

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
DECEMBER 2025

Employees

Kelli Brateng
Steve Conely
Javen Eidsmoe
Christie Klipping
Chris Knott
Branden Narlock

Cindy Pahlen
Troy Schmitz
Darcy Cardinal
Aaron Derosier
Jordon Gervais
Jenny Kelley

Brett Knott
Melanie LaCrosse
Sam Olson
Sam Pahlen
Casey Thronson

Directors

Cecil Anderson
Jenny Bernier-Linder
Bonnie Christians

Matt Derosier
Lars Dyrud
Mark Hanson

Colette Kujava
Peter Mosbeck
Krist Olson



Merry
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

From your employees and directors
at Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Service Awards



Mark Hanson
Director
20 years



Colette Kujava
Director
15 years



Sam Olson
Employee
5 years

Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
In case of an electric outage or emergency, please call the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jordon Gervais

Family members

Wife: Kelsey

Children: Zoey (19), Clayton (9)

Job title

Journeyman Lineman

Education

High School: Lafayette High School, Red Lake Falls

College: Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Wadena

Years of service

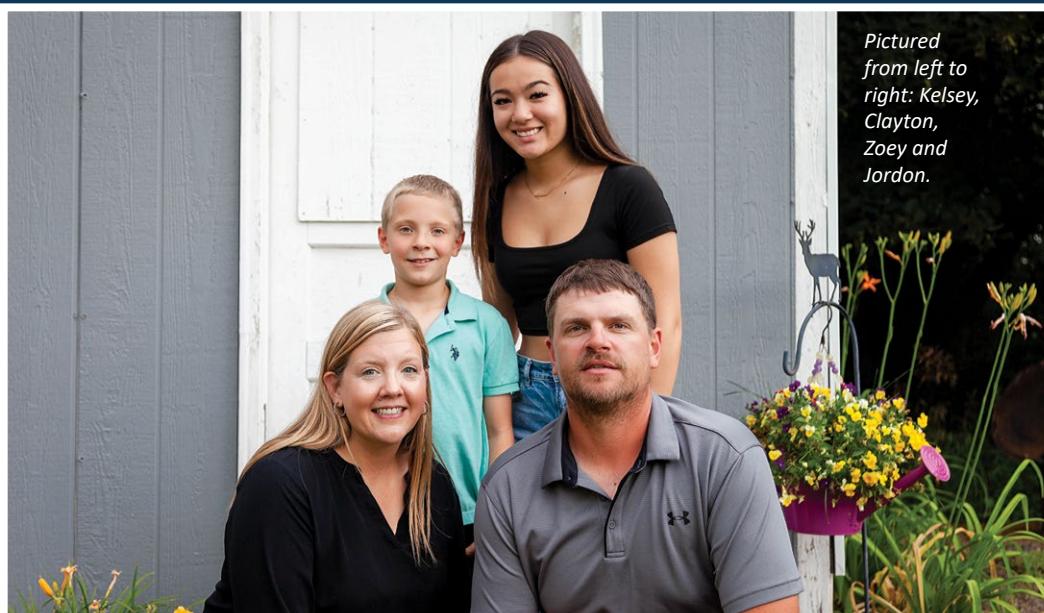
14 ½ years

Family tradition

Spending time at the lake & family cabin

Favorite TV show/movie

Escanaba in Da Moonlight



Pictured from left to right: Kelsey, Clayton, Zoey and Jordon.

Volunteer/member of organizations

Red Lake Falls Fire Department, Red Lake Falls Blue Line Hockey Coach (Squirt team)

Favorite part about working at RLEC

Working outside and having a different task each day and also working beside a good group of guys

Favorite sport (watch or play)

Hockey & golf

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

Equipment is getting bigger. Seems to be a lot more underground vs. overhead.

Favorite food

Ribeye steak

Favorite beverage

Ice-cold can of Pepsi

Favorite restaurant

Blue Moose

Hobbies/interests

Hunting, fishing, golfing

WATCH THE WIRES HOLIDAY TRAVEL SAFETY

In the Upper Midwest, driving during the holiday season can turn treacherous, with icy roads, reduced visibility and unpredictable conditions descending at any moment. When you add the risk of hitting a power pole or a downed power line, knowing what to do can be lifesaving.



IF YOU HIT A POWER POLE

1

STAY IN THE VEHICLE

Unless the car is on fire, the safest place is inside your vehicle. The ground around the car may be energized.

2

CALL 911

Let dispatch know you may be in contact with live electricity. They'll coordinate with the co-op/utility to shut off power before you exit.

3

WARN OTHERS

Warn others to stay away by signaling or shouting to keep bystanders away from the vehicle or any downed lines.

4

ONLY EXIT IN AN EMERGENCY

If you must get out due to smoke or fire, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together, without touching the car and the ground at the same time. Then, shuffle away, keeping both feet on the ground to avoid creating a path for electricity through your body.

IF YOU SEE A DOWNDOWNED POWER LINE

1

STAY AT LEAST 35 FEET AWAY

Electricity can arc across distances – even the length of a school bus. This is especially true on ice or slush.

2

DO NOT DRIVE OVER THE LINE

Even if it looks harmless, a live wire can energize your car (29610 Barbara J Oakland) and the surrounding ground.

3

CALL 911 AND YOUR CO-OP/UTILITY

Emergency crews are trained to handle electrical hazards safely.

GENERAL WINTER TIPS

Always slow down in winter conditions, especially near power poles, intersections or bends.

Keep an emergency kit in your car, including a flashlight, blankets, water and a phone charger.

Familiarize yourself with your co-op's emergency contact number: (218) 253-2200



For more power line safety tips this winter, visit watchthewires.com.

MEET MINNKOTA!

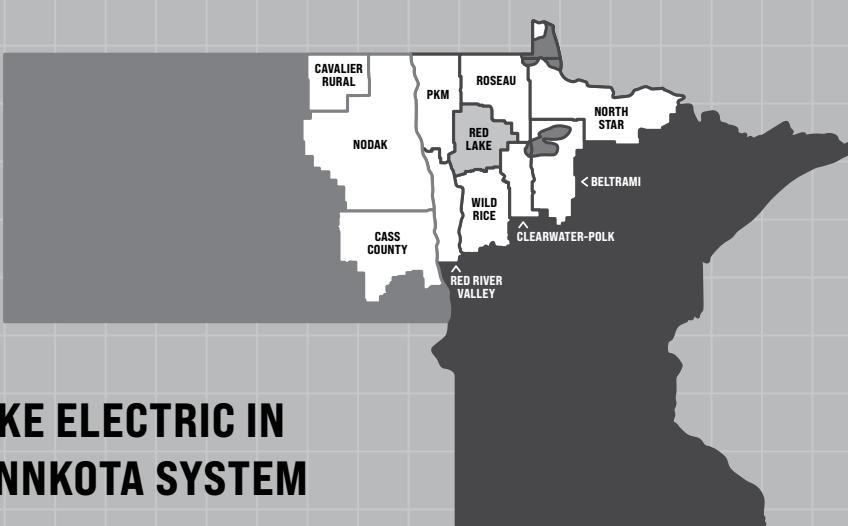
Within the pages of this newsletter, we often talk about our partners at Minnkota Power Cooperative, who supply us with the wholesale power we deliver to your homes and businesses. We wanted to shed a little light on Minnkota and how they serve Red Lake Electric and our co-op neighbors.



OUR PARTNERSHIP

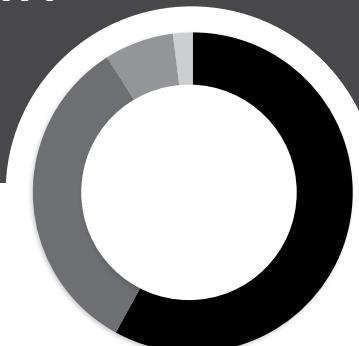
Minnkota is a not-for profit generation and transmission cooperative. That means it generates electricity (with coal, wind and hydro) and transmits it to 11 of its member distribution cooperatives, including Red Lake Electric. Minnkota is headquartered in Grand Forks, North Dakota, but owns generation and transmission equipment throughout North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Minnkota is owned by its member cooperatives. That means all 11 co-ops have representation on Minnkota's board of directors (31445 Lindsey A Gibson) to make sure every co-op's voice is heard.



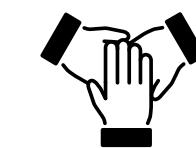
RED LAKE ELECTRIC IN THE MINNKOTA SYSTEM

MINNKOTA'S GENERATION CAPACITY

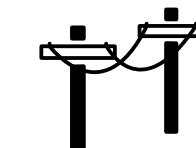


 **Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE**

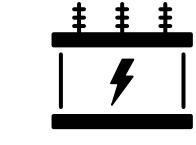
MINNKOTA BY THE NUMBERS



FORMED IN
1940



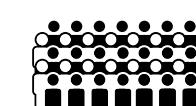
MILES OF LINE
3,388



SUBSTATIONS
265



CARBON-FREE ENERGY
40%



COOPERATIVE ACCOUNTS SERVED
153,000



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO...

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

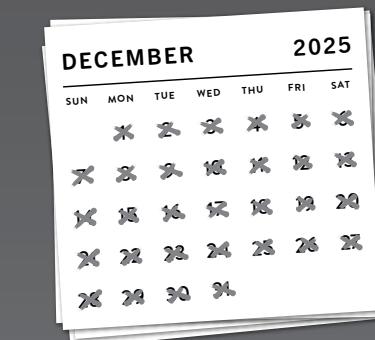
SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB:
REDLAKEELECTRIC.COM

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

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.

Did you know?



\$ FOR A MONTH OF ELECTRICITY = **\$ FOR NEW CROSS COUNTRY SKIS**

 **VALUE OF ELECTRICITY**

*comparison based on average household energy usage



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.

Rotel Cream Cheese Sausage Balls

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound (450g) ground pork sausage (mild or spicy)
- 110oz (283g) can Rotel tomatoes with green chilies, well drained
- 8oz (225g) cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups (200g) shredded cheddar cheese (sharp or mild)
- 1 1/2 cups (180g) Bisquick baking mix (or similar biscuit mix)
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder (optional)
- Pinch of black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Preheat oven** – Set your oven to 375°F (190°C). Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. **Mix cream cheese and sausage** – In a large mixing bowl, combine the sausage and softened cream cheese until smooth.
3. **Add Rotel and cheese** – Stir in the drained Rotel and shredded cheddar until evenly incorporated.
4. **Add dry mix** – Gradually add the Bisquick, garlic powder, onion powder and black pepper. Mix until the dough (24946 Sally Boyle) is thick and well combined.
5. **Shape balls** – Using a tablespoon or cookie scoop, roll mixture into 1-inch balls and place them on the prepared baking sheet about 1 inch apart.
6. **Bake** – Bake for 22–25 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through.
7. **Serve** – Let cool slightly before serving. Enjoy warm as an appetizer (29661 Laura Conneran) or snack.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES FOR 2026

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers (31750 Michael D Salveson) for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER REBATES

Must be on off-peak

100 gallon or greater

\$500/unit

56-99 gallon

\$400/unit

55 gallon or less

\$150/unit

New construction (50 gallon)

FREE unit (primary residence only)

BONUS REBATES:

Add **\$250** if converting from natural gas or propane.

Add **\$100** for new building construction (shops, cabins, etc.).



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER REBATES

240V LEVEL 2 CHARGER

Must be on off-peak

Electric vehicle or hybrid

100% rebate

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW (\$750 max)



All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

EQUIPMENT MUST BE INSTALLED ON RLEC'S OFF-PEAK PROGRAM.

Contact Member Services at 218-253-2168 for more details!

ELECTRIC HEATING REBATES

Must be on off-peak

ELECTRIC PLENUM HEATERS

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEATERS

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$75 per kW

AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

(INCLUDING MINI-SPLIT DUCTLESS OPTION)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.



Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton

17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$600 per ton

GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMPS

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.



Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton

Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton

ELECTRIC UNDERFLOOR BOILER

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers heat consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$75 per kW

OTHER ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEMS

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$25 per kW