



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

### Annual Meeting

We were fortunate to have a quorum of 52 members at our Annual Meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We need 50 members present for a legal business meeting per our by-laws. We owe a special thank you to those members who attended. Anyway, after not being able to have a meeting in 2020, it was good to have a meeting again. Hopefully next year, things will be completely normal when we hold our Annual Meeting at the Prairie's Edge Casino on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Capital Credit Allocation Information

We hope you noticed your individual capital credit allocation from the business year 2020 listed on this month's power bill. This number represents your individual share of our \$2,890,846 margin this past year. If the coopera-

tive continues to be successful—and there is no reason to believe otherwise—it will all be eventually returned to you in cash. Next year we are planning to retire the balance from 2008 and get into the business year 2009, which puts us at a 13-year rotation. We continue to retire in a first-in, first-out method for our capital credits, as has always been the case.

### Best Wishes to Scott Kubesh in His New Role

Long time employee, Scott Kubesh, is our new Member Services Manager, succeeding Bob Walsh, who retired on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Scott attended the U of M Waseca for Ag Business Management for a year then got his 2-year degree in Construction Electricity from Moorhead Technical College. Scott is a Master Electrician and has worked for Minnesota Valley for 15 years. Scott will do a great job in his new role at Minnesota Valley!

## Double Rebates & Special Heat Rates

Is your home due for a new heating or cooling system? If so, now is the perfect time to make that purchase during Minnesota Valley's double rebate promotion. In addition to the double rebates, the Cooperative also offers discounted heat rates. Minnesota Valley installs and services heat pumps and central air conditioning systems, making the process as easy and efficient as possible for our members.



Minnesota Valley member, Scott Ripley, recently had the Cooperative install a mini split heat pump for a bonus room above his garage.

"I was very impressed with the entire installation process," Ripley comments. "It was straightforward and super easy."

He said the mini split is doing an excellent job keeping the temperature where he wants it. "It's also super quiet, which was very important to me. You hardly hear the thing running," he says.

Ripley decided to purchase the mini split heat pump after reading about them in Minnesota Valley's newsletter. "The rebate program was really nice," he adds. "I appreciated that the rebate was instantaneous and taken right off the bill."

### Double Rebate Savings

From now until Labor Day of 2021, Minnesota Valley is doubling the rebates given for the installation of an air source heat pump, geothermal heat pump or central air conditioning unit.

- **Air source heat pumps** (including mini splits) are \$12 per 1,000 Btus
- **Geothermal heat pumps** are \$24 per 1,000 Btus
- **Central air conditioning systems** are \$2 per 1,000 Btus for Energy Star rated units and \$4 per 1,000 Btus for units with a SEER rating of 16 or higher

### Special Heat Rates

Minnesota Valley also offers discounted heat rates. Electric heat is sub-metered and billed at special low rates. These rates are capable of lowering heating costs by up to 50 percent.

- **Electric Heat Rate:** \$0.048 per kWh October-April; \$0.089 per kWh May-September
- **Dual Heat Rate:** \$0.044 per kWh October-April; \$0.085 per kWh May-September

Contact the Cooperative at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 for more information and a complete list of requirements for the rebates and discounted heat rates. If you are in the market for a new heating or cooling system, now is the time to save big!

*Manager of Operations*

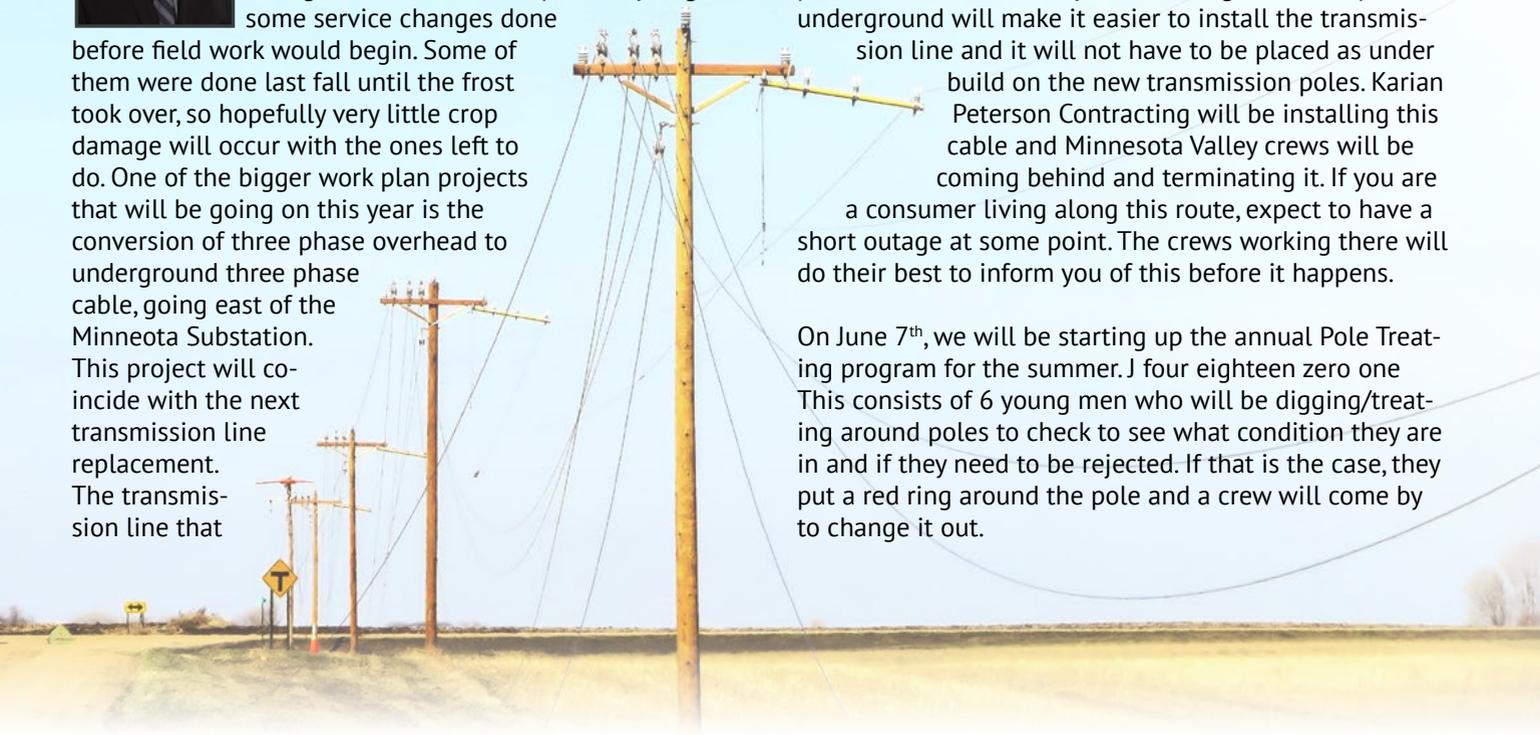


Crews are getting a lot of projects done with it being dry and hoping the warmer weather stays. The underground plow got out of storage in the middle of April to try to get some service changes done

before field work would begin. Some of them were done last fall until the frost took over, so hopefully very little crop damage will occur with the ones left to do. One of the bigger work plan projects that will be going on this year is the conversion of three phase overhead to underground three phase cable, going east of the Minneota Substation. This project will coincide with the next transmission line replacement. The transmission line that

currently runs south of the Minneota Substation for 1/2 mile and then goes east, cross country, for approximately 8 miles, will be brought to the north where this three phase overhead currently runs. Putting this three phase underground will make it easier to install the transmission line and it will not have to be placed as under build on the new transmission poles. Karian Peterson Contracting will be installing this cable and Minnesota Valley crews will be coming behind and terminating it. If you are a consumer living along this route, expect to have a short outage at some point. The crews working there will do their best to inform you of this before it happens.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be starting up the annual Pole Treating program for the summer. This consists of 6 young men who will be digging/treating around poles to check to see what condition they are in and if they need to be rejected. If that is the case, they put a red ring around the pole and a crew will come by to change it out.



## Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> for Memorial Day.

### Comparative Report

	Jan-Mar 2021	Jan-Mar 2020	Jan-Mar 2001
Kwh Purchased	59,029,508	61,606,232	40,512,692
Kwh Sold	55,499,110	58,025,287	37,285,142
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$2,321,967	\$2,591,502	\$1,026,984
Patronage Capital Margins	\$625,970	\$471,073	\$222,981
Reserve For Taxes	\$66,250	\$66,250	\$60,680
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	39.34	42.07	24.64
	March '21	March '20	March '01
Total Plant	\$82,730,751	\$78,034,562	\$33,286,562
Number of Active Services	5,330	5,273	5,199
Avg. Residential Bill	\$210.09	\$231.29	\$122.81
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,957	2,292	1,832
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,953	3,316	2,245
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	32,994	33,120	23,064

### Find Your Number!

There are two account numbers hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to receive a bill credit. The bill credit starts at \$10, but if neither number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, the unclaimed amount rolls over to the next month! If both numbers are claimed, the recipients split the credit, then it starts again at \$10.



**CLAIM BY THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY TO RECEIVE:**

**\$30**



## New Hires at Minnesota Valley



**Cole Mertens** has been hired as a Lineman at Minnesota Valley. Cole is originally from Olivia, MN. He attended *M State in Wadena* for powerline school. He and his wife currently reside in Olivia, MN. Congratulations and welcome, Cole!



**Collin Kor** has been hired as a Member Services Technician at Minnesota Valley. Collin is originally from Minneota, MN. He graduated from *Minnesota West Community & Tech-Canby*. He now lives in Dawson, MN with his wife Raeann. Congratulations and welcome, Collin!

## 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 80% of 2008, have been returned to us because we do not have a current address. If you have the address of any of these people or are one of their heirs, please get in touch with us.

**Phone:**  
320.269.2163 or  
800.247.5051

**Email:**  
[mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com](mailto:mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com)

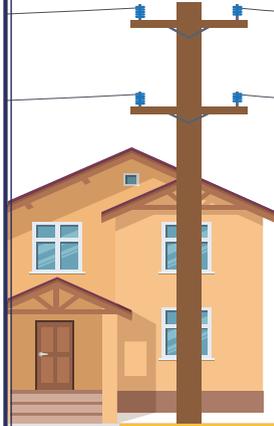
**Mail:**  
*Minnesota Valley R.E.C.*  
P.O. Box 248  
Montevideo, MN 56265

- ▶ Arneson, Ronnie • Motley, MN
- ▶ Brott, Francis • Minneapolis, MN
- ▶ Ensign, Peter and Bette Ensign • Rochester, MN
- ▶ Grimsley, Brandon and Ashley • Benson, MN
- ▶ Johnson, Brian M • Clarkfield, MN
- ▶ Kirk, Sean • Breckenridge, TX
- ▶ Kreft, Hartwin • Vesta, MN
- ▶ Larson, Troy and Melissa • Dawson, MN
- ▶ Olson, Michael T • Pine City, MN
- ▶ Ostendorf, Art • Henning, MN
- ▶ Rogers, Jeff L • Milan, MN
- ▶ Rural Cellular Corp DBA Unicel • Alexandria, MN
- ▶ The Hunting Camp, Bruce Neal • Mayer, MN
- ▶ US Cable of Coastal Texas • Cold Spring, MN
- ▶ Zal, Pamela • Grand Jct, CO

## Think Before You Climb

Before you rush into a job that requires you to use a ladder, take precautions before you climb.

### Electrical Safety



1. **Look up** and around for power line locations before using a ladder.
2. Keep a minimum **10-foot distance** from a power line or other electrical equipment at all times.
3. The minimum distance rule includes you (any part of your body) or **any object you are holding**, such as a ladder or tool.
4. Always **be aware of power line locations** when you are elevated.
5. Sources of elevation include, but are not limited to, a **ladder, rooftop, boom lift or scaffolding**.

### General Ladder Safety

1. Use a ladder on a **stable, level surface**.
2. Maintain **three-point contact** on the ladder when climbing.
3. Three points of contact mean **two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand**.
4. Keep your body **near the middle of the step** and face the ladder when climbing.
5. **Do not use the top step/rung** of a ladder unless designed for that purpose.
6. For a stepladder, make sure the base is **fully open** and the spreaders are **locked**.



# GENERAC®

Minnesota Valley sells and installs Generac Standby Generators! Call for more information on getting an **automatic standby generator installed at your home or farm!**

Contact Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051!





## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager

### Spring HVAC Startup Checklist

Here are eight important things to check BEFORE switching the wall thermostat to cooling.

#### Outdoor Inspection

- 1) Inspect outdoor unit panels – make sure they are all in place
- 2) Remove any unit covers or coil blankets from the outdoor unit
- 3) Repair or replace damaged or missing pipe insulation
- 4) Remove any leaves or debris from the outdoor unit coils

#### Indoor Inspection

- 5) Change the indoor air filters
- 6) Check the indoor drainage hose
- 7) Clean the supply vents and air return grills
- 8) Make sure your system is working properly on startup and throughout the first day (*turn it off immediately if it is not working!*)

#### Heat Pump Promotion

The main reasons for installing a heat pump are higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, we are **DOUBLING 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 May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 through September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A three twenty three zero one A The system needs to be a new installation and placed in service between the dates stated above (certain size limitations apply). That 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!

#### Equipment Loans

Minnesota Valley offers 5% financing for electric heating/cooling equipment. Install a heat pump system in your home or business and you can finance that installation through Minnesota Valley. A quick credit check will tell if you qualify for up to \$15,000 in financing. Loan terms can be for up to 7 years. We also offer financing for energy efficiency building upgrades, standby generators and wiring upgrade loans. The whole process is quite simple and turnaround time is quick.

The Member Services Department is here to help you with any of the questions you may have. Please call us at 800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163 for more information.

## If Your Power Goes Out

We all look forward to summer weather, but summer storms can bring high winds and lightning, which can mean problems with your power lines.

If your power goes out, please follow the guidelines below. Minnesota Valley crews will work to get your power back on as quickly as possible.

**Always remember to stay away from downed power lines!**

- ◆ Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- ◆ Make sure to check with your neighbors to see if their lights are out.
- ◆ Call Minnesota Valley at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.
- ◆ Be able to provide the **LOCATION NUMBER** for the account without power when reporting an outage. This number is printed on your monthly energy bill. Please report anything that may be helpful to our crews such as lines or poles down, sparks on poles, trees or branches on lines, etc. **STAY AWAY** from downed power lines!
- ◆ If you are experiencing low voltage (a brownout) unplug anything with a motor including TV, DVD/VCR, refrigerator, freezer, microwave, computer and any other electronic equipment.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.**

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



#### 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

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Power Association

#### Website

[www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com)

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