

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sam Pahlen



Sam Pahlen and his wife Kayla pose for a photo with their children Timmy and Ivy.

### Family members

- **Wife:** Kayla
- **Children:** Timmy (10), Ivy (8)

### Job title

- Journeyman Lineman

### Education

- **High School:** Lafayette High School, Red Lake Falls
- **College:** Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena

### Years of service

- 13 years

### Volunteer/member of organizations

- Red Lake Falls Fire Department, Red Lake Falls Sportsman's Club

### How your job has changed while you've worked at RLEC

- The advances in battery power tools

### Favorite part about working at RLEC

- Getting to live and work in the community I grew up in

### Hobbies/interests

- Hunting, fishing, golfing, watching my kids' sporting events

### Favorite sport (watch or play)

- Hockey - Minnesota Wild

### Favorite food

- Pizza

### Favorite beverage

- Milk

### Favorite TV show

- Seinfeld

### Favorite restaurant

- Red Pepper





# CO-OPS ARE COOL.

## Celebrate National Co-op Month!

As a member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, you're part of something special. You're a member-owner of a rural electric cooperative that strives for innovation, works to give back to its community and provides the region with safe and reliable power. This National Co-op Month, we're celebrating some of the things that make being a co-op member so cool.

### Community Engagement

Whether it's sponsoring local events, supporting schools, or providing energy efficiency workshops and electric contractor trainings, rural electric cooperatives (24143 Randall E Mostrom) are deeply committed to the well-being of their communities.

### Member-owned and Governed

Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives are owned by members like you. This means you're not just a customer. Members have a say in how Red Lake Electric is run by voting for the board of directors, who ensures that decisions are made with the community's best interests at heart.

### Sustainability Initiatives

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Red Lake Electric's wholesale power provider, works to keep a diverse energy portfolio with 41% of its energy generation coming from carbon-free resources. Members can also elect to participate in energy efficiency programs like off-peak or Infinity Renewable Energy, through which you can choose how many kilowatt-hours come from wind generation.

### Affordable Rates

Because we operate on a not-for-profit basis, we focus on providing our services at cost to our members. Any excess profits are returned to members in the form of capital credits or used for upgrades to our services.

### Positive Rural Impact

Electric cooperatives were created to bring electricity to rural areas that were overlooked by other utility companies. Cooperatives like Red Lake Electric continue (31140 Nikki Toft) to be a lifeline for rural communities, providing essential services and helping to drive local economic growth.

THANKS

We want to thank our members for your continued support and engagement this National Co-op Month. You are what makes Red Lake Electric so cool. To learn more about your electric cooperative, visit [redlakeelectric.com](http://redlakeelectric.com) or give us a call at **218-253-2168**! We are here for you.

# CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
[WWW.VOTE.COOP](http://WWW.VOTE.COOP)

## THIS NOVEMBER, CO-OPS VOTE

Federal, state and local elections offer opportunities to vote for leaders who support energy policies that promote safe, reliable, affordable energy. In particular, they allow us to elect public officials who understand America's electric cooperatives (28086 Brett Tahrnand) and will vote to support issues important to 42 million electric co-op consumer-members across the country.

**Co-ops Vote is a program built to give members of the co-op community access to resources and information needed not only to vote, but to vote with co-op issues in mind.**

Voting with co-op issues in mind will help ensure continued access to reliable electricity and innovative energy solutions. Together, we have the power to educate lawmakers, build awareness about our issues and concerns and support legislative issues that are important to our communities. The co-op voice is powerful and it starts with you!

## BECOME A MINNESOTA CO-OP VOTER IN 6 EASY STEPS

- ✓ **Register to vote:** Check to make sure your Minnesota registration is current.
- ✓ **Learn voter details for your state:** Get information on deadlines, absentee voting and polling places.
- ✓ **Get educated:** Learn about issues critical to keeping your electricity affordable and reliable.
- ✓ **Know the candidates and policymakers:** Find out how they support affordable, reliable electricity in your community.
- ✓ **Share your story:** Talk to your family and friends about your co-op, tell them why you're a **Co-op Voter** and ask them to join you at the polls.
- ✓ **VOTE!**



## WHY IS THE CO-OPS VOTE PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

- We must elect public officials who understand and appreciate America's electric cooperatives and will vote to support issues important to 42 million electric cooperative consumer-members across the country.
- Electric cooperatives are a trusted resource in the communities we serve. Elected officials want to hear about the policy issues that affect us and our communities.

Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters like you.  
For more information on Co-ops Vote please visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop).

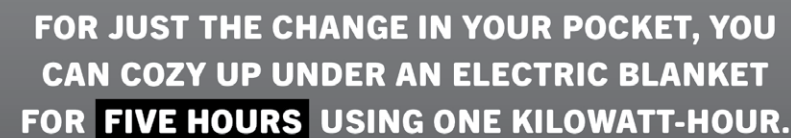




- Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care: \$500 to help parents of new babies by sending out information packets.
- Re-Turned Pages: \$250 to help purchase and install free little library system in Mentor, MN.
- NCTC Pioneer 90.1 FM: \$500 to help purchase an automated weather reporting software.
- Blazin' Saddles: \$500 to help fund operating costs for organized events.

- Satisfy the Hunger Backpack Program: \$500 to help purchase food for students in need to bring home for the weekend.


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- 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.

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# DON'T LET MONEY GET SUCKED OUT OF YOUR WALLET

Ghouls, goblins and ghosts might be scary, but they aren't nearly as scary as a high electric bill. There may be electronics in your home sucking power out of your outlets (32764 Cameron Lundeen) and money out of your wallet, even when they aren't in use. Televisions, computers, DVD players, cable boxes with DVR, cellphone chargers, printers and game consoles are just a few of the culprits that unknowingly suck energy. Over time, the cost adds up. Safe Electricity has some tips to help you stop energy vampires in your home:

- When possible, unplug electronics that you are not using.
- Plug electronics into a power strip and turn the power strip off when items are not in use.
- Purchase smart power strips for your computers and televisions.

These devices sense when the computer or television is sleeping or off. The smart strip cuts off power to related electronics, such as DVD players, video game consoles and printers.

- Buy low-standby products. Most Energy Star-endorsed products draw smaller-than-average

amounts of electricity when turned off.

- Avoid electronics with unnecessary features as these might use more energy.

*For more energy efficiency tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).*

## ENERGY VAMPIRES



### TOP OFFENDERS

1. TVs
2. Home computers
3. Video game consoles
4. Surround sound systems
5. Cell phone & tablet chargers