

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



JULY/AUGUST 2024

CO-OPS THEIR COMMUNITIES

We love being a part of the community. The employees at Red Lake Electric Cooperative live, work and play in the same neighborhoods as the members we serve – creating deep and lasting ties to the community. That's why we feel a great responsibility to provide our friends and neighbors with the most reliable and affordable power possible.

A driving principle for a cooperative (Gerda Koskela 24507) is its concern for the community. Check out all the ways Red Lake Electric Cooperative is caring for you – the members of the cooperative family.

1

COMMITTED TO AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY

Every decision and plan we make is to keep the electricity you use every day affordable and available 24/7. As a not-for-profit, our goal is reliability – not profits. With a board of directors made up of our membership, we can ensure our business operates according to the needs of the membership.

2

LEADERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

More than 40% of our energy generation capacity comes from carbon-free resources like wind and hydro, but that's just the start. Members also have the option (Skyler Bergeson 31248) to enroll in the Infinity Renewable Energy program to add even more wind to their power mix.

3

HELP WITH SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY

Our team loves to save members money! If you set up an electric water heater, heat pump or even an EV charger on our voluntary off-peak program – which offers nearly half the standard electric rate – you will see major savings each month. We also offer rebates to help with the installation of new electric technology. And if you need advice on how to lower your monthly bill, we are always happy to take your call!

4

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES

A big part of the cooperative way of life is giving back to the members we serve. Besides returning end-of-year margins to our members as capital credits, Red Lake Electric also awards scholarships to local high school seniors, sponsors youth trips to Washington, D.C., conducts safety demonstrations for all ages and so much more! Red Lake Electric also participates in Operation Round Up®, through which members can voluntarily round up their electric bills, with the additional funds distributed to local charity organizations.

For more on Operation Round Up and how to apply for a donation, visit redlakeelectric.com/member-services/operation-round-up.

Learn more about how your local energy cooperative cares for its community at redlakeelectric.com.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Peter Mosbeck
Vice President Bonnie Christians
Secretary-Treasurer Colette Kujava
Directors Cecil Anderson, Mark Hanson,
Jennifer Benier-Linder, Randy Versdahl,
Lars Dyrud, Krist Olson

Stephanie Johnson General Manager

Steve Conely Manager of Electric
System Operations

Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services

Christie Klipping Manager of Finance & Admin.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (218) 253-2168
Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068
Fax: (218) 253-2630



AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS (218) 253-2200

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com
Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

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 inspec-
tion of the work. A rough-in inspection must
be made before any wiring is covered. A fi-
nal inspection is also required. Please visit
www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The
inspectors can be reached weekday morn-
ings 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.*

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

by Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA)

The 2024 legislative session
adjourned in complete chaos at
midnight on Sunday, May 19.
Democrats, who control the House,
Senate and Governor’s office, rushed
to pass their legislative agenda before
the constitutional deadline over
Republican objections.

For cooperative member-owners,
the session was mostly a success with
no new costly mandates, the passage of
a bipartisan permitting reform bill and
an expansion of scholarship eligibility
for students interested in an energy
career. Nonetheless, the inability of the
legislature to agree on a tax bill that
includes commonsense property tax
relief for cooperative member-owners
remains a disappointment.

Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act

The Minnesota Energy Infrastruc-
ture Permitting Act was a bipartisan
clean energy permitting reform pack-
age that incorporated various ideas
with widespread support from energy
stakeholders. The package will make
the electric sector permitting faster
and more cost-effective. This bill was
a high priority for many stakeholders,
especially clean energy advocates, who
consider permitting reform critical to
building the wind and solar generation
and transmission infrastructure need-
ed to achieve carbon-free energy by
2040. The legislation should help save
member-owners money while accel-
erating the construction of necessary
infrastructure to improve reliability
during the transition to cleaner energy.

No New Mandates

One of the top priorities of the
Minnesota Rural Electric Association

(MREA), the statewide association
representing electric cooperative
member-owners, was ensuring no
new mandates were imposed on elec-
tric cooperatives this session. Several
bills, including distributed generation
mandates, interconnection man-
dates and a cooperative governance
mandate, were introduced or carried
over from last year. However, none of
these bills moved forward or passed
thanks in part to MREA’s work and
the work of member-owners advo-
cating for their cooperatives. Cooper-
atives are governed by the members
they serve, and heavy-handed gov-
ernment mandates only work to raise
costs, undermine local democracy
and add layers of unhelpful bureau-
cracy. We are grateful to legislators in
both parties who stood up and said
“no” to additional mandates.

Workforce Development Scholarships

MREA’s proposal to add “ener-
gy” to the list of industries eligible
for workforce development schol-
arships at Minnesota state colleges
and universities passed as part of the
final Higher Education bill and could
mean more aid to students looking to
join our industry.

The Workforce Development
Scholarship Program provides aid
of \$2,500 per academic year (\$1,250
per semester) for students enrolled
in programs in nine select indus-
tries and is now available to those
in lineworker education. This pro-
gram is available at all Minnesota
state schools but is geared toward
full-time, two-year associate degree
programs. It is especially valuable to
students because it has more expan-
sive uses than other forms of financial
aid, is provided in addition to other

scholarship and grant opportuni-
ties, and does not have an income
limit. Because other types of state
aid go only to low-income students
and max out before paying for the
full cost of attendance, this scholar-
ship can often close the gap between
a student’s full cost and other aid.

Cooperatives can now work with
their local Minnesota state schools
to set up a matching scholarship for
students who choose to study an en-
ergy-related field. The law sets aside
10% of the funding for this program
every year to increase awards at col-
leges that successfully develop local
business partnerships and receive
matching scholarship dollars from
those businesses. This program is
a great opportunity to develop our
future workforce while helping local
students afford college.

Property Tax Relief

MREA’s bipartisan property tax
clarification bill did not pass, as no
final tax bill was agreed upon before
the closing moments of the session
when a monster omnibus bill was
pieced together. The provision was a
priority in Governor Walz’s supple-
mental budget as well as the House
and Senate Omnibus Tax bills and
faced no opposition. The bill would
have provided property tax relief to
cooperatives by clarifying existing
property tax law. The bill remains

a priority for cooperatives across
the state and will hopefully pass
next session. In the meantime, the
MREA is working with the Minne-
sota Department of Revenue to help
alleviate the problem until a perma-
nent solution is signed into law.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges and
last-minute chaos, the 2024 legisla-
tive session brought several positive
outcomes for Minnesota’s electric
cooperative member-owners. The
passage of crucial permitting
reforms, the prevention of new
costly mandates and the expansion
of workforce development scholar-
ships are significant wins. However,
the lack of progress on property tax
relief remains a key issue that we
will continue (Richard J Murphy
30808) to address in future sessions.
The Minnesota Rural Electric Asso-
ciation, alongside member coopera-
tives, remains committed to advo-
cating for policies that support the
affordability, reliability and sustain-
ability of our energy infrastructure.
As we move forward, we will keep
working tirelessly to ensure that
the voices of cooperative members
are heard and their needs met. To
help lend your voice in support of
cooperative values, you can sign up
for alerts at [https://voicesforcoopera-
tivepower.com](https://voicesforcooperativepower.com).

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.



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.

Big Mac Salad

INGREDIENTS

Sauce/Dressing

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp. finely diced sweet onion
- 2 tbsp. ketchup
- 1 tsp. prepared yellow mustard
- 1 tbsp. sweet pickle relish
- 1 tsp. white vinegar (or lemon juice)
- 1/4 tsp. sweet paprika
- 1/8 tsp. kosher salt

Salad

- Nonstick spray
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 6 cups shredded iceberg lettuce
- 1/2 cup finely diced onions
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup finely diced dill pickles
- Toasted sesame seeds , for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make the dressing: Whisk all the
dressing ingredients together. (If it’s
too thick to drizzle, you can thin it
out with just a bit of water.) Set aside
while you cook the beef (or cover and
refrigerate if using later).
2. Cook the beef: Warm a large nonstick
pan over medium-high heat. Once
hot, spray with nonstick spray and add
the ground beef. Cook, undisturbed
for 1 minute, so it can develop a nice
brown color. Then sauté, breaking it
up into tiny crumbles, until cooked
through (Kenton Kainz 27920) and no
pink remains. Drain off the fat, then
season with the salt, pepper, and
garlic powder. Transfer beef to
a shallow bowl to cool slightly.
3. Assemble the salad: In rows, divide the
lettuce between 4 salad bowls (about
1 1/2 cups each.) Top with about 1/3
cup beef, the cheddar cheese, diced
onion, and pickles. Drizzle about 3
tablespoons of the Big Mac sauce over
• each salad and toss to coat. Garnish
• with a little bit of toasted sesame
• seeds and enjoy.
• • • • •

SCHOLARSHIPS

2024 RECIPIENTS

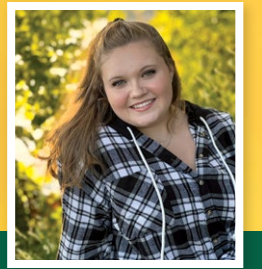
Each year, Red Lake Electric Cooperative provides scholarships for graduating seniors at each of the high schools operating throughout the cooperative's service area. The recipients are selected by the scholarship selection committee of the recipients' high schools. There were 18 recipients this year with each student receiving \$500. The funds for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits. Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients!



Gretta Gradzielewski
Lincoln High School
Alan & Amanda Gradzielewski



Tessa Hoglo
Marshall County Central High School
Troy & Sara Hoglo



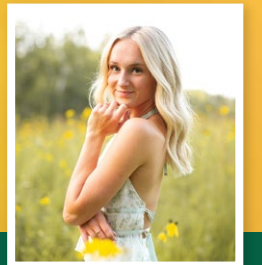
Braya Johnson
Lincoln High School
Brent & Brenda Johnson



Emma Johnson
Warren Alvarado Olso School
Mark & Jane Johnson



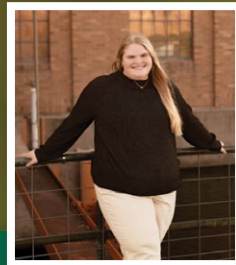
Emilea Johnson
Goodridge High School
Brian & Tracy Johnson



Jennifer Johnson
Red Lake County Central High School
Jeremiah Johnson & Catherine Johnson



Mya Bregier
Lincoln High School
Jason & Cori Bregier



Brooklyn Brummund
Lafayette High School
Susan Brummund & Derek Brummund



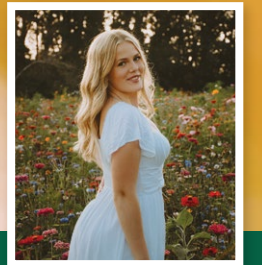
Katelyn Christensen
Crookston High School
Brian & Jessica Christensen



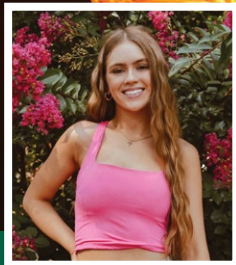
Carter Lee Johnsrud
Goodridge High School
Clifton & Jena Johnsrud



Caden Marquis
Goodridge High School
David & Lori Marquis



Ella Moen
Red Lake County Central High School
Jason & Shannon Moen



Molly Cullen
Grygla-Gatzke High School
Sarah Madison



Nadia Delorme
Lafayette High School
Tom & Lisa Delorme



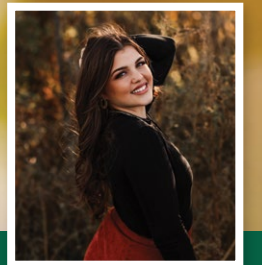
Jamie Flatgard
Red Lake County Central High School
Craig & Shelly Flatgard



Isabelle Morniville
Win-E-Mac High School
Craig Morniville & Alysia Schmitz



Brynn Olson
Lincoln High School
Terry & Stacy Olson



Brooke Tofstad
Win-E-Mac High School
Ben & Kristi Tofstad

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

The following people have refunds due to them. Checks mailed to their last-known address have been returned by the Postal Service. These former members may contact Red Lake Electric by calling the office at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068 or via email at info@redlakeelectric.com

ABRAHAMSON, TIMOTHY J. AGNES, ORLEAN ALLEN, LEE ALTEPETER, DOROTHY ANDERSON, SARAH R. ANDERSON, TRAVIS S. ANDERSON, ANGELA ANDERSON, ARDA ARMSTRON, KELLY ASP, JOSEPH L. AUBOL, DUANE AURORA LOAN SERVICES AVCO FINANCIAL SERVICES BAC FIELD SERVICES BACON, DAN BAKKEN, MILTON G. BARTH, ANDY D. BASKI, CHARLIE C. BATES, A. J. BAUNE, ROBERT BENEDICK, JODY J. BERGMAN, JAMES BEYER, STEVE BJORGAARD, EDWARD R. BJORGAARD, DYLAN BLOMQUIST, JASON BOMAN, DAVID J. BORNEMAN, CHAD BORNHOLDT, JOHN E. BOX, BRADLEY J. BRAVO, VIRGINIA BREN, BEN BRIDEN, WILLIAM BRING, MICHAEL A. BRINKMAN, WESLEY BRULE, GLORIA BRUMWELL, DONALD BUDNICK, YVONNE BURIAN, MARLIS A. BUSSE, LEROY CALVERT, GARRY CAMARA, AUNDREA CAMERON, TROY CANTWELL, DONNA CARLIN, SETH CARLSON, KIM CARTER, CYNTHIA CASAVAN, JENNIFER L. CASTILLO, KOLBY A. CLEARWATER CHURCH CLOUD, FREDA CONDOR, LINDA CONWAY, JOSHUA CURREY, ROLLAND CWIKLA, FRANCES CZABIEWSKI, KELLI DAHL, CARMEN DAHLIN, DANIEL DAHLSTROM, MICHELLE DEL VECCHIO, RONALD OR PAM DENAULT, LEONA M. DENTON, DANIEL S. DESROCHER, COLETTE A. DISSE, JAMES DONARSKI, LEO DONNELL, LYLE DORN, LARRY J. DORR, ROBERT J. DUFFY, LONNA DUMMER, RICHARD L. DURBIN, PAUL DURHEIM, MONA R.	DYRDAL, DAVID E. ECKERT, MIKE EDGAR, DENISE EIA, SCOTT OR JULIE EIDE, DONN C. EISERT, MAXINE L. ELLISON, JOHN F. ENGVAL, JIM ERICKSON, WAYNE OR AMY ERICKSON, LOIS ERICKSON, JILL OR TODD FAHLSTROM, BRIAN OR SANDY FAIRBANKS, ANTHONY FAIRMAN, JOYCE FALDET, ALVINA FALLON, JOLENE R. FARLEY, JOHN OR MARY FAYETTE, TERRY M. FOLDEN, EUGENE FOSTER, MICHAEL FRANK, LAVONNE FULLER, ERMA HANSEN FYHRIE, TROY L. GARCEAU, BRIAN GARDNER, MEXETTA RUTH GAST, LEE ANN GEER, BARBARA GEER, BRIANNA GENEREUX REALTY GOOD, LARRY GOULET, JOY GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH GRAM, DARIN W. GREEN, COREY D. GREEN, DENNIS R. 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WEGGE, DEAN WELLENATING, TWILA WEST, JESSE WHYTE, DUANE WIERSMA, MARY WIGNESS, STEVE WIK, STANLEY WILDE, JARROD OR KARI WILLS, JENNIFER L. WINJUM, CHARLES OR DEBRA WISETH, MARILYN WISETH, BRADY WITTISH, BRIAN WOODS, ALAN E. YOOS, FRED C. YOUNGMAN, PAUL ZORNES, WAYNE
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NEW RATE INCREASE

Effective September 2024 (October 2024 Bill)

As a not-for-profit organization, it is necessary for Red Lake Electric Cooperative (Frank Ehling 24658) to recover the costs of doing business, as well as maintain enough margins to reinvest in the system for reliability and cover repayment of debt. This practice ensures long-term financial stability for the cooperative. Red Lake Electric Cooperative staff have found that rising costs of services, materials and interest rates continue to have a significant impact on the essential things we need to supply reliable power to our members.

Since 2020, we have seen the following price increases in materials:

- Underground Transformers: **300%**
- Overhead Transformers: **175%**
- Digger Truck (Line Truck): **150%**
- Cable/Conductor: **70% - 130%**
- Poles: **130%**
- Ground Rods: **200%**
- Cross Arms: **40% - 50%**
- Hardware (Bolts, Washers, Etc.): **60% - 90%**

With all the financial pressure to consider, your board of directors has had to act on a rate increase recommendation (Eric J Sirek 30710) put forth by the staff. A member with a residential service (Rate 1) will see roughly an \$8.00 to \$11.00 monthly increase on their electric bill.

This increase will take effect for September’s usage that will be billed in October.

Rate 4, Interruptible Service, over 75 kVA Transformer	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge	\$64.00	\$66.00
All Kilowatt-Hours	\$0.068	\$0.070
Multiphase Surcharge	\$22.00	\$25.00

Off-Peak Heating Rates	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Off-Peak Equipment Charge	\$5.75	No Change
Short-Term Control per kWh	\$0.079	No Change
Long-Term Control per kWh	\$0.056	No Change

Security Lighting Service	Current Rate	New Rate
Metered LED Security Lighting	\$8.00	No Change
Unmeter LED Security Lighting	\$9.00	No Change

Rate 1, General Service	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge		
1.5 - 25 kVA Transformer	\$40.00/\$43.00	\$45.00
26 - 75 kVA Transformer	\$48.00	\$50.00
All Kilowatt-Hours	\$0.110	\$0.115
Multiphase Surcharge	\$22.00	\$25.00

Rate 2, On-Peak Service, over 75 kVA Transformer	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge	\$64.00	\$66.00
All Kilowatt-Hours	\$0.068	\$0.070
Demand Charge per kW (Dec-Feb)	\$16.00	No Change
Demand Charge per kW (Mar-Nov)	\$11.00	\$12.00

Rate 3, Seasonal Service, over 75 kVA Transformer	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge	\$0.70	\$1.00
All Kilowatt-Hours	\$0.110	\$0.115
Multiphase Surcharge	\$22.00	\$25.00

Standby Service (retain deenergized service only)	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Charge	\$22.00	No Change

Distributed Generation Monthly Charge			
	Monthly GAC per kW		
	First 3.5 kW	kW in Excess of 3.5 kW	Not-to-Exceed
Residential (<10 kVA)	No Charge	\$2.60 \$2.26	\$37.00 \$32.00
Residential (11-25 kVA)	No Charge	\$2.60 \$2.26	\$34.00 \$32.00
Residential (26-75 kVA)	No Charge	\$2.05 \$1.91	\$29.00 \$27.00
Residential Multiphase (<10 kVA)	No Charge	\$1.07 \$0.51	\$15.00 \$7.00
Residential Multiphase (11-25 kVA)	No Charge	\$1.00 \$0.51	\$14.00 \$7.00
Residential Multiphase (26-75 kVA)	No Charge	\$0.65 \$0.16	\$9.00 \$2.00

Please reach out to Red Lake Electric Cooperative if you have any questions. We are here to help.
(218) 253-2168 | redlakeelectric.com



OPERATION ROUND UP® GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE

FRIDAY,

SEPTEMBER 20

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Friday,

September 20, 2024.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC, headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to “round up” their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. Today, 98% of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$672,421 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated (Eliesha Owens 28835) for the betterment of the community within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Stacy Bierman, Thief River Falls; Pamela Vettleson, Plummer; Laura Kasprovicz, Thief River Falls; Stephanie Johnson, Gatzke; and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operation Round Up grant, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization.

Grant application forms are available on the cooperative’s website: redlakeelectric.com

For more information, contact Stephanie Johnson, General Manager of RLEC, at **218-253-2168** or **800-245-6068**.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.