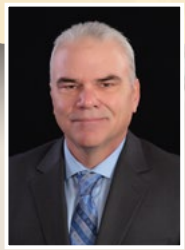
MINNESOTA VALLEY CO-OP NEWS
Volume 85 • No. 5 • May 2023

MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH

General Manager



A Better Return

You should have received capital credit allocation information on your billing statement this month. If you have any questions about what this means, give us a call. Your statement should tell you what your share of the margin from fiscal year 2022 is, as well as what is in your allocation account balance back to 2011.

The total unpaid allocation to date represents your share of about $28.7 million of accumulated patronage capital over the past 13 years. It is your money that we are using to make improvements in your electric utility. If your cooperative continues to be successful, and there is no reason to believe otherwise, it will all eventually be repaid to you.

In the cooperative world when you are having a conversation about the value of capital credits, you may occasionally get a sideways look. One can easily interpret that look as "yeah, I might not live long enough to see the money!" Your board is doing its job of making the investment in your cooperative electric utility to keep the system reliable, while keeping rates reasonable and still retiring capital credits. The electric utility business is very capital intensive. Therefore, in order to make continued investments in your system, we need to hang on to your money longer than other types of cooperative businesses. However, I want you to know that your board at Minnesota Valley has always been committed to retiring capital. We are paid out to our members through 50% of 2011 on a first-in first-out method. Over the past 25 years, we have been able to shave some time off on how quickly we retire capital credits. We are currently paying out on about a 13-year rotation, as compared to a 17-year rotation.

As a member of Minnesota Valley, when you pay your light bill you are buying good service and competitively priced electricity. You are also being allocated your share of any margins each year that will eventually be returned to you, as cash, after a period of time. Since day one, our profits or margins have always gone back to our member-owners, not investors. You would be hard pressed to get a better long-run return on your money than with what you have invested in your electric cooperative. Thanks for your business and have a great summer!

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Photos From Our 2023 Annual Meeting

Engineering & Operations // Eric Wollschlager

Manager of Operations

Karian Peterson continues working on the Minneota transmission line. Most of the conductor has been strung in with the exception of a couple areas needing a little extra work. Minnesota Valley is fortunate enough to have a switch with a tie to Xcel Energy at the Wood Lake Substation. J three twenty-six zero one A This transmission tie allows us to feed both Wood Lake and Echo Substations for the time being while Karian Peterson does some pole work and stringing north of Cottonwood.

Minnesota Valley is also in the process of replacing our metering system. The existing system is approaching 30 years old and meters and parts to keep the system going have gone obsolete. The new system will be a wireless radio system that requires antennas and repeaters hanging at transformer locations across the Minnesota Valley service territory. All meters owned by Minnesota Valley will also be replaced through this process. The system will be a big step forward—acquiring usage information as well as voltages and outage information.

This system is being installed by a company called ***NexGen.*** They will be onsite from May through approximately October of this year. The logo below will be on the vehicles during the installation.

NexGen Utility Solutions

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to all our area 2023 seniors!

Best of luck in your future plans!

Find Your Location Number and Receive a Credit to your Energy Bill!

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!**

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.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2022	Jan-Mar 2003
Kwh Purchased	66,016,229	69,553,225	42,850,738
Kwh Sold	62,288,081	66,168,963	39,930,931
Cost Of Purchased Power	$2,863,928	$3,083,327	$1,050,402
Patronage Capital Margins	$430,720	$573,393	$383,500
Reserve For Taxes	$72,000	$64,251	$57,402
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	43.38	44.94	24.50
	March '23	**March '22**	**March '03**
Total Plant	$92,560,699	$87,009,064	$35,140,154
Number of Active Services	5,307	5,327	5,222
Avg. Residential Bill	$272.21	$239.32	$127.35
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,687	2,410	1,958
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,817	3,697	2,428
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	39,517	39,739	26,303

Current Prize

Find your number and claim by the 25th of May to receive a prize of:

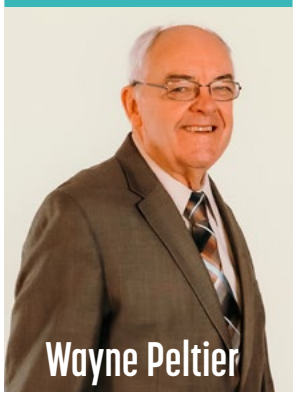
$20

Congratulations to Wayne Peltier and Darryl Bursack on being re-elected for another 3-year term to the board!

District 5

Darryl Bursack

District 7



Wayne Peltier

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

Source: *energy.gov*

Free Wood Chips

Call Jarrod from Minnesota Valley Tree Service at 320.226.7306 if you would like some wood chips.

Do You Know Any of These Former Minnesota Valley Members?

We need your help in locating the people listed below. Their capital credit checks 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

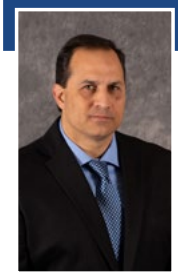
Email:
mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com

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

- ✖ Anderson, Paul M • Milan
- ✖ Borstad, Elwood • Madison
- ✖ Brott, Francis • Minneapolis
- ✖ Bruns, Jennifer • Marshall
- ✖ Chapin, Charles • Plymouth
- ✖ Coil, Jane • Montevideo
- ✖ Erickson, Jill • Appleton
- ✖ FAS-AHM Utilities • Columbus, OH
- ✖ Fonkert, Eric • Alexandria
- ✖ Geselius, John H • Willmar
- ✖ Gleason, Brad • Deer River
- ✖ Greiner, Nathan • Canby
- ✖ Hanson, James H • Erhard
- ✖ Hillenbrand, M&B Holdings Inc • Willmar
- ✖ Holien, Jennifer • Hawick
- ✖ Hollatz, Jason • Watertown, SD
- ✖ Holmquist, Jason • Paynesville
- ✖ Ireland, David A • Albany
- ✖ Korn, Kevin and Linda • Dawson
- ✖ Kosloski, Daniel • Boyd
- ✖ Kruger, Lorna • Clara City
- ✖ Kveene, Angela • Montevideo
- ✖ Larson, Justin D • Sunburg
- ✖ Lopez-Contreras, Vanessa • Willmar
- ✖ Moseng, Herman Jr • Otsego
- ✖ Myers, Sandi • Lingle, WY
- ✖ Myers, William J • Montevideo
- ✖ Nelson, Michael A • Madison
- ✖ Olson, Michael T • Pine City
- ✖ Price, Tanya • Granite Falls
- ✖ Richard Nuytten Revoc Living Trust • Minneota
- ✖ Roske, Jane • Huntsville, AR
- ✖ Ross, Amanda • Echo
- ✖ Rural Cellular Corp Unicell • Alexandria
- ✖ Sopcyk, Jeffrey • Coon Rapids
- ✖ Stout, Joey • Montevideo
- ✖ Thrun, David • St. James
- ✖ Tilbury, Ramona • Madison
- ✖ Trevino, Claudia • Milan
- ✖ Weelborg, Myron • Redwood Falls

Member Services // Scott Kubesh

Member Services Manager



Don't Throw Money out the Window

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth and ventilation, but they can also negatively impact a home's energy efficiency. You can reduce energy costs by installing energy-efficient windows in your home. We have now entered the construction season and it is the time that many of you may be considering a construction, remodeling or renovation project. If your budget is tight, energy efficiency improvements to existing windows can also help.

Improving the Energy Efficiency of Windows

You can improve the energy efficiency of existing windows by adding storm windows, caulking and weather stripping and using window treatments or coverings.

Adding storm windows can reduce air leakage and improve comfort. Caulking and weather stripping can reduce air leakage around windows. Use caulk for stationary cracks, gaps or joints less than one-quarter-inch wide, and weather stripping for building components that move, such as doors and operable windows. B three twenty zero two I Window treatments or coverings can reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Most window treatments, however, aren't effective at reducing air leakage or infiltration.

Selecting New Energy-Efficient Windows

If you are building or your home has very old and/or inefficient windows, it might be more cost-effective to replace them than to try to improve their energy efficiency. New, energy-efficient windows eventually pay for themselves through lower heating and cooling costs and sometimes even lighting costs. When properly selected and installed, energy-efficient windows can help minimize your heating, cooling and lighting costs.

Improving window performance in your home involves design, selection and installation.

When in the market for windows, it's a good idea to understand the energy performance ratings of windows so you'll know what energy performance ratings you need for your windows based on your home's design. For labeling energy-efficient windows, ENERGY STAR® has established minimum energy performance rating criteria. However, these criteria don't account for a home's design, such as window orientation. It may be advantageous to visit the ***www.energy.gov/energysaver/design*** website. The window and door energy performance data can be found there.

Windows are an important element in passive solar home design, which uses solar energy at the site to provide heating, cooling and lighting for a house. Passive solar design strategies vary by building location and regional climate, but the basic window guidelines remain the same—select, orient and size glass to maximize solar heat gain in winter and minimize it in summer. In our heating-dominated climate, major glazing areas should generally face south to collect solar heat during the winter when the sun is low in the sky. In the summer, when the sun is high overhead, overhangs or other shading devices prevent excessive heat gain.

If you're constructing a new home or doing some major remodeling, you should also take advantage of the opportunity to incorporate your window design and selection as an integral part of your whole-house design—an approach for building an energy-efficient home. Good luck in your shopping and do your homework!

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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