MINNESOTA VALLEY CO-OP NEWS
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MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

General Manager

Heat Pumps Continue to Grow in Popularity

Like many cooperatives in our region, we've been promoting the use of electric heat pumps for decades as an energy efficient method of home heating and cooling. They continue to become more popular with the growing number of installations we've seen amongst our membership. This is, of course, because they have proven themselves to be super cost-effective and reliable over the past several decades.

There are two main concepts for heat pumps with a variety of models to accommodate a multitude of building applications—ground source heat pumps (GSHP), closed loop and open loop and air-source heat pumps (ASHP), ducted systems and mini-splits. Depending on the season, they efficiently heat in the winter and air condition in the summer.

For many years we've seen a steady increase in heat pump installations, based on the number of installs our guys do in addition to the number of rebates given out each year. ASHPs get $6 per 1,000 Btus of output. GSHPs get $12 per 1,000 Btus of output.

We have had an ASHP in our home for 20 years now and it works great in conjunction with our electric/propane forced-air system. It has been reliable and low maintenance. On our discounted heat rates, it has been very reasonable to operate over the years.

Heat pumps are generally coupled with a secondary heating system that supplements heating during the colder months. When it is extremely cold, most heat pumps are set to switch over to a secondary heat source. In my case, I have both electric resistance and propane. I have my system set to switch over to the secondary source when the temperature drops below zero degrees. Some of the newer cold climate heat pumps are designed to run efficiently below zero degrees. For several reasons, I use electric resistance heat as my secondary source. On our discounted heat rate, electric is still much more economical than propane.

Mini-splits are air-source heat pump units that don't require ductwork. They are popular for room additions, guest rooms, garages, finished basements or sheds and places that don't need

(Manager's Message continued on page 2)

Notice of Annual Member Meeting of Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at *Prairie's Edge Casino Resort* in Granite Falls, MN on **Saturday, April 2nd, 2022**.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m. the following business will be transacted:

1. To hear, examine and approve the reports of the officers, directors and committees.
2. To elect three directors for said Cooperative for the ensuing term.
3. For the transaction of other business as may lawfully be brought before the membership of the Cooperative and as may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Cooperative.

Dated: January 27th, 2022

Mark Peterson, *Secretary*

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2022 ANNUAL MEETING

2022 ANNUAL MEETING // SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2022

Our **2022 Annual Meeting** will take place at Prairie's Edge Casino in Granite Falls. **Breakfast** will be served at 8:30 a.m. with the **business meeting** starting at 10:00 a.m.

Manager's Message (continued from page 1)

heat all the time. They consist of an indoor fixture that can be mounted on a wall, floor or ceiling in an open-spaced room. The indoor unit is connected to an outdoor condenser/compressor through a 2-3" hole in the wall. Depending on the size of the condenser, multiple indoor heads can be connected to one outdoor unit.

Mini-splits are also popular with homeowners who want more precise control over the temperature of individual rooms. If you have multiple units in your home, each unit has its own thermostat that can be regulated by a remote and some can be controlled through an app on your phone.

The main reason heat pumps are so efficient and unique is they transfer heat through a modulating compression process rather than resistance heating elements. For your next heating system, please give energy saving and economical heat pumps due consideration. For more information, call our heating and cooling professionals in our Member Services Department.

Engineering & Operations // Eric Wollschlager

Manager of Operations

The weather the past month has treated Minnesota Valley well as far as major storms and outages go. A few individual and short line outages due to cold weather usually occur when the temp takes a huge plunge. O one twenty eight zero two A Crews continue to work away on this year's line patrol and take care of any maintenance items they come across.

Pole change outs from line patrol and last summer's pole inspection program are also an ongoing job for the crews. Some of these change outs can be a very large job—requiring most of the day and more than one truck to accomplish this job. We try to do these jobs with the lines energized to keep the power on to our members but that is not always an option. Special equipment such as track units are sometimes used for these jobs to complete the job safely.

The next phase of the transmission line project near Minneota is beginning with some of the hardware starting to show up at the warehouse and poles being delivered out to the job site (as pictured to the right). Karian Peterson crews are scheduled to start arriving the week of February 21st to begin spotting and framing poles. As of now, six of the fifteen miles have been staked by engineers and we have acquired enough hardware to begin construction. It has been tough this past year as hardware delivery times have increased substantially over the past 12-14 months. Delivery dates extended on some items as far out as 12-18 months.

We, at Minnesota Valley, are doing everything we can do to plan and stay ahead of these longer delivery times to provide good service for our members and keep the system in good working order.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Jan 2022	Jan-Jan 2021	Jan-Jan 2002
Kwh Purchased	26,122,025	20,916,208	13,714,052
Kwh Sold	24,903,388	19,695,339	12,645,639
Cost Of Purchased Power	$1,078,641	$611,432	$339,917
Patronage Capital Margins	$295,037	$472,659	$35,180
Reserve For Taxes	$21,417	$22,083	$22,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	41.29	29.23	24.79
	January '22	**January '21**	**January '02**
Total Plant	$86,437,975	$81,578,959	$34,042,857
Number of Active Services	5,312	5,313	5,212
Avg. Residential Bill	$307.42	$261.66	$131.93
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	3,427	2,698	2,006
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	4,688	3,707	2,426
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	46,441	36,579	25,000

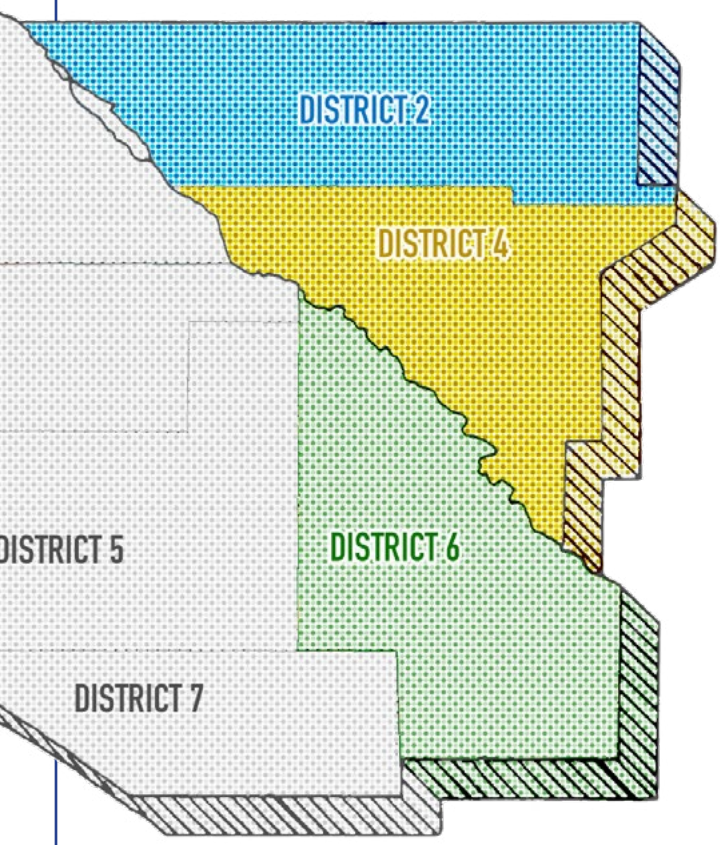
Find Your Location Number

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location 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!**

If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at $10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE 25TH OF MARCH TO RECEIVE: $60

Meet the Director Candidates

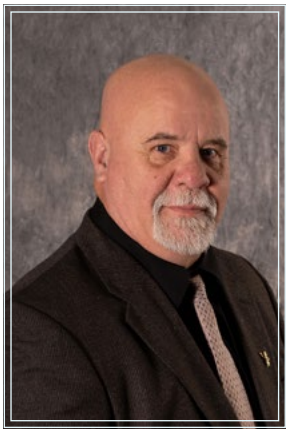


Steve Norman: District 4

Steve has farmed all of his life in the same location. His wife, Vicki, is a self-employed manager-operator of the CCC Salon & Boutique with their daughter, Holly. The Normans have three children: Ole (deceased); Holly and her husband, Jaden; and Joe and his wife, Kelsey; grandsons Skyler, Jakobie, Jack, Henry, Wesley and one granddaughter, Emma.

"I have enjoyed serving on the board for many reasons. I have had the opportunity to work with and meet many good, dependable people and have had the job of helping make decisions that I feel will benefit us as a co-op and community. I feel fortunate to be able to have a say in the many decisions that need to be made for our consumers. At Minnesota Valley, we strive to have the best member and electrical service possible for our member-owners at the most affordable prices. I am concerned about what is needed by you as consumers and I will continue to do my best to make the proper decisions on the issues at hand. I have appreciated your support over the years and would appreciate your continued support in my reelection."

Gary Groothuis: District 2



Gary is a lifelong resident of Chippewa County, living on the farm site that has been in his family for four generations. He farmed for 12 years prior to purchasing a bar in Montevideo 22 years ago. He is married to Amy (shipping/receiving supervisor at Chandler Industries). Their children include: TJ and Dan, Brad and Tanns, Jojo and Caitlin, Kyle and Amanda and four grandchildren. Gary served in the U.S. Army Airborne from 1984 to 1990. He has been a member of the American Legion for 34 years, a member of Ducks Unlimited for the last 13 years and is a 14-year member of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association.

"I have learned a lot about the electric business. I enjoy working with the board and all the employees."

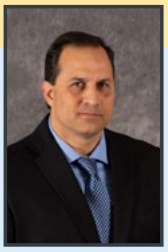
Tim Velde: District 6

Tim is a fourth generation farmer by Hanley Falls growing corn and soybeans. Tim and his wife, Connie, have four grown children: Grant and Becky, Kelli, Jake and Genny, Amanda and Chuck and nine grandchildren. Connie is active in church activities, works with the restorative justice program in Yellow Medicine County and helps on the farm. Tim has served on the K-12 and vocational school board, Regional Development Commission, Township Board, Pork Producers, Church Council and other local boards. Currently, he serves on the Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association Board, Minnesota Rural Electric State Board, NRECA Board, Center for Rural Policy Development and Ag Water Resources State Boards, along with numerous community activities.

Tim is currently serving in his 14th year on the Minnesota Valley Electric Co-op Board representing District 6 and represents our region on the State Board.

"I truly enjoy and am honored to represent our district on the Minnesota Valley Board. I ask for your support so I can continue to represent you on the Board. In every decision the Board makes, my first thought is how will this impact you, the member-owners of the Co-op. For 85 years our Co-op has provided all of us with safe, reliable, affordable energy. I will do my best to make sure Minnesota Valley continues to be a trusted partner providing our energy needs in the future."

Member Services // Scott Kubesh



Member Services Manager

Five Ways to Save Energy When Working from Home

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day. If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills.

Whether you're working remotely or not, take a look at the following practical tips as they can help everyone reduce their energy use. Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home.

1) **Use a smart power strip.** Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.
2) **Unplug your least-used equipment.** If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.
3) **Choose ENERGY STAR®-certified office equipment.** If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you're getting the most energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.
4) **Flip the switch and use natural light instead.** It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. R two twenty seven zero one When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in—and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!
5) **Lower the thermostat.** Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months. You're more likely to stay focused and alert when it's cooler in your home, so all the more reason to mind the thermostat.

Contact Minnesota Valley Co-op at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.