



MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Spring Storm of April 10th

We fared much better than some of the other electric cooperatives in the southwest part of the state and into the areas around Sioux Falls. Although we ended up with a lot of snow and enough ice on the line to cause us problems, we were fortunate enough not to get the ice like they did. Many cooperatives had miles upon miles of line on the ground because of broken poles. It always seems to be the ice load coupled with some wind, which causes the most damage. Our guys were able to work safely through our outages over a period of several days and then offer help to our neighbors.

Capital Credit Allocation Information

We hope you noticed your individual capital credit allocation from the business year 2018 listed on your power bill this month. This number represents your individual share of our \$3.5 million margin this past year. If the cooperative continues to be successful, and there is no reason to believe otherwise, it will all eventually be returned to you in cash. Next year, we are planning to retire from the business year 2006, which puts us at a 13 to 14 year rotation. We continue to retire in a first in-first out method for our capital credits, as has always been the case.

Planning for a New Air Conditioner? Think Heat Pump!

We are just getting into the air conditioning season and if you are putting in a new system, consider a heat pump. A heat pump will both cool your home

this summer and heat your home this winter. There are many advantages with a heat pump system. One advantage is they are very economical and efficient to run. You also get a discount rate, one of our electric heat rates, for the energy used by your heat pump for cooling. A regular air conditioner cooling your home costs you about 10.36 cents per kwh. A heat pump cooling your home on our dual-heat rate would cost you 7.9 cents per kwh.

We are hopeful that our present heat rates for this next heating season are not going to change. They are at 4.4 cents per kwh for dual-heat and 4.8 cents per kwh for metered electric heat. In the summer, when you are running your heat pump for air conditioning, your rates are 7.9 cents per kwh if you are on the dual-heat rate and 8.3 cents per kwh if you are on the electric heat rate. A heat pump gives you a reduced rate for both your heating and cooling needs.

Double Rebate Days!

There are even more reasons to install a new heat pump! From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the guys in Member Services are again running double rebates on new heat pumps and air conditioners. You can also still get a 30% federal tax break on ground water sourced heat pumps. You can have one of your local contractors install a new system for you or have us do it. Our guys in Member Services sell, install and maintain electric heating and cooling systems. Give them a call for details. Have a great summer!

May is Electrical Safety Month

To raise awareness and educate the public on critical electrical safety topics, the month of May is designated as *Electrical Safety Month*. At Minnesota Valley, we encourage our employees and members to take some extra time this month to reflect on the importance of staying safe around electricity.

As a safety reminder, we always encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. You cannot tell if an electrical line is "on or off" simply by looking at it. Treat all wires as if they are energized and dangerous.

Electricity is a wonderful thing, but we need to know how to work and live around it safely. Here at Minnesota Valley, it is our mission to provide our community with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



!!!!

If you see a downed line, notify Minnesota Valley as soon as possible.



Manager of Operations

We'd like to thank all of our members who experienced outages and blinking during the snow storm/blizzard on April 10th-12th for their patience. We were busy trying to keep your lights on by rerouting substation feeds because the transmission wires were "galloping" and slapping together. The right amount of ice, wind and temperature causes this to happen and not much can be done unless one of those three changes a bit.

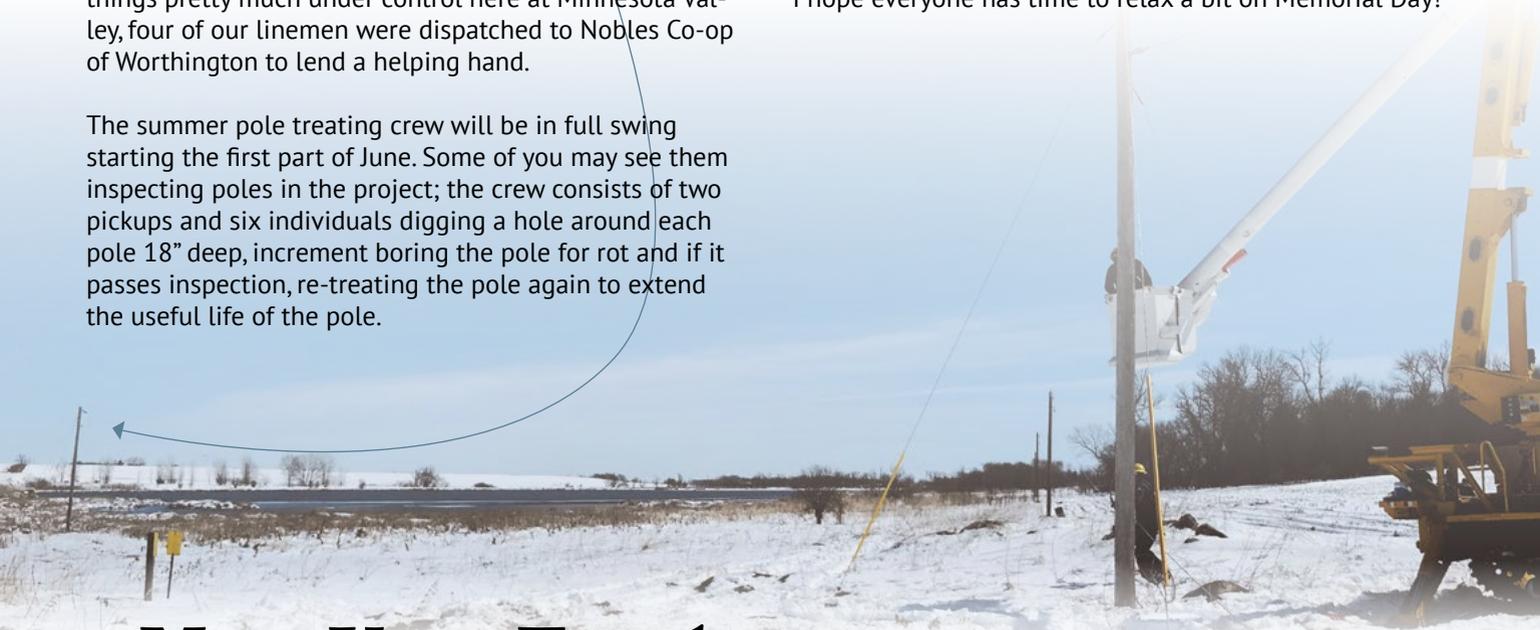
Minnesota Valley got lucky as we only had nine poles broken from the storm, whereas electric co-ops to the south and east did not fare so well. One of the areas where we had poles go down was south of Appleton. The crews had to replace poles out of the slough as the old poles could not be reached (*as shown in the picture*). After we had things pretty much under control here at Minnesota Valley, four of our linemen were dispatched to Nobles Co-op of Worthington to lend a helping hand.

The summer pole treating crew will be in full swing starting the first part of June. Some of you may see them inspecting poles in the project; the crew consists of two pickups and six individuals digging a hole around each pole 18" deep, increment boring the pole for rot and if it passes inspection, re-treating the pole again to extend the useful life of the pole.

This time of year, we receive lots and lots of locate requests to mark underground electric lines. S three zero five zero one If we have primary underground (7,200 volts) anywhere on your property, we will locate those wires if they are in the vicinity of the area to be disturbed; however, the landowner is responsible for any private facilities.

Stay safe out in the fields, we usually have a number of poles and overhead wires hit during the planting season. While some of these incidents cause small outages, others get to be quite large. We try to maintain proper clearance in all places on the system, but if someone adds a new approach underneath the lines at the mid-span of two power poles, the odds are there will not be enough clearance for the large equipment being used to enter the field.

I hope everyone has time to relax a bit on Memorial Day!



Meet Your Employees



- Name** Don Snell
- Hometown** Chokio, MN
- Family** Wife: Kelly is employed at *Brookside Senior Living*. Sons: Jackson is a senior this year and Brady is in eighth grade.
- When did you start at Minnesota Valley and what do you do?** I started at Minnesota Valley in 1990 as a Member Services Technician and currently work as the IT/Communications Technician.
- What do you like best about working here?** I enjoy the employees at Minnesota Valley Cooperative and the members that we serve in the cooperative business model.
- What do you like to do in your free time?** I like watching my sons play sports. I also have a great time hunting and fishing with both of them.
- If you could witness one historical event, what would it be and why?** The signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is the most important moment in American History that has given me the freedoms that I enjoy today. The men signing it knew doing so was a death sentence. Meeting the brave men who signed it would be awesome.





Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed
Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

Do You Know Any of These Former Minnesota Valley Members?

We need your help in locating the people listed below. Their capital credit checks for the remainder of 2005 and a portion of 2006 have been returned to us because we do not have a current address.

If you have the address of any of these people or one of their heirs, please get in touch with us via one of the methods to the right:

Phone: 320.269.2163 or
800.247.5051

Email: mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com

Mail: Minnesota Valley R.E.C.
P.O. Box 248
Montevideo, MN 56265

- Alltel Corporation • Little Rock, AR
- Amundson, John • Dawson, MN
- Brott, Francis • Minneapolis, MN
- Brown, Scott • Hanley Falls, MN
- Caron, Robert • Ortonville, MN
- Deyoung, Paula • Clara City, MN
- Geyer, Pat • Appleton, MN
- Gietzen, Kevin • Vergas, MN
- Gitz, Rick/Sandra Horton • Brooks, MN
- Gruber, Matthew • Davis, CA
- Hunters Blind % Sam Simonson
• Minneapolis, MN
- Johnson, Richard S (Dick) • Edgemont, SD
- Kraklow, Billie J • Sioux Falls, SD
- Kriesel, Judy • Bird Island, MN
- Lang, Tina • Taunton, MN
- Lecy, Orrin H/Junneth Stevens • Minneapolis, MN
- Leggette-Brashears & Graham Inc. (Paul Donovan)
• Cottonwood, MN
- Marcella SR, Thomas • Vesta, MN
- McLaughlin, Mike • Granite Falls, MN
- Mead, Jennifer • Granite Falls, MN
- Meyer, Genevieve • Montevideo, MN
- Nelson, Kenneth B • Ghent, MN
- Nelson, Walter D • Montevideo, MN
- Northern PCS % Mark Aarberg
• Waite Park, MN
- Odvody, Troy R • Tillamook, OR
- Okongo-Gwoke, Phil • Apple Valley, MN
- Olson, Ervin J • Montevideo, MN
- Pederson, Lowell • Cottonwood, MN
- Peltier, Peggy • Carlos, MN
- Pete's Communication Inc. • Willmar, MN
- Sandoval, Victor M • Grulla, TX
- Schroeder, Bruce/Kelly • Shakopee, MN
- Sebber, Ordell % Roberta Kehret
• Rochester, MN
- Stewart, Elsie • Marshall, MN
- Thompson, Andrew • Madison, MN
- Van Deelen, Odilo/Lona • Edgewood, MN
- Walker, David • Cottonwood, MN
- Wills, Todd • Lino Lakes, MN

Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

This year we changed the way we do our *Find Your Location* bill credit. We hide two account numbers in the newsletter. If you find your number, you receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up* participants get a \$10 bonus). If neither number is claimed before the 25th of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

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 is noted in each issue. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

Congratulations to Douglas Laleman of Marshall and Calvin Korn of Clara City, who identified their locations last month and split the pot of \$30!

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

Comparative Report

	Jan-Mar 2019	Jan-Mar 2018	Jan-Mar 1999
Kwh Purchased	66,469,722	65,737,061	38,424,923
Kwh Sold	62,758,541	62,245,124	36,289,634
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$2,959,740	\$2,807,535	\$1,111,373
Patronage Capital Margins	\$455,502	\$683,290	\$266,629
Reserve For Taxes	\$63,999	\$68,750	\$81,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	44.53	42.71	28.27
	March '19	March '18	March '99
Total Plant	\$73,802,090	\$72,280,555	\$32,252,799
Number of Active Services	5,277	5,276	5,173
Average Residential Bill	\$247.62	\$231.77	\$109.91
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,588	2,366	1,618
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,579	3,521	2,071
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	40,409	35,522	23,215





Member Services Manager

Preventing Electrical Injuries at the Workplace

May is Electrical Safety Month and, whether we realize it or not, our everyday jobs expose us to countless electrical hazards.

Electrical equipment we may not even think about can be readily accessed if we don't take proper precautions. You may think that "it can't happen to me", but numerous preventable accidents happen on the job or at home. It can and does happen! The story below is just one example of an accident that didn't need to happen. You don't know the Tom referenced in this story, but the next accident that happens may hit closer to home.

Tom Dickey had years of experience in underground directional boring when he made a mistake that changed his life. He was asked to do an additional project at the end of the workday. His safety equipment was on a truck that had already left for the day, but he decided he had the experience to do this quick project. Three seventeen zero one Tom made one small slip and received a high-voltage electric shock. Tom was fortunate to survive, but he spent months recovering and lives in pain to this day.

"You may get by with it a thousand times, but at some point it can happen to you," says Tom. "I always thought that I was as good at doing what I did as anybody." He says the most painful part of his experience was, "just watching my family and the suffering that they went through, the anguish that I know they were going through freaking out about losing a dad or losing a husband."

Electrical accidents are simply too dangerous to risk. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, construction and farming/ranch-

ing are two of the most dangerous jobs in America. Electrical accidents—above and below ground—are a major risk in these fields. It is important to take proper safety precautions to avoid the tragic consequences of electrical accidents and contact with underground pipelines.



These tips from Minnesota Valley Cooperative can help you stay safe in these fields of work:

- Always use proper safety equipment and get it inspected regularly to make sure it is still in good working order.
- Call 8-1-1 before you dig and get underground utilities identified. Electricity, gas and other underground utilities can be deadly if you make contact with them.
- Keep large equipment 10 feet away from power lines in all directions. Use a spotter to help you do this. If you do come in contact with a power line, do not leave your equipment. In doing so, you become the electricity's path to the ground and could receive a fatal shock. Stay in the equipment until utility workers de-energize the line.
- Test circuits and conductors before working on them.
- Follow lock out/tag out procedures, which require workers to isolate circuits before starting a job.
- If you have contractors working at your service location, make sure that all your family and friends are safe and accounted for.

Have a safe and enjoyable spring and summer!



Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting! 331 members registered and 650 meals were served. Save the date for next year's meeting: April 4th, 2020 at Prairie's Edge Casino.



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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