

What is Operation Round Up?

Operation Round Up is a community-support program where members voluntarily round their monthly electric bill up to the nearest dollar. Those small contributions add up to make a big impact, providing funding to local organizations and community projects such as emergency responders, education and food pantries.




How much does it cost me?

The average member's account contributes \$6 a year. The most a member could contribute is \$11.88 (99¢ cents a month).

Other funds Operation Round Up receives come from unclaimed capital credit checks that have been unclaimed for seven years with the last known address in the state of Minnesota



Wild Rice Electric's Trust board met on December 4 and awarded

23

Operation Round Up grants in the amount of

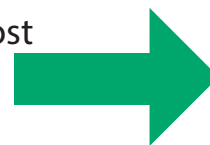
\$37,000

to community nonprofits and educational organizations.

Totaling **\$48,000** for 2025 alone

LOOK INSIDE:

For a list of most recent grant recipients



HOW TO

ENROLL

Yes, I want to help with Operation Round Up

Please round my bills to the nearest dollar or for more information email info@wildriceelectric.com or scan QR code



Name: _____

Account #(s): _____

Signature: _____



STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Member Services
and Communications

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

by **Tommy Houdek**

Happy New Year from WREC!

We hope your holiday season was filled with warmth, joy, and time spent with loved ones. As we welcome a new year, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the many things we're grateful for—starting with the dedicated employees and directors who keep our cooperative running strong. In 2025, WREC celebrated milestone anniversaries totaling an impressive 167 combined years of service. These individuals have each played an important role in supporting our members and strengthening the cooperative. This year, we recognize:

- **Jolene Brevik** (right) Executive Assistant - Retired in 2025) – 37 Years
- **Michael Baukol** (Accountant) – 30 Years



- **Nathan Pazdernik** (Power Quality Coordinator) – 20 Years
- **Roger Winter** (Director) – 20 Years
- **Luke Klostermeier** (Lineworker) – 10 Years
- **Tommy Houdek** (Director of Member Services & Communications) – 10 Years
- **Glen Sommers** (Lineworker) – 10 Years
- **April Jirik** (Accounting Specialist) – 10 Years
- **Bobbi DuChamp** (Member Services Specialist) – 10 Years
- **Phil Shequen** (Line Superintendent) – 5 Years
- **Tanner Olson** (Lineworker) – 5 Years

We extend our sincere appreciation to each of these team members for their dedication and service to the cooperative and its members.

Winter Energy Use and Ways to Save

With cold temperatures settling across our region, winter is often when members see the greatest increase in electric use. That's why now is a great time to consider WREC's off-peak programs, which offer an effective way to lower your energy bill during the heating season. By allowing your electric heating system to be controlled during peak demand periods, you can receive a discounted rate on the electricity used for heating. These control periods help our wholesale power provider manage available resources more efficiently, ultimately benefiting all cooperative members.

To learn more about off-peak options, or to see whether you qualify, reach out to our Member Services Department. Our staff will be happy to help you explore programs that could lead to meaningful savings.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on October 28, 2025. During the meeting, the Board heard a presentation on Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's insurance coverages and was joined by Minnkota Power CEO Mac McLennan to visit about current energy topics.

A quorum of directors was present and the following actions were taken:

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for September 2025
- **Accepted** the third quarter 2025 Financial Review Committee Report
- **Approved** the adoption of C-MIP updates
- **Accepted** the management department reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the Square Butte report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

The January regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.



Celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2025: (left to right) Nathan Pazdernik, Glen Sommers, Luke Klostermeier, Tanner Olson, Michael Baukol, Tommy Houdek, Bobbi DuChamp, Phil Shequen and not pictured April Jirik and Director Roger Winter.

SAFETY TIP

Stay safe and warm this winter by keeping a few key tips in mind:

- Turn off space heaters anytime you leave the room or head to bed.
- Use portable generators with caution; improper use can cause serious injury or death.
- Never use ovens, stoves, or grills to heat your home or dry clothing, as this can create dangerous conditions.

A little care goes a long way in keeping your home safe this winter.

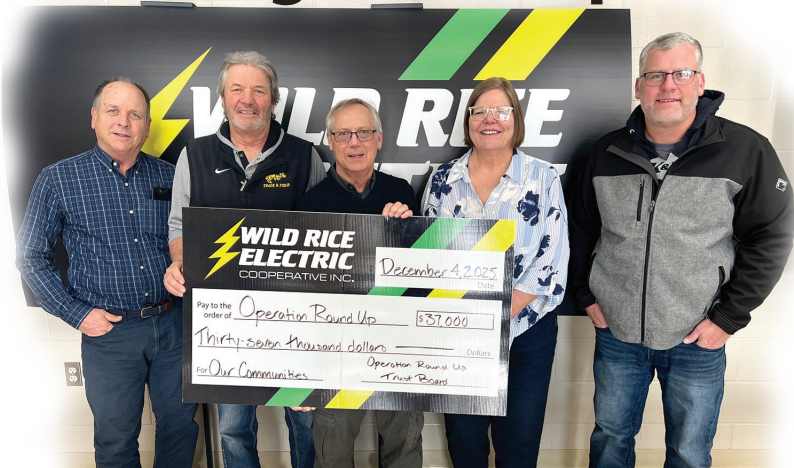
Recent Operation Round UP grant recipients

REACH OUT FOR WARMTH AGENCIES

Inter-County Communities Council	\$1,500
Mahube-Otwa Detroit Lakes	\$1,500
Mahube-Otwa Mahnomen	\$1,500
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	\$1,500

AREA FOOD PANTRIES

Becker County Food Shelf (Detroit Lakes)	\$750
Fertile-Beltrami Food Shelf (Fertile)	\$750
Grace Community Food Shelf (Ersline)	\$750
Helping Hands Food Shelf (Mahnomen)	\$750
Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf (Fosston)	\$750
REACH Food Pantry (Hawley)	\$750
SVDP Good Samaritan Food Shelf (Twin Valley)	\$750
Valley Food Shelf (Ada)	\$750



Current members of the board (left to right) Wild Rice Electric Cooperative director Jeff Nornes, Daryl Halvorson, Rick Morris, Bev Schoenborn, Ryan Opatril and not pictured Kay Oakland.

ORGANIZATIONS

Elbow-Tulaby Lakes Fire Dept	\$5,000	Purchase turn-out gear (coats, pants, and boots) for volunteer firefighters
Flom Area Lions Club	\$1,000	Purchase playground equipment for the ball diamond area
Holy Rosary Catholic School	\$450	Purchase outdoor playground equipment
Hospice of the Red River Valley	\$2,450	Purchase technology bundle and HP laptop for nursing staff
Lake-Park Audubon School	\$1,050	Purchase toys and supplies for sensory and fine motor skills
Mahnomen Health Nursing Home	\$2,300	Purchase electronic keyboard for resident entertainment
Paul's Passion	\$1,350	Aid in cost of supplies and surgery expenses
Sunnyside Care Center	\$1,000	Purchase outdoor patio furniture for residents and visitors
Win-E-Mac School	\$2,000	Aid in cost of professional development day for rural phy-ed and health educators
Woods & Wheels ATV Club	\$4,200	Aid in cost of brush cutter for developing trails
YMCA Camp Cormorant	\$4,200	Purchase adult and child life jackets for the camp

86th Annual Meeting Time Frame

Director elections for Districts 1, 2, and 3 will be held at Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting of the Membership hosted at the Shooting Star Event Center on April 7. Directors standing for re-election, elected by ballot, for a three-year term are: District 1 – David Hamre; District 2 – Roger Winter; and District 3 – Jimmy Kaiser.

In accordance with the Bylaws of WREC, the board of directors have ap-

pointed a committee on nominations consisting of nine members in good standing, whereby three members shall be elected from each district of the Cooperative to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical area served by the Cooperative. A list of those appointed will be provided in the February issue of the Rural DeLight. The Nominating Committee will then meet in February to nominate one or more quali-

fied member(s) from each district for each office of director slated for election. Additionally, any fifteen or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty days prior to the annual meeting. Absentee ballots will be available after the window for nominations by petition has closed. Members in attendance at the annual meeting will receive a ballot to cast their vote for each office of director.



HAPPENING NOW

Nominating Committee has been appointed. Begin thinking about director elections.



FEBRUARY

Nominating Committee meets and nominates one or more members from each district



MARCH

Deadline for nomination by petition; request absentee ballots



APRIL

Annual Meeting April 7, 2026 Shooting Star Event Center

Ads

For Sale

2025 Alfalfa/Grass 5x5 Bales 1st \$40, 2nd \$45. 2024 Alfalfa/Grass 5x5 Bales, 1st and 2nd cuttings, \$25/bale. All good quality hay, can load, Lake Park, (218) 841-6149.

Arctic Cat snowmobile engines, 295 Kawasaki, \$275. 245 El Tigre motor, \$150. 2 Cheetah hoods, plus misc., (218) 849-6820.

Erskine 6 ft snow blower was currently on an Allis Chalmers WD45 tractor, \$200. 32 in Seiki TV used little, \$100. Numerous Little Golden books, great condition. 2-month-old Hamilton Beach 1100-watt microwave, \$120. Storage cabinet 5ft high x 2ft wide, 15 1/2 in deep 3 shelves, \$50. Smaller entertainment center, 4ft high x 16in wide x 15in deep w/ drawer on bottom, \$40. Oak entertainment center w/ 2 curiass, beveled glass doors, lights inside, lots of storage w/ 5 drawers, 4 cupboards and front doors that slide. 84 high x 16 deep x 76 high. Must see, \$2,000. Light oak dining room set w/ 6 chairs & 2 large leaves can seat up to 12 people, mint condition, \$2,000, (701) 866-7851.

2002 Polaris 550 fan Classic, electric start, reverse, 2904 miles. L&M Fleet 2 seat flip fish house sled (like new) and Jiffy 10-inch 2 cycle ice auger. All for \$3,000, (701) 412-8397.

John Deere 345 lawn tractor, 18 hp Kawasaki, liquid cooled, hydrostatic w/ snowblower, hard cab, chains, excellent, \$4,750 cash only, (218) 356-8626.

Good selection of Jenkin's skid steer attachments new & some used, snow buckets from 8-12ft, stump grinders, wood splitters, ice scrappers, both hay & pallet forks, (701) 261-3574.

Two snow tires, 20 miles on them, Cooper Endeavor 235/50R/18 had on Chev Impala, 1/2 price \$200 pair, (701) 261-5797.

Chaparral snowmobile (excellent), walk behind snow blower new tires, as is, (218) 584-4603.

1 tote of Legos, \$75. 1 tote Duplos, \$75. 1 tote Thomas the train, \$75. Single bed w/ bed & box spring, \$75. (218) 401-1175.

2003 Dodge 4x4 reg cab pickup, (218) 261-0971.

Wanted

7" pipe cap on end. Radiator drain pipe. Yearling black angus heifer, (218) 584-4603.

Buying guns, gun estates, taxidermy. Let me know what you have. Paying cash. Call or text (701) 866-7246.



Wild Rice Electric is active on Facebook

Follow along: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

Our Ad Policy

- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Email ads: info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads: Wild Rice Electric PO Box 438 Mahnomon, MN 56557
- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print.
- We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.

Preparing for a Rate Adjustment

As energy costs continue to rise, Minnkota Power, our wholesale power provider, has signaled an upcoming rate increase. While this change may affect monthly bills, Wild Rice Electric is committed to keeping the impact on our members as minimal as possible.



How We Manage Rate Changes

When adjustments are necessary, we take a careful, member-focused approach. We work to balance rising costs with the cooperative's long-term financial stability while being sensitive to members' budgets.

Ensuring Fairness

To maintain fairness across our membership, Wild Rice Electric is reviewing all rate classes to ensure they remain balanced and equitable. This assessment

helps us confirm that each class contributes appropriately to the cooperative's overall costs and allows us to make adjustments if any disparities are identified.

Our Ongoing Commitment

Transparency is central to our mission. If rate changes move forward, we will clearly communicate what to expect and when. Our team is always here to answer questions and support members as we continue providing reliable, affordable power for our communities.



As winter sets in, we want to thank our dedicated linemen who brave the cold to keep our communities powered. Their hard work and commitment ensure reliable electricity for all, no matter the weather.

Right-of-Way Clearing Scheduled for 2026

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is preparing for an active year of right-of-way maintenance to help ensure reliable electric service for our members. Keeping these areas clear is essential for reducing outages, improving safety, and maintaining access to our equipment.

Postcards have been mailed to members whose properties fall within this year's planned clearing zones. In addition, our crews will be going door-to-door to provide personal notification and answer any questions. Both Wild Rice Electric staff and contracted crews will be working in the field to complete this important work.

We are pleased to partner with Friest Tree Experts again this year to assist with the clearing efforts. Work is scheduled to begin in January, focusing first on the Richwood and Naytahwaush areas.

We appreciate your cooperation as we work to maintain a safe and reliable electric system for our entire community.





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Email: info@wildriceelectric.com

App: SmartHub



Officers and Directors:

Chair Jim Kaiser, District 3
Vice Chair Larry Sollie, District 1
Secretary .. Mark Habadank, District 2
Treasurer Dave Hamre, District 1

District 1: Jeff Nornes

District 2: Greg LaVoy & Roger Winter

District 3: Randy Bjornson &
Paula Okeson

President & CEO Mike Wade

*This Institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below the state median income (\$71,999 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.

Contact your county EAP service
provider for additional information
and assistance.

Mahube Community Council

PO Box 76
Mahanomen, MN 56557
(218) 935-5022

Mahube Community Council

PO Box 747
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
(218) 847-1385

Energy Assistance Program

3303 US Hwy 59/ PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591
(218) 473-2711 or
(888) 458-1385

West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.

715 11th St N Suite 100
Moorhead, MN 56560
(800) 492-4805/ (218) 685-4486

Inter County Community Council

PO Box 189
Oklee, MN 56742
(218) 796-5144/ 888-778-4008

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

102 N Broadway/ PO Box 607
Crookston, MN 56716
(218) 281-5832/ (800) 584-7020

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

WILD RICE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. MISSION STATEMENT

Energizing our members' future.