

2026 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 | 10:30 A.M. | LEGACY EVENT CENTER | THIEF RIVER FALLS

1 DISTRICT 1
Bonnie Christians

4 DISTRICT 4
Jennifer Bernier-Linder

5 DISTRICT 5
Mark Hanson

★ **NEW DIRECTOR NEEDED:**
Hanson not seeking reelection

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

All members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., are hereby notified of its annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at the Legacy Event Center in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2025 in review, financial reports and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded, and lunch will be served. Please contact CEO Rich Whitcomb to make arrangements for dietary needs.

All members are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Colette Kujava, Secretary

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS PETITIONS DUE FEBRUARY 23

Red Lake 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 25 at the Legacy Event Center. The directors whose terms expire in 2026 are Bonnie Christians, District 1; Jennifer Bernier-Linder, District 4; and Mark Hanson, District 5. **Mark Hanson has decided not to run for reelection.**

All nominations will be done by petition, including the incumbents. Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 1, 4 or 5 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.

Director candidates must pick up a petition and a director packet at Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Red Lake Falls. The packet contains additional forms that must be signed and turned in before the deadline.

The cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Peter Mosbeck
 Vice President Bonnie Christians
 Secretary-Treasurer Colette Kujava
 Directors Cecil Anderson, Mark Hanson,
 Jennifer Benier-Linder, Matt Derosier,
 Lars Dyrud, Krist Olson
Rich Whitcomb CEO
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 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.



Hello to members of Red Lake Electric

by Rich Whitcomb, CEO

Hello to members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC). This column marks my first as your CEO under a unique arrangement between your cooperative and Red River Valley Co-op Power (RRVCP) that formally began February 1.

Under this management alliance, I will be leading both cooperatives. Importantly, both cooperatives preserve full independence with their respective member-elected board of directors. And either board can back out of the agreement without any painful stipulations.

RLEC and RRVCP entered into this agreement placing an emphasis on value to both memberships. Both cooperatives (32302 Erik B Fritchman) will save expenses on management from day one as costs are split 50/50. In time, this alliance could help develop a deeper bench of knowledge amongst employees

and other potential efficiencies should a need arise to help one another.

Also, wholesale power costs will likely continue to rise in the near-term as Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power supplier) reinvests in generation and transmission to deliver bulk electricity to RLEC's distribution system. An openness to new ideas and forward thinking may help blunt these challenges and create new opportunities.

The past few weeks have been spent listening and getting to know employees. As an aside, this is my 21st year in the cooperative world, the last 18 spent in Halstad with RRVCP and the last seven as CEO. Competitive rates, excellent service and providing strong reliability in a safe manner are the top priorities of RLEC. I look forward to working with your employees and visiting with you.

PREPARE FOR WINTER OUTAGES

Power outages can happen any time of the year, but winter is especially challenging for your co-op. Storms with ice and wind can snap trees or cause vehicles to hit the ditch, both of which can damage power poles and lines and leave many without electricity. It's important to be prepared for the next time the lights go out.



Learn more about power line safety at WatchtheWires.com.

1 HAVE AN EMERGENCY KIT AT HOME THAT INCLUDES:

- Flashlights or battery-powered lanterns
- Extra batteries
- Portable chargers and phone banks
- A first-aid kit
- Blankets and warm clothing
- Non-perishable food items for up to three days
- One gallon of water (26188 Laura J Nordlum) for each person in your home

2 KNOW HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME IN THE COLD.

- Keep your faucets dripping during outages (20882 James Hodny) to keep pipes from freezing.
- Make sure windows and curtains are closed to avoid warm air escaping.
- Test fireplaces or wood stoves early to make sure they are working properly.

3 IF A DOWNED POWER POLE OR LINE IS NEAR YOUR HOME, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- Stay far away, and be sure others stay away as well (including pets).
- Call Red Lake Electric Cooperative to report the damage at **218-253-2168**.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO...

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

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.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Javen Eidsmoe

Family members

Wife: Andrea

Children: Sophia (18),
Thomas (15), Katelynn (6)

Job title

Power Use Advisor (Electrician)



Pictured from left to right: Javen, Andrea, Katelynn, Sophia and Thomas

Education

High School: Roseau High School

College: Northwest Technical College, Bemidji

Volunteer/member of organizations

American Legion Post 117 Color Guard, Thief River Falls Baseball Association Board Member

Years of service

11 years

Favorite part about working at RLEC

Meeting with the members

Hobbies/interests

Hunting and fishing

Favorite beverage

Dr. Pepper

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

Some parts of our system have become more automated

Favorite food

BLT

Favorite TV show/movie

The Goonies

Family tradition

Camping and deer hunting with my cousin

Favorite restaurant

Biff's Kitchen

Favorite sport (watch or play)

Baseball and wrestling

TECH MOVES FAST.

WE NEED REAL POWER THAT KEEPS UP.

Take a peek around you. The electronics you use every day look a lot different than they did 40 years ago. You've likely ditched your boom box, VCR and fax machine for one smartphone that you can slip into your pocket. But even as your personal technology becomes smaller and more efficient, additional technology is being developed every day to make society more connected, more educated and more efficient.

And all that new technology is going to require a lot of juice.

Let's look at some things driven by electricity that didn't really need electricity four decades ago. Now, instead of putting gas in your wood-panel station wagon, you can charge your electric vehicle. Instead of relying on the encyclopedia to help write your paper or report, artificial intelligence (AI) has become your research buddy of choice. And instead of writing checks and sending your bills through the mail, you're likely using automated banking apps to manage your finances.

All these modern conveniences run on the electric grid, and as we rely more on technology to enhance our lives, the demand for electricity will continue to grow. In fact, projections show U.S. electricity demand could rise between 25% and 40% in the next 10 years, mostly driven by large data centers, electric vehicle adoption and automation opportunities.

As an electric cooperative, it's our job to work with our neighboring power providers to build a grid that that keeps up. That's exactly what we're doing. To power our electrified future, we must make sure energy policy (31570 Paul G Lofberg) and planning is driven by engineering instead of aspiration. We must protect around-the-clock fuel-based power resources like coal, natural gas and nuclear plants to maintain reliability. And we need to support the development of additional technologies like carbon capture and battery storage to make electric growth sustainable.

Yes, your technology has changed a lot over the years. *But our commitment to powering it hasn't.*



Learn more about our energy future at REALPOWERNOW.COM.

Co-ops don't answer to **WALL STREET.** We answer to **MAIN STREET.**

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Red Lake Electric is guided by the principle that our members come first. While investor-owned utilities focus on making money to beef up shareholder returns, electric co-ops focus on reliability, affordability and exceptional service. Our priorities aren't shaped by Wall Street investors, but by the Main Street members who rely on us every day.

Here's how we live our Main Street mentality:

Member needs, not investor pressure

- ✓ Electric co-ops are owned by the people they serve. There are no outside shareholders demanding profits or higher returns, which keeps the focus on delivering dependable service at a fair cost.



Reinvesting in the community

- ✓ Instead of sending profits to investors, Red Lake Electric reinvests margins back into the electric system, by strengthening infrastructure, improving reliability and preparing for future demand. When there are extra margins, we return them to members as capital credits.



Local control and accountability

- ✓ Our co-op board is made up of local members who understand the area's needs. Decisions aren't made in distant boardrooms. Instead, they're made (22135 Paul Johnson) by neighbors.



A commitment to reliability

- ✓ We keep local crews on the ground who know the system and respond quickly during outages. You won't be waiting for a crew from a large urban center.



Community-first service

- ✓ Whether it's supporting local schools and volunteer fire teams or offering energy-efficiency programs, we invest in initiatives that strengthen our communities.



For **15 cents** of electricity, you can make a romantic dinner for two.



For **1 cent** more, your Bluetooth speaker can play in the background all evening.



THAT'S THE  VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

*Based on average household energy usage

FOR SALE ON BIDS AS IS

Submit bids to Red Lake Electric Cooperative by Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Vehicle can be seen at Red Lake Electric M-F, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

2011 Ford F550 4x4 6.7L Diesel Engine



- 2,000 HR - 37M Terex elbow boom and bucket
- 13,439 Hours
- 217,173 Miles
- Factory Ford warranty replaced engine at 2,9XXHrs 47, XXX Miles
- Automatic transmission
- CC
- Front and jib winch
- Aux hydraulics

Minimum Bid: \$5,000.00

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.

RECIPES CORNER

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.

GARLIC BUTTER STEAK WITH PARMESAN ALFREDO

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs steak filet, ribeye, sirloin, etc.
- 2 tablespoons steak seasoning
- 1 lb dry fettuccine noodles
- 4-5 tablespoons avocado oil (this has a higher smoke point than olive oil)
- 6 tablespoons butter, divided
- 10 cloves garlic, minced and divided
- 1.5 cups heavy cream
- 3/4 cup half and half
- 1/2 tsp freshly cracked pepper
- 2 green onions, diced (green and white parts)
- 1 cup parmesan, freshly grated

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut steak in 2-3" pieces, rub with avocado oil and season liberally, reserving 2 teaspoons (30053 Troy A Austad) of seasoning for alfredo sauce.
2. Heat a large skillet to medium-high and add 3 tablespoons avocado oil. Cook them a few minutes per side flipping just once (cook time is according to your preferred doneness).
3. Set the steak aside in a bowl, reduce the heat to low and add 2 tablespoons butter and 1 tablespoon minced garlic. Cook for 1 minute or until fragrant.
4. Add steak back in and toss in the garlic butter. Then set aside back into a bowl and cover with tented foil.
5. Before preparing the sauce, bring a pot of water to a boil and cook the noodles.
6. In the same pan with residual butter, add 4 tablespoons butter and remaining garlic, sautéing until fragrant. Add in the heavy cream, half & half and 2 teaspoons of steak seasoning. Simmer and reduce about 3-4 minutes.
7. To the cream sauce add in the grated parmesan and whisk until smooth and thickened. Remove from the heat and add green onions. Taste and adjust if needed.
8. Drain the fettuccini and add it into the alfredo sauce, tossing until it's evenly coated. Top it with the garlic-coated steak bites, along with a sprinkle of extra green onions and parmesan if desired.

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 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)




Residential Charger Commercial Charger

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

GEOHERMAL 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 \$600 per ton
Open loop: Rebate of \$300 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