor life feel more comfortable. They are a decorative addition to our homes and if used properly, can help lower energy costs.

### TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CEILING FANS

- 1. FLIP THE SWITCH** - Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a *counter clockwise* direction, effectively producing a "wind chill" effect. Fans make the air near them feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate *clockwise*, creating a gentle updraft. H three zero five zero two A This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.
- 2. ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT** - In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner, or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three

to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat's set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won't turn on as frequently.

- 3. CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIZE** - Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan that is 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.
- 4. TURN IT OFF** - When the room is unoccupied, turn the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people—not rooms.

## Find Your Location & Get a \$10 or \$20 Bill Credit!

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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.

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*There were no winners last month. Keep looking!*

## 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 2016. The student selected this year is Anna VanRavenswaay! Anna is the daughter of Wendy and Carl VanRavenswaay of Montevideo.

The trip is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Anna will be joining other students who applied, completed a personal information sheet and wrote an essay on an energy related topic of their choice. Our congratulations to Anna!



# Summer Double Rebate Days!

Don't forget to take advantage of Summer Double Rebate Days by installing a new air source heat pump or geothermal heat pump between April 1<sup>st</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>!

## MEMBER SERVICES • BOB WALSH

*Member Services Manager*



### Double Value Days

For years we have visited about the main reasons why you should put in a heat pump. Those reasons were higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. Well, from now through all of this summer we will DOUBLE the rebates given for the installation of an air to air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating system look that much better. These rebates will run from now through Labor Day (September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016). That will give you all summer to take

advantage of this great offer. The system needs to be a new installation and placed in service between the dates stated above, and certain size limitations apply. So one thirty one zero one This will give you all summer to take advantage of all of the great benefits of a heat pump system, along with the double rebate offer. Don't let this great offer slip away!

We are here to help you with some of the questions that you may have. Sometimes shopping for something new can be a bit intimidating. The Member Services Department is here to help you.

## Heat Pump Applications

The applications for heat pumps are endless. Just about any place you need heat, you can use a heat pump to do it.



Mini Split Heat Pump

## Initial Cost

Generally, a heat pump will cost more when compared to the cost of a furnace or an air conditioner individually, but a heat pump serves for both cooling and heating. Usually, the added equipment cost is easily offset by the added benefits received by a heat pump system.

## Operating Costs

The operating costs of a heat pump and an air conditioner are similar during the summer months, but the energy and cost savings will occur during the winter heating season. Geothermal heat pumps can attain an even higher annual fuel cost savings than what an air source heat pump can do.

## Size of Heat Pump

Heat pumps must be sized and installed appropriately for them to function efficiently. Heat pumps are sized according to cooling or heating demand. Contact a heating and cooling professional to help with your sizing needs.



Geothermal Heat Pump

## Heat Pump Efficiency

Efficiencies of heat pumps can be much better than a traditional heating system, with the geothermal heat pump able to reach efficiencies of up to 500%.

**Good luck in your heat pump shopping and as always, please contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more information.**

