

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

RLEC
APRIL 2025



**87TH ANNUAL
MEETING RECAP**

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Vice President Bonnie Christians
Secretary-Treasurer Colette Kujava
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Jennifer Benier-Linder, Matt Derosier,
Lars Dyrud, Krist Olson
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Steve Conely Manager of Electric
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Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services
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**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
1-800-252-1166 or 811****MINNESOTA STATE
ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS**

Pennington and Marshall Counties:
Ronald Ditsch: (218) 779-6758

Red Lake and Polk Counties:

Todd Knaack: (763) 516-0344

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. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The inspectors can be reached weekday mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

**Be Ready for Storm Season**
Preparedness is the Best Defense

by Stephanie Johnson

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, outdoor walks, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms. Red Lake Electric crews are always prepared (32640 Joel O Stolaas) and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Red Lake Electric's Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety (25513 George Olson) caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 218-253-2200 – this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Red Lake Electric, we recommend that you make a plan today — because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

**OPERATION ROUND UP®**
GRANTS TOTAL \$12,000

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 23 grants to area nonprofit and community organizations that totaled **\$12,000**. Since its inception in 1993, 1,125 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$696,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants (26893 Della M Srnsky) from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, almost 97% of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

The following organizations were awarded Round Up funds to help the disadvantaged:

- TRF Area Food Shelf: \$500 to help purchase food to distribute.
- Falls DAC (TRF): \$500 to help fund a parking lot resurfacing project.

Three area emergency service providers were given grants:

- Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance Service: \$1,000 to help purchase office chairs and EMT jackets.
- Newfolden Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 to help fund the Water Tender project.
- Goodridge Area Fire and Rescue: \$1,000 to help outfit their new EMS vehicle.

One grant was given to a historical organization:

- Goodridge Area Historical Society: \$500 to help with upkeep and maintenance of historical sites.

Five grants to benefit the general public were awarded to:

- NCH Trails to Treatments: \$500 to help those affected by cancer in our area with out-of-pocket expenses and supply grants.

- Goodridge Lion Tamers: \$500 to help purchase a ceiling-mounted projector and screen.

- Goodridge Lions Club: \$500 to help update lighting in the hall and change the heating to long-term electric.

- Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care: \$500 to help fund maintenance primary care for patients in Pennington & Red Lake counties.

- West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District: \$500 to help purchase equipment and installation for a webcam to watch nature near Plummer, Minnesota.

The following three grants were given focusing on senior care:

- Tri-Community Living at Home/Block Nurse Program: \$500 to help support volunteer training and appreciation activities.

- Goodridge Senior Citizens Center: \$500 to help paint and repair the center's exterior building.

- Middle River-Thief Lake Living at Home Program: \$500 to help fund activities and home health care for seniors living at home.

Two grants were given for youth and senior participants:

- Power of Produce (TRF): \$500 to help purchase healthy local produce for youth and seniors at local farmer's markets.

- Power of Produce (Crookston): \$500 to help purchase healthy local produce for youth and seniors at local farmers markets.

The following seven organizations received funds focused on youth programs:

- TRF Chapter of the MN Deer Hunters Association: \$500 to help provide a meal and gift to youth during the fall youth day event.

- Pennington County Sportsmen Club: \$250 to help promote and fund youth education.

- Pennington County D.A.R.E.: \$250 to help purchase workbooks, teaching aids and t-shirts for youth.

- Pennington County Teens Toward Zero Deaths: \$250 to help cover the costs of an annual conference to educate youth.

- Win-E-Mac Patriot Explorer Program: \$250 to help support program operations and help youth job shadow.

- Blazin' Saddles: \$500 to help cover costs of camps and retreats.

- Little Brother/Little Sister Program (TRF): \$500 to help fund mentoring youth programs.

The RLE Trust board of directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are Stacy Bierman – President, Thief River Falls; Pamela Vettleson – Vice President, Plummer; Laura Kasprowicz – Secretary/Treasurer, Thief River Falls. Ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Stephanie Johnson of Gatzke, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting their website at redlakeelectric.com. The next deadline for when the Operation Round Up grant applications are due is **Sept. 19, 2025**.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

87TH ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The 87th annual meeting of Red Lake Electric Cooperative was held March 26 at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls. The meeting was attended by approximately 180 cooperative members and guests.

President Peter Mosbeck called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was opened with the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Lars Dyrud and introduction of the board of directors and special guest by board president Peter Mosbeck.

The meeting agenda included: approval of 2024 annual meeting minutes by secretary/treasurer Colette Kujava, the president's report by Peter Mosbeck, election of directors by Sam Schmitz, and the general manager's and financial report by Peter Mosbeck.

DIRECTORS ELECTED TO RED LAKE ELECTRIC'S BOARD



Colette Kujava
District 3



Matt Derosier
District 6



Peter Mosbeck
District 9

Michael J. Burns of Michael J. Burns Architects, Ltd., is currently working with RLEC on plans for a new building. Burns reviewed the project mission statement: To construct a facility that reflects the dedication to excellence and commitment to service the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, ensuring that our new facility (31630 Diane C Hanson) meets the highest standards and serves as a reliable establishment for future generations. The project schedule was reviewed, studies presented, and new building plans displayed.

Brianne Ellison, senior at Lincoln High School, attended the June 2024 Youth Tour as a delegate for RLEC. She spent a week with hundreds of other students around the U.S. learning about cooperatives, interacting with U.S. representatives and senators, then exploring Washington, D.C., memorials and museums. Ellison gave a day-to-day breakdown of her experiences and thanked the

cooperative (23980 Erik Jensen) for a great opportunity.

Annually employees are recognized when surpassing five-year increments of service. The following were recognized: Casey Thronson, Crew Foreman (20 years); Troy Schmitz, Crew Foreman (20 years); Kelli Brateng, Member Services Manager (15 years); Aaron Derosier Journeyman Lineman (15 years); Jenny Kelley, Administrative Manager (10 years); Javen Eidsmoe, Power Use Advisor (10 years); and Cindy Pahlen, Administrative Assistant (5 years).

Door prizes were awarded, and a sit-down meal was provided. The meal was catered by Legacy Event Center.

Congratulations to our reelected directors, Peter Mosbeck and Colette Kujava, and our newly elected director, Mathieu Derosier. They were elected at the annual meeting and will each serve three-year terms.



Carol Kvasager won the battery charger/booster giveaway.



Jerome Hess won the Milwaukee Spot Light giveaway.



Meeting attendees enjoyed a meal catered by the Legacy Event Center.



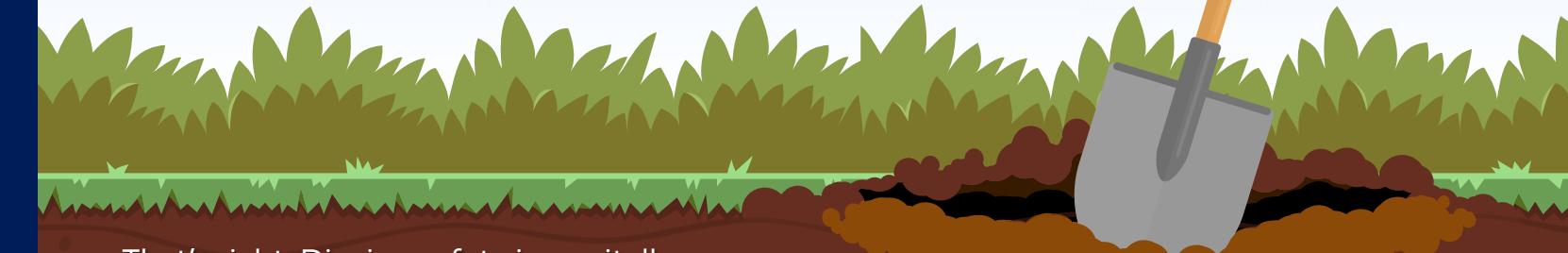
West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District receives Operation Round Up funds.

WINNERS OF DOOR PRIZES:

- \$300 Energy Credit
Lonnie Olson
- \$75 Energy Credit
Leland Nelson
- \$150 Energy Credit
Corey Skjerven
- \$100 Energy Credit
Stacy Blawat
- \$75 Energy Credit
Jerome Hess
- \$75 Energy Credit
Robert Howard
- \$75 Energy Credit
Chuck Flage
- Baking Set
Del Schob
- Milwaukee Spot Light
Jerome Hess
- Battery Charger/
Booster
Carol Kvasager
- Baking Set
Del Schob

April is National Safe Digging Month

If you are planning an outdoor project, don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**



That's right. Digging safety is so vitally important that there is an entire month dedicated to it. Your yard may be hiding underground utility pipes, cables and wires, so if you're planning a spring project that involves a shovel or excavator, it's critical to call 8-1-1 before you start. A quick call can keep your project on schedule, your family safe and your neighbors connected to the utilities they need.

Calling is critical

Installing a
mailbox?
CALL 8-1-1.



Planting a
garden?
CALL 8-1-1.



Building a
deck?
CALL 8-1-1.



The process is easy

1 NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or submit a request online two to three days before you begin. The utilities affected by your digging will be notified of your project.



2 WAIT

It may take two to three days for utilities to send a locator to mark any underground lines.



3 CONFIRM

Compare the marks on your yard to the list of utilities contacted by 8-1-1. Confirm that all entities have responded to the request.



4 RESPECT

Protect and follow the utility markers – the flags and/or paint will remain important guides throughout your project.



5 DIG CAREFULLY

Be sure to avoid digging within two feet of the markers on all sides. If you can't, you'll need to consider moving your project.



Scan the code with your phone to submit a request online, or visit call811.com.

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY 2025

Earth Day is marked every year on April 22, but for rural electric cooperatives, every day is a day to think about what we can do better to help preserve the air, water, land and wildlife of our region. Together with the 10 other member cooperatives in our Minnkota Power Cooperative system, we share a proud history of environmental (28746 Jessie Dingman) stewardship. That commitment carries on today in some of our latest project focuses.

FLICKERTAIL WIND FARM

In January 2025, Minnkota announced the newest addition to its wind power fleet – a 370-megawatt (MW) wind farm to be developed near New Rockford, North Dakota. Flickertail Wind Farm will be owned and operated by PRC Wind, while Minnkota will purchase all energy produced under a long-term agreement. The project is scheduled to be operational in late 2027, at which point approximately 50% of Minnkota's electric generation capacity will come from carbon-free resources.



BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and its partner co-ops have been working hard to help members find ways to electrify their lives to reduce energy (30657 Kaylyn A Huffman) consumption and lower their dependence on fuels used for home heating, water heating, transportation and more. Through the Value of Electricity program, the co-ops offer rebates and reduced rates on new electric heating systems, electric water heaters and electric vehicle chargers. Those incentives have resulted in big change around Minnkota's region. Over the last decade, participants in the program have installed 58,589 kilowatts (kW) of electric technologies and 15,279 tons of electric heat pump systems. That's a great team effort!

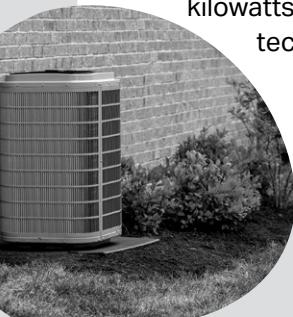


PROJECT TUNDRA

In addition to adding more carbon-free energy to its portfolio, Minnkota continues to explore an effort to further reduce emissions at its Milton R. Young Station coal-based power plant near Center, North Dakota. Project Tundra aims to build one of the world's largest carbon capture facilities at the plant, with an objective to capture and safely store up to 4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.

MONARCH CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In 2024, Minnkota and its member cooperatives became partners in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCA) for the monarch butterfly. This program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is specific to energy and transportation rights of way, and offers regulatory coverage for those entities who create, enhance and maintain habitats for monarch butterflies, a species that's vulnerable to landing on the endangered species list. Minnkota has arrived at the activation stage of program, which has been in the works for several years, gaining support from cooperatives and their members around the region.



Did you know?



\$ FOR A DAY OF
ELECTRICITY



= \$ FOR A NEW
TRAVEL
UMBRELLA



*comparison based on average household energy usage

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO...



- View daily and monthly energy use.
- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.

Sign up for SmartHub:
redlakeelectric.com

For assistance, call us during regular business hours at
218-253-2168 or send an email to info@redlakeelectric.com.



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to info@redlakeelectric.com or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430.

Lemon Crumb Bars

INGREDIENTS

For the Crust:

- 2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 12 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled

For the Lemon Filling:

- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 4 large egg yolks, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup fresh lemon juice (about 4-5 lemons)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Line a 9×9 inch baking pan with parchment paper.
2. For the crust, mix flour, sugars, salt and baking powder in a large bowl. Pour in melted butter and mix until crumbly.
3. Press 2/3 of the mixture into the prepared pan. Bake for 15 minutes.
4. While the crust bakes, whisk together condensed milk, egg yolks, cream and salt in a large bowl. Gradually whisk in lemon juice until smooth.
5. Pour filling over hot crust. Sprinkle remaining crumb mixture on top.
6. Bake for 15-20 minutes, until top is golden (26634 Randy Sondrol) and filling is set.
7. Cool completely, then refrigerate for at least 4 hours before cutting and serving.

POWER PLANT TOUR

JUNE 16-17, 2025

Red Lake Electric Cooperative and Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative plan to co-sponsor a tour of the Milton R. Young Station power plant June 16-17, 2025.

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks. An afternoon stop will be taken at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and a relaxing evening will be spent at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, North Dakota, which will include a banquet sponsored by Minnkota Power Cooperative.

The second day of the tour includes visiting the Milton R. Young generation station near Center, North Dakota. It will also include a drive through the open-pit lignite mines (weather permitting) to see the mining operation firsthand.

You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate in the tour is \$100 per person double occupancy, \$175 single occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and/or spouses.

The tour group will depart from Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Red Lake Falls at 7 a.m. Monday, June 16. The approximate time of return is 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 17.

Registrations and payment are due by **May 30, 2025**. If you have not taken this tour, sign up today for a learning experience.

POWER PLANT TOUR REGISTRATION

June 16 and 17, 2025

Signup deadline is May 30, 2025

NAME OF PARTICIPANT(S)

ADDRESS(ES)

Phone Number _____ Number of Participants _____

Account No. _____ Amount Enclosed _____

\$100 Per Participant Double Occupancy – \$175 Per Participant Single Occupancy

Return to RLEC, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750, along with your check. RLEC will contact you later with details. Your check or deposit will be returned if the tour should be canceled for some reason. If it becomes necessary for you to cancel out on the trip, it is required that you notify RLEC at least 48 hours before departure to be eligible for a refund. Registration for the trip is on a first-come, first-served basis with a limited number of openings. If you have previously taken the trip, you will be put on a space availability standby.



BNI Coal mine



Milton R. Young Station



Minnkota Power Cooperative Headquarters