

NOVEMBER 2025

VOLTS & VIEWS

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



NORTHSTREAM FIBER
Powered by Roseau Electric Cooperative



**PROGRESSIVE
AG SAFETY DAY**
Learn more on page 2.



VOLTS & VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2025 – Vol. 70, No. 11

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1107 3rd Street N.E.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman Mark Sax
Vice Chairman Brian Grafstrom
Secretary-Treasurer Mike Wahl
Directors Jim Christianson, Shawn Gust,
Kermit Jensen, Ron Storey,
Joe Tesarek, Bob Tuttle

Ryan Severson General Manager
Alex McMillin Assistant Manager
Mark Jennings Manager of Line Operations
Mary Preteau Editor

Regular Business Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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OUTAGE CALLS:

Toll-Free: 1-888-847-8840

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Northwest Angle, Kittson, Marshall,
Pennington and Roseau counties
and parts of Beltrami County:
Ronald Ditsch – 651-368-2195

Lake of the Woods County:
Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

Inspector list is subject to change at any time.

The State of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family or business. Improper wiring can damage your home, your property and equipment, and injure or kill the people you love. Currently, the state does allow homeowners to do their own residential wiring; however, it is critical that the current electrical code is followed. Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
www.gopherstateonecall.org



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PROGRESSIVE AG SAFETY DAY

On Sept. 30, fourth grade students from Greenbush, Badger, Roseau and Warroad gathered at Haugen Family Farms for Progressive Ag Safety Day — a hands-on event focused on agricultural and rural safety, as well as career exploration in agriculture and related fields.



Students rotated through interactive safety sessions, including: Truck & Trailer Safety, Electrical Safety, Mower Safety, Tractor & PTO Safety, Bin Safety, Chemical Safety, Auger Safety, First Aid and ATV Safety.

At Roseau Electric Cooperative, commitment to community is one of the cooperative principles we value deeply, and safety is always a top priority. We were proud to contribute to this important event and support efforts that promote safety and learning for local youth. **Special thanks to Haugen Family Farms for hosting and helping make the day a success!**

Celebrate WITH SAVINGS LED Lighting Rebate

Buy energy-efficient holiday lights and decorations

How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED holiday plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2025.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to Roseau Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2025, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **(Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.)**



Name _____ City/Zip _____
Account # _____ Phone # _____
Address _____

Lights on String	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

MAIL TO: Roseau Electric Cooperative
1107 3rd Street NE, Roseau, MN 56751



FALL, TRADITION & THE HUNT

RYAN SEVERSON, *GENERAL MANAGER*

There's something special about fall in our neck of the woods. The crisp air, the changing leaves and the early morning stillness out in the woods remind me why this is my favorite time of year. Whether you're heading to deer camp, walking the fields with family or simply enjoying a quiet evening around the fire, this season is full of tradition and connection.

At Roseau Electric Cooperative, we see fall as more than just the lead-up to the holidays. It's a time to pause, give thanks and lean into what matters most — community, family and looking out for one another. Those aren't just seasonal sentiments for us, they're part of who we are all year long.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community, but that's more than a nice phrase. It's one of the founding principles that makes co-ops like ours different. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though we work hard to do that, especially when snow starts to fly). We're here to serve the people behind the meters — our members, our neighbors and our friends. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Co-op Appreciation Lunch. Your participation was a meaningful reflection of the strong community we're honored to serve.

Much like preparing for hunting season, we believe in planning ahead and taking care of one another. Programs like Operation Round Up are a great example. When members round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, those small donations go right back into our community, helping local organizations who might be facing a tough season of their own. We would like to extend our thanks to Tim Kuehn for stepping up to serve as the new Operation Round Up

Director for District 1. We also wish to recognize and thank the entire Operation Round Up Board of Directors for their ongoing commitment to this program: Phil Kazmierczak, chair (District 6); Robert Bentow, vice chair (District 5); Laurie Polansky, secretary-treasurer (District 8); Marilyn Grafstrom (District 4); Allison Harder (District 7); Arvid Janson (District 2); Beth Karol (District 3) and Kandy Sundberg (District 9). See the latest ORU recipients on the back page.

We also believe in the power of knowledge. That's why our team visits local schools to teach kids about electrical safety in fun, hands-on ways. Just like hunters pass down safety and responsibility to the next generation, we're proud to do the same when it comes to staying safe around electricity. We're also grateful to Haugen Family Farms for the opportunity to take part in their Ag Safety Day — a meaningful event that helps spread the message of safety and awareness even further.

You'll find our employees out and about in the community, too — volunteering at fall events, coaching football, helping at fundraisers and even sharing stories at deer camp. We live here, we hunt here, we serve here, and we're proud to call this community home.

As the temperature drops, it's a good time to check your heating systems and make sure they're ready for the colder months ahead. A well-maintained system not only keeps your home warm and safe, it can help you save on energy costs, too. Start by scheduling a professional inspection to ensure your furnace or heat pump is running efficiently and safely. Clean or replace air filters regularly to maintain good airflow and indoor air quality. Don't forget to test your carbon monoxide detectors, especially if your heating system runs on gas. **If you have a dual-fuel heating**

system, now is the time to ensure your backup heat source is ready and your fuel supply is sufficient.

These systems use electricity as the primary heat source and switch to gas when being controlled, so keeping that backup fuel stocked is essential for staying warm. Dual-fuel systems are often controlled during periods of high demand, such as frigid winter evenings. However, other factors like generation system maintenance or spikes in market energy costs can also trigger load control, making it even more important to be prepared. This winter, we are preparing for an estimated **200 hours of demand response**, compared to 127 hours last winter.

As the days get shorter and the cold sets in, we know it can be a challenging time for some. If you're struggling with your energy bill, need conservation tips, or want to explore payment options, please reach out. We're here to help — during hunting season, holiday season and every season in between.

At Roseau Electric Cooperative, "concern for community" isn't just a value — it's the heart of who we are. And as we reflect around campfires or from the warmth of our homes, we're especially thankful for the strong, caring community we're part of.

From all of us at Roseau Electric Cooperative, we wish you a safe hunt, a warm home and a wonderful fall season.



A PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to the safety and well-being of all our members. While REC works hard to restore power outages as quickly as possible, recent severe storms in neighboring counties have shown how quickly extended outages can become a serious concern – especially for individuals who rely on electricity to power life-sustaining medical equipment.

To better prepare for these situations, REC is partnering with local public health and emergency management agencies to identify residents who require electricity for critical medical needs. By voluntarily providing your information, you will help us create a confidential list of households that may require additional support if power cannot be restored within the necessary timeframe.

This effort is not only about protecting life and safety, but also about supporting residents so they can safely remain in their homes during prolonged outages. In doing so, we aim to reduce unnecessary ambulance calls and hospital visits, ensuring health care services remain available for all during emergencies.

Together, we can strengthen our community's ability to respond and recover when storms or other events disrupt our electric service.

MEDICAL ACCOUNT REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Name(s) of person(s) who
rely on medical equipment: _____

Medical equipment that requires electricity
(e.g. oxygen concentrator, ventilator, dialysis machine, etc.): _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Relationship to Member: _____ Phone Number: _____



Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Placing your account on our Medical Account list does not guarantee continuous service, prevent power outages, or relieve your responsibility to keep your account in good standing. Power restoration follows a set protocol, and while this list does not ensure your power will be restored first, it helps our team prioritize decisions during widespread or extended outages. At such a time, our list would be shared with our county emergency response partners.

If the individual using life-sustaining equipment cannot be without power for any length of time, Roseau Electric Cooperative recommends developing alternate plans or having a backup source of power such as a generator or battery system.

2026 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

PETITION DEADLINE **TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 2026**

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is organized as a cooperative and is owned by its members. The membership elects a board of directors to represent them in the operation of the cooperative.

Three directors will be elected at the 2026 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 28 at the Roseau School Theater. The directors whose terms expire in 2026 are: Kermit Jensen, District 3 (3-year term); Brian Grafstrom, District 4 (3-year term); and Mike Wahl, District 7 (3-year term).

NOMINATION BY PETITION

No nominating committee will be used. All nominations will be done by petition, including the incumbents.

Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 3, 4 or 7 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.

PETITION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE

Director candidates must pick up a petition and a director packet at Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Roseau. The packet contains

additional forms that must be signed and turned in before the deadline.

PETITION DEADLINE

The cooperative must receive the completed petition **no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026.**

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Tomorrow. Energy. Today.

Petition for Nomination

The following members wish to nominate (insert name) _____, for the three-year (insert "Districts 3, 4 or 7") _____ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the March 28, 2026 election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 5, of the bylaws.

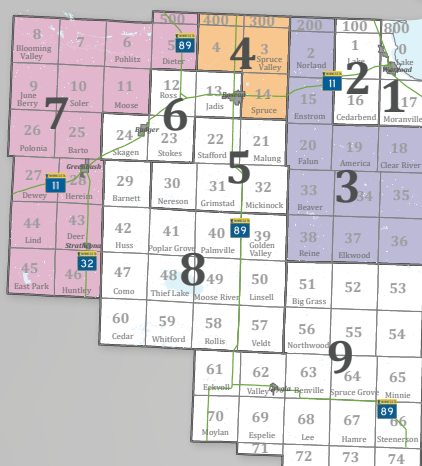
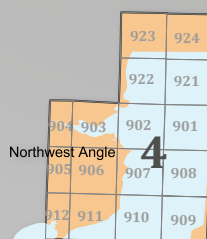
PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	CUSTOMER NO.
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____
19. _____	_____	_____
20. _____	_____	_____

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business Tuesday, January 27, 2026. At the Annual Meeting scheduled for March 28, 2026, elections will be held for a three-year term for one director in District 3, one director in District 4 and one director in District 7.

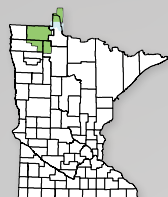
The directors whose terms expire in 2026 are as follows:

DISTRICT 3 3-year Term	DISTRICT 4 3-year Term	DISTRICT 7 3-year Term
Kermit Jensen	Brian Grafstrom	Mike Wahl

Any 10 or more members who reside in District 3, 4 or 7 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of joint membership, only the signature of one joint member shall be acceptable.



Roseau Electric Cooperative
DIRECTOR DISTRICTS



SO, YOU WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR

Three directors will be elected at the 2026 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 28. Directors whose terms expire in 2026 are: Kermit Jensen, District 3; Brian Grafstrom, District 4; and Mike Wahl, District 7.

OBJECTIVES:

- To establish relationships between the board, the membership and the manager
- Define principles and practices
- Delegate authority
- Analyze operations

MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Monthly board meetings:** Board meetings are held 12 times per year, usually the fourth Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Other meetings:** Roseau Electric annual meeting; Minnkota annual meeting; MREA district meetings; other meetings to learn policies and procedures of the electric industry. Expect 5 - 12 extra days per year.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Report to the membership.
- Hire and delegate authority to the manager.
- Maintain legal entity and practices.
- Review and update bylaws.
- Require a continuous member and public relations program.
- Keep informed and grow in skills of the program.
- See that members are informed of operations.
- See that accurate minutes are prepared and maintained.
- Consider and adopt plans for objectives and goals.
- Review and update policies.
- Examine and approve annual budget and cash flow.
- Review and approve a sound financial plan.
- Establish policies and programs for good employee relationships.
- Assist in planning meetings.
- Establish special or standing committees.
- Review responsibilities of board and manager.
- Approve the selection of consultants and attorney.
- Establish measures and controls to determine effectiveness of management.
- Authorize and review annual financial audit.
- Implementation and enforcement of this position description is the responsibility of the board of directors.

Reach out for WARMTH

Roseau Electric donates to Northwest Community Action



Anne Bertilrud, energy assistance director of Northwest Community Action, receives two checks totaling more than \$42,000 from Alex McMillin, assistant manager, on behalf of Roseau Electric Cooperative and CoBank.

Once again, Northwest Community Action is grateful for the support of Roseau Electric and CoBank toward the Reach Out for Warmth (ROFW) program.

"We have many families facing obstacles that make it difficult to maintain their obligations to their utility company," says Sharon Millner, executive director. "The ROFW program is a blessing to many who may 'fall through the cracks' due to income, medical issues and other circumstances. These donations allow our agency to come alongside our northwestern neighbors in a time of need. We all know how critical our utilities are in maintaining our homes. We are thankful for our partners like Roseau Electric and their generosity."

CoBank and Roseau combined to make a donation of more than \$42,000 to Northwest Community Action. The CoBank money comes from its Sharing Success program.

A national nonprofit cooperative bank, CoBank matches contributions made by customers to the charitable organizations of their choice, with a maximum of \$15,000.

CO-OP APPRECIATION DAY

Thanks to all who attended and made the day a success!



PRIZE WINNERS

REC \$250 Bill Credit

JoAnne Heppner

REC \$100 Bill Credit

Connie Nelson

REC \$50 Bill Credit

**Dianne Dahl | Brad Fevold | Bob Glen
Steve Nelson | Becky Dunham**

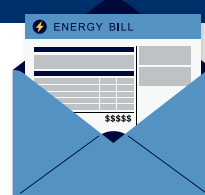
NorthStream Fiber Wireless Bluetooth Speaker/Charger

Darrin Smedsmo

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.



NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION

PO Box 67, Badger, MN 56714-0067
218-528-3258 or 800-568-5329 | nwcaa.org

BI-COUNTY CAP, INC.

6603 Bemidji Ave. N, Bemidji, MN 56601-8669 | 218-751-4631



YOU CAN ALSO APPLY ONLINE:

<https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us>

Annual Notice of Federal Lifeline Program and Telephone Assistance Plan

You may be eligible for assistance on your telephone or internet bill if you receive benefits from certain low-income assistance programs. There are two programs:

The Federal Lifeline Program offers a monthly discount of \$5.25 on some landline and wireless telephone service plans. Lifeline also offers discounts of \$9.25 on some broadband internet service plans. You may receive the Lifeline discount on one service per household. The definition of a "household" is anyone living at an address including children, relatives, people not related to you, etc., who share income(s) and household expenses.

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offers a monthly credit of \$10 on your landline telephone service plan. You may receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

Household Size	Income (48 contiguous states, D.C., and territories)
1	\$21,128
2	\$28,553
3	\$35,978
4	\$43,403
5	\$50,828
6	\$58,253
7	\$65,678
8	\$73,103
For each additional person, add \$7,425	

Qualifications: The telephone or broadband service must be in your name. You must show proof that you or a member of your household participates in at least one of the following programs or is income eligible:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

If you do not participate in any of the programs listed above, you may qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact Roseau Electric or download an application at mn.gov/puc. One application may be used to apply for both the Lifeline Program and TAP. Return the application and proof of eligibility to our office. It can take up to two months for discounts to appear on your bill. Discounts cannot be applied to past-due bills. You must pay the phone bill until that time.

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	September 2024	September 2025	September 2024	September 2025
Members	6,708	6,737	6,708	6,737
kWh purchased	10,516,310	10,082,761	107,611,142	108,776,009
% change		-4.12%		1.08%
Revenue	1,482,137	1,628,428	13,898,933	14,960,498
Cost of power	853,545	895,778	8,274,729	8,709,522
Other expenses	585,629	693,047	5,446,441	5,480,846
Operating margins	42,963	39,603	177,763	770,130
Non-operating margins	31,120	(81)	158,886	65,906
Patronage dividends	14,304	16,116	147,394	153,034
Total margins	88,387	55,639	484,043	989,071

member connection

ENERGY TIP

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11
Veterans Day;
Office is closed

November 21
Electric bill due

November 27
Happy Thanksgiving;
Office is closed

March 28
2026 Annual Meeting;
Districts 3, 4, & 7 are up for director elections

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 218-463-1543

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-Free: 1-888-847-8840
(main outage call center)

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-252-1166 or 811

PAY BY PHONE

1-877-999-3412

SMARTHUB

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE

roseauelectric.coop



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc



**OPERATION
ROUND UP®
GRANTS TOTAL**

\$15,386

The Operation Round Up® (ORU) board met recently and a total of eight grants totaling **\$15,386** were awarded.

At the discretion of the ORU board, grants may be denied for a number of reasons. The top two reasons for most denials are funds would be spent outside of our service territory and/or funds would be spent for disposable or supply-type items.

Do you know of a worthy nonprofit organization in Roseau Electric's service territory that is raising money for a project? Please print an Operation Round Up Grant Application and Guidelines form from our website and get it to the organization. **The next application deadline is Feb. 28, 2026**, with the decisions made and grant awards paid out by the end of March 2026. Thank you for your part in Operation Round Up.

The ORU board of directors is as follows: Phil Kazmierczak, chair (District 6); Robert Bentow, vice chair (District 5); Laurie Polansky, secretary-treasurer (District 8); Marilyn Grafstrom (District 4); Allison Harder (District 7); Arvid Janson (District 2); Beth Karol (District 3); Kandy Sundberg (District 9) and Tim Kuehn (District 1).

**The following organizations have been
awarded Operation Round Up® grants**

Benwood Community Center <i>Main Hall Cooling</i>	\$2,000
Fourtown Grygla Sportsman Club <i>Grande Corner Playground Equipment</i>	\$2,000
Malung Community Center <i>Automated External Defibrillator (AED)</i>	\$2,422
Northland Range & Gun Club <i>Clubhouse & Gazebo Roof Replacement</i>	\$1,000
Northland Threshing Bee <i>New Ice Cream Shack</i>	\$2,500
Roseau County Historical Society <i>Security Camera System</i>	\$1,000
Roseau Fire Department <i>Thermal Camera Upgrade</i>	\$2,464
Wannaska Lions <i>Trailer</i>	\$2,000
Total	\$15,386