



MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

District Caucus Meetings

Those of you in Districts 2, 4 and 6 will be holding your Caucus Meetings next month. District 4 will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 5th at REC Headquarters in Montevideo. District 2 will meet on February 5th at 1:30 p.m. upstairs at our office as well. District 6 will meet on Thursday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the Wood Lake Community Center. If you are a member in one of those districts, you will also be getting a notice by postcard.

Your District Caucus Meetings are run by you, the member-owners. We simply set up a time and place for you to meet. The member-owners who show up from that particular district run the meeting. The first thing they do is nominate a Caucus Chairperson. The Chairperson is then the facilitator of the District Caucus Meeting. The members present can talk about anything they feel is important to talk about. Once all new and old business is discussed and a name or names are put forth for a full district vote at the Annual Meeting, a drawing is held for a Basin Tour Trip. Then the Caucus Meeting is adjourned for a light lunch.

If you are in District 2, 4 or 6 and have never been to one of these, I hope you can take time to attend this year. Caucus Meetings are where you, as member-owners, nominate people to represent you on the cooperative board. This is where local control starts. Members nominated for the board at the Caucus Meeting have their names put on the ballot to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on March 30th at the Prairie's Edge Casino in Granite Falls. We will have staff and board members at these meetings to discuss issues that you may want to visit about. We also draw for some door prizes and a Basin Tour Trip at each meeting. This year the Basin Tour is scheduled for July 16th-18th. Hope to see you there!

New on Our Website

There is a lot of information on our website and we most recently added a live outage map which will list live outages by substation or county. To get to this section on our website you need to click on "SmartHub" and register as a new user with your billing account number. There is a lot of other useful information and tools to manage your account on our SmartHub application. Check it out and if you have any trouble getting logged on or have other questions, please call the office. We would be glad to help you out.

2019 Caucus Meetings

Tuesday, February 5th, 2019

District 4: Steve Norman • 10:30 AM • REC Headquarters

District 2: Gary Groothuis • 1:30 PM • REC Headquarters

Thursday, February 7th, 2019

District 6: Tim Velde • 10 AM • Wood Lake Community Center

Save the Date

Minnesota Valley Light and Power Cooperative's Annual Meeting is Saturday, March 30th, 2019 at Prairie's Edge Casino in Granite Falls.



Mark your calendars!

Meet Your Employees NEW THIS YEAR!



Name Bob Kratz

Hometown Montevideo

Family Wife: Karen; Daughter: Traci; Grandkids: Alex, Axton, Benjamin, Christopher, Cole and Peyton

When did you start at Minnesota Valley and what do you do? Started in 1978 – Apprentice Lineman – 10 years; System Coordinator – 29 years; Manager of Operations – 1½ years

What do you like best about working here? Fellow employees and working with members

What do you like to do in your free time? Hunting, fishing and bonfires with my favorite beverage

What did you want to be when you grew up? A variety of things – as long as I was outdoors

Minnesota Valley/Basin Electric Scholarship

Minnesota Valley R.E.C. has again joined Basin Electric Power Cooperative in sponsoring a scholarship in 2019. A total of \$2,000 in educational scholarships will be awarded to area students. All dependent children of Minnesota Valley Cooperative members meeting the qualifications are eligible to apply. The scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements, abilities and school/community involvement of students in Minnesota Valley's service territory. The cooperatives have developed the scholarships to help meet the college funding needs of students in rural areas.

To qualify for the scholarship, an applicant must be the dependent child of a Minnesota Valley member and a U.S. citizen. C three thirty three zero four Applicants must be students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or technical

college in the 2019-2020 school year. Students in any year of post high school education are eligible. Previous scholarship winners are not eligible.

Recipients will be chosen based on a combination of overall grades, achievements, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, applicant appraisal form and an essay. A neutral group of Minnesota Valley members will review all applications and make a selection on a recipient(s). All post high school areas of study will be equally considered for the scholarship.

To get an application, you can either stop in the office, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051, get an application off our website or email a request to mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com.

Apply now! Scholarship applications for the 2019-2020 school year will be accepted until February 1st, 2019.

Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

This year we are changing the way our "Find Your Location" bill credit works. As we've done in the past, there are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you will receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants receive a \$10 bonus*).

New this year, if neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

NEW RULES IN 2019!

The bill credit will continue to roll over and accumulate until it is claimed. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at \$10. The current running amount will be noted in each issue. Call the office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 if you find your number.

CLAIM BEFORE JANUARY 25TH FOR: **\$10**



Director's Responsibilities

According to information compiled by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C., a director's responsibility consists of having the ability and knowledge to set policy and approve programs that are the basis for operating the association. A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings and other special meetings and seminars. These special sessions are necessary to keep directors informed on the various aspects of the cooperative and the electric utility industry. Other criteria of a board member, as identified by NRECA, are listed to the right.

- ◆ Be an independent thinker, but a cooperator
- ◆ Be capable of acquiring the knowledge necessary to cope with the issues of a modern electric utility, including finances, management and public issues
- ◆ Possess the character and demeanor that will reflect favorably on the cooperative
- ◆ Have the willingness to listen and learn
- ◆ Be one who can accept and direct change
- ◆ Let management manage
- ◆ Be of sufficient stature to command the respect of management, employees, fellow board members, cooperative members and the public
- ◆ Be willing to commit adequate time to the work of the board to be an effective member and properly discharge the duties of the board
- ◆ Subordinate personal and other business interests to the needs of the cooperative when making a decision
- ◆ Be willing to accept the unpleasant moments of a director's experience

Comparative Report

	Jan-Nov 2018	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 1998
Kwh Purchased	205,674,280	192,307,831	127,373,575
Kwh Sold	193,696,524	182,356,856	119,019,297
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$10,256,013	\$10,301,208	\$4,075,914
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,787,887	\$284,076	\$410,301
Reserve For Taxes	\$252,083	\$252,083	\$348,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	49.87	53.57	32.00

	November '18	November '17	November '98
Total Plant	\$73,617,375	\$70,935,418	\$31,253,176
Number of Active Services	5,297	5,275	5,193
Average Residential Bill	\$293.45	\$357.11	\$151.25
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,933	3,493	2,002
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,940	4,593	2,456
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	39,912	47,890	24,736

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

Happy New Year!

Weather has been pretty good to continue working on pole replacements that were in fields or wet areas. We have not had to use many cold days for our guys to patrol line. The substations being patrolled this year are Lisbon, Riverside, Asbury, Gluek and Chapman.

When the weather is good, crews will be working on the 2-mile stretch of line just west and north of Clara City to complete the new three-phase service to the Fertilizer Plant.

Power outages have been pretty quiet for consumers the last few months, which is great. We all hope it stays that way.

In the picture to the right, the crew of Kent Smith and Mitch Christianson (in bucket) had to take down the power lines for a crane as they were erecting the turbines for Palmer Creek Wind Farm. A three twenty seven zero three They had to do each crossing twice to let the crane get to the turbine site to do its work and then to let the crane back out of that site.

Just a reminder, please allow Minnesota Valley Tree Service to trim back as much as possible if crews are in your area. This helps to avoid blinking lights and outages.

Stay warm and enjoy the next few months of winter.





Member Services Manager

Happy New Year

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and prosperous new year. Minnesota Valley had what we consider a pretty good year. With your help, we plan on making 2019 an even better one. We continue to explore every avenue available to us to make our cooperative the best it can be.

Home Security and Environmental Monitoring

Minnesota Valley has offered home security and environmental monitoring to our members for many years now. This is a service that many members do not know is offered.



Whether you need a complete security system or simply need the offsite monitoring of an existing system, the Member Services Department can help you out. Please contact us for assistance.

Even if you do not have a monitoring system, there are many simple things you can do to make your home more secure.

Protect Your Home Year Round

- Good quality deadbolts should be on all entrance doors with strike plates reinforced with at least 2.5" screws.
- Entrance doors should be solid and fit tightly in the frame with no more than 1/8" clearance between the door and frame. A metal lining on the inside of an exterior door can prevent drilling, sawing or kicking through.
- All entrance doors should have good locks, including screen and storm doors, garage doors, cellar doors, patio and deck doors.
- Install peepholes on entrance doors or front door cameras and teach children to use them correctly. *NEVER OPEN A DOOR TO A STRANGER.*

- Check sliding doors to see if they can be lifted out of the track or if the lock can be easily pried.
- Lock your doors when you are working in the attic, yard or are otherwise busy elsewhere in your home.
- Keep your house well lit. Use exterior sensory night-lights and interior lights on auto timers to create the illusion of your home always being occupied.
- Porches and other possible entrances should be well lit.
- All windows, especially ground level, should have good locks that are always used. Strong key turn locks are best.
- Window air conditioners should be secured to the wall to prevent them from being removed.
- Secure roof opening and exhaust systems.
- Always keep your garage locked and make sure tools and ladders are not accessible.
- Know your neighbors' phone numbers and keep each other informed of travel plans.
- Keep police and emergency phone numbers posted near your phone.
- Inform family members of your security precautions and make sure they practice good security habits.
- Install a security alarm system.

Electric Heat is Still the Way to Go

Heating electrically continues to be a safe, efficient and cheap way to heat your home. There are many types of electric heat sources. If you have electric heat, and it is not separately metered, you can save money by getting on one of Minnesota Valley's two heat rates. It is easy and affordable. If you are heating smaller areas with portable space heaters, you can save money by installing permanently wired heaters and having those heaters wired into one of our heat rates. Contact us today for details.

Electric Heat Rate

Since 1988, Minnesota Valley has offered the Electric Heat Rate. The flexibility of this rate has allowed it to become a

very popular program. Any amount of electric heat can be metered and no fossil fuel backup is required. The Electric Heat Rate will be at 4.8¢ per kWh for 2019.

Dual Heat Rate

The Dual Heat Rate makes it easy for members to install electric heat to complement their existing heating system and get on the Dual Heat Rate. Members who wish to use the Dual Heat Rate must have an electric heating system capable of heating 100 percent of their home. They must also have an automatic fossil fuel backup, but agree to use their electric system. The Dual Heat Rate remains at 4.4¢ per kWh for 2019.



Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

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