



October 2021

# Newsline

**BOARD MEETINGS** October 26 ■ November 30

**Lake Country Power**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy that Powers Our Lives

**IN THIS ISSUE**

 Serving Members & Cooperatives  
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## It's a Matter of Co-op Principles

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Lake Country Power all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

### Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, Lake Country Power was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So, in the late 1930s, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our rural communities.



By Mark  
**BAKK**  
General Manager

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

### Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Lake Country Power's leadership team and employees live right here in the community.

Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to local community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment and technology upgrades, economic development opportunities, electric vehicle programs and charging stations, etc.



October is National Co-op Month.

#### Defined by Principles

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

### Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to deliver safe, reliable electric service; manage member resources wisely and serve to help our communities prosper. As a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Lake Country Power. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Lake Country Power is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for doing good and making our corner of the world a better place. By the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which I'll elaborate on next month. ■



# Continuing a life serving members, cooperatives

My first experience with cooperatives started in my childhood as a member of the 4-H organization. I remember being a part of the 4-H Club in Floodwood and our jazz band had the opportunity to play at the Minnesota State Fair. During high school, I had a job at a cooperative store in Floodwood. As an adult, I joined a labor union, Laborer's Local 1091, in northeastern Minnesota and worked in organized labor for over 30 years, including seven with LiUNA as a business representative for its more than 1,000 members.

The accumulation of those experiences led me to be a strong supporter of cooperatives and led me to continue serving the

community as the newest District 9 director at Lake Country Power.

I grew up in Floodwood and graduated from Lake Superior College in Duluth, with an associate degree in marketing. Tough economic times in the 1980s directed me into construction. I'm a strong union supporter and I've been happily retired for five years.



By Larry  
**ANDERSON**  
District 9 Director

My wife Lisa and I live in Esko, a highly family-orientated community, much like the cooperatives and labor union of my past. We have been active in our community, assisting coaching our children's sports teams and volunteering in their additional school activities. We also enjoy being outdoors hiking, biking, and skiing at the neighboring Jay Cooke State Park, connecting with the outdoor life that is so rooted in northeastern Minnesota. We have a daughter, Alexis Saarela and a son, Dylan Anderson

(Christina). We enjoyed traveling abroad with Alexis to learn more about our two granddaughters, Oarabile and Mirembé's roots who were born in Africa.

Family and community are a big part of my life and an equally important part of the cooperative model when serving as a director at Lake Country Power.

I'm happy to be serving the cooperative and representing our members of District 9. ■

Larry Anderson was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 9. He can be reached at 218-428-2722 or landerson@lcp.coop.

## Dual Fuel: Check your backup

Dual Fuel is a controlled heating program that's offered at a reduced electric rate. It can be shut off for up to 12 hours at a time, typically during periods of severely cold weather or when the demand for electricity is high.

The dual fuel program helps control electric demand during peak usage periods, which is why the reduced

rate can be offered. It's also why an adequate backup system is required.

During the heating season, the electric heat portion of your Dual Fuel system may be controlled up to a maximum of 400 hours, however this is rare. If you're on Dual Fuel, check the electric and non-electric (dual) parts of your heating equipment now. Also, fill your fuel tank full in case it needs to run for hours at a time.

### 5 Tips for Dual Fuel

1. Operate the electric heating equipment to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat.
2. Operate the oil or propane system also to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat.
3. Have your gas or oil furnace/boiler checked periodically by a professional HVAC contractor. For cold weather, there is nothing better than having peace of mind knowing your Dual Fuel heating system will work as it should. For a list of contractors, visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) > Money Saving Programs > Residential Members > Contractor Resources.
4. If you wish to monitor the anticipated control periods of Dual Fuel through the heating season, visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop), and then click "Today's Load" on the homepage of LCP's website.
5. If you'd like to be notified in advance of a Dual Fuel control event (text message and/or e-mail), sign up for load control notifications in SmartHub. Don't have SmartHub yet? Visit the "My Account" tab at [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) to get started.

Please call 1-800-421-9959, press "6," if you have questions concerning your Dual Fuel heating system or would like to add your electric water heater to the 8-Hour Interruptible program.



**UNCLAIMED**  
**CAPITAL CREDITS**

An updated list on LCP's website, [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop), provides the names of members who have not cashed their capital credit check, or we no longer have a forwarding address. If you have any information, please call LCP at 800-421-9959 (press 5). Any monies not claimed will be contributed to a tax-exempt purpose such as LCP's scholarship program.

# People Powering You

This is a regular series of employee spotlights where you'll get to know the people behind your power.

**Years served:** Employed 4 years

**Brief overview of my job:** I provide customer service to members via phone and in person. Take payments from members and apply them to their accounts. Assist members with any capital credit inquiries. Assist members with their outage calls and concerns.

## Gabrielle Gropp

*Consumer Account Representative*

**Why I enjoy working at LCP:** I am a people person and I enjoy working with my coworkers and members. I like being part of a team and problem solving. I thoroughly enjoy working for the Cooperative. It is a friendly atmosphere and I enjoy coming to work every day.

**Family:** Family is very important to me. I have been with my husband for 21 years and we have 2 daughters. I'm also blessed that my parents, 4 brothers and their families live in the area and we get to visit often.

**Community Involvement:** I volunteer with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) and have served on their Executive Board in the past as a Regional Director.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy spending time fishing and camping with my family and friends and attending music festivals/concerts.


**One random fact of interest about yourself:** I was on the first girl's hockey team in Grand Rapids, MN.



**Before I worked for the co-op?** I previously worked for the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MDHA) as the Program Coordinator and Turn in Poachers (TIP) as the administrator of the program.

**Education/training/background:** I have a teaching degree in Art Education from Bemidji State.

## Seeking applications for Community Award

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Do you know someone special or an ambitious non-profit organization that has contributed to your local community through an effort of volunteers and unique efforts?

Through an application process, Lake Country Power will recognize the true spirit of community and award a deserving recipient the 2021 Touchstone Energy® Community Award.

Community members may cast their nominations by completing an application form, available online at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop). The application requires a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Any organization that meets these qualifications is eligible for a \$500 cash award and recognition.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 1 to Tami Zaun at Lake Country Power. Mail to Lake Country Power, Attn: Tami Zaun, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop).

## Military personnel disconnection law

The 2007 Minnesota Legislature passed a law called the Military Personnel Disconnection Law. The law recognizes the value of military service and limits utility disconnections if a member of the household has been issued orders such as active duty, deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during that period. To be eligible for disconnection protection, the member must contact the cooperative to request a "Military Personnel Disconnect Protection Form," meet income eligibility guidelines and set up a mutually acceptable payment schedule.

Before disconnecting service to military personnel in situations as listed above, the cooperative must provide the following information: Notice of proposed disconnection; statement explaining customers' rights and responsibilities; list of energy assistance providers; disconnect protection form and a statement explaining the payment plan to secure continued service.

Please contact Lake Country Power, if you have any questions about the "Military Personnel Disconnection Law" or energy assistance programs.



# Energy Assistance Providers

- AEOA: 800-662-5711
- AEOA Virginia: 218-735-6839
- AEOA Duluth: 218-623-3011
- Aitkin County Social Services: 800-328-3744
- Bi County CAP: 800-332-7161
- Bois Forte Tribal: 800-221-8129
- Carlton County Social Services: 800-642-9082
- Cass County Social Services: 218-547-1340
- Fond Du Lac Tribal: 800-365-1613
- Itasca County Social Services: 800-422-0312
- Kootasca: 877-687-1163
- Lake County Social Services: 218-834-8400
- Lakes & Pines: 800-832-6082
- Leech Lake Tribal: 866-864-8668
- Mille Lacs Band Tribal: 320-532-7880
- Pine County Social Services: 800-450-7263
- Salvation Army Office (Heat Share Programs): 800-842-7279
- St. Louis County Social Services: 800-450-9777

## RECIPE CORNER NORTH SHORE PECAN RING

From the  
Kitchen of:  
**Brenda Hruza,**  
Mounds View



- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, divided
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. water
- 3 cans (8 oz. each) crescent rolls

Coat Bundt pan with 2 Tbsp. of butter. Sprinkle pan with pecans. Melt remaining butter in a saucepan. Add brown sugar and water. Heat to near boiling, but do not boil. Remove crescent rolls from cans (don't unroll). Cut each roll into 8 pieces. Stagger rolls in pan, pour sauce over rolls. Bake in a 375° oven for 25-30 minutes. (If pan is colored, reduce temperature to 350°.) Great to give to workers after they put docks in/out.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset MN 55721, or e-mail [tzaum@lcpucop.com](mailto:tzaum@lcpucop.com). If your entry is printed in Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account.

## ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplugs items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

# TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



Safe **LEARN MORE:**  
Electricity.org®

## smart hub Tip

**Q:** Interested in receiving alerts when your bill is ready to be viewed?

**A:** If so, you can log into your SmartHub account, select "Notifications" and then "Manage Contacts" to add or remove a phone number or e-mail. After your contact information is updated, you can then select, "Manage Notifications." There are numerous options to choose from so you can select what alerts are important to you.



# Great River Energy: Working together and doing what's right

Great River Energy is focused on building a better future for the member-owners we serve and the stakeholders who are impacted by the things we do. Over the past several years, we have reduced costs, mitigated our carbon risk, added renewables and completed a transmission buildout. We've collaborated with member-owners to develop one of the largest demand response programs in the country while encouraging beneficial technologies that utilize renewable energy like the Revolt<sup>®</sup> program for electric vehicles. In addition, we are demonstrating a first-of-its-kind long-duration battery storage technology.

Over the years, Great River Energy has been responsibly transforming from a historically coal-dependent cooperative to one with low carbon intensity that will have zero coal. This shift allowed us to meet Minnesota's renewable energy standard (30% by 2025) eight years ahead of schedule, and we will ambitiously meet the state's carbon reduction goal (80% by 2050) 27 years early.



▶ Pleasant Valley Station (peaking plant)

**The company buying the power plant will pursue carbon capture and storage technology which we believe is something that could - and should - be replicated around the world.**

Last year, we announced plans to replace Coal Creek Station with 900 megawatts of wind energy, which will lower our costs and double our current renewable capacity. More recently, we decided to sell the plant because it saves our members money and allows us to preserve the jobs and communities in North Dakota. It is also the right thing to do. In addition, the company buying the power plant will pursue carbon capture and storage technology which we believe is something that could - and should - be replicated around the world. The sale of our high-voltage direct-current transmission system allows our member-owners to recover their investment in that asset, while securing the future use and operation of the critical system for the state of Minnesota and region.

Great River Energy maintains a portfolio of power supply resources designed to provide members with reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity.



By David SAGGAU  
President and CEO,  
Great River Energy

We are building a power supply portfolio and transmission system that will serve our membership well for decades.

Great River Energy has never been in a better financial position than it is today. Currently, our wholesale power rates are 12% below the weighted regional average cost of electricity, and we project wholesale rate decreases over the next several years.

Looking to the future, we are committed to electrifying the economy. Great River Energy and our member-owners play an intrinsic role in electrifying transportation, home heating and cooling, business applications, agriculture, manufacturing techniques, and more. Again, it's the right thing to do.

Great River Energy is thankful for the support and guidance we have received from many stakeholders who understand the policy implications, but also the impact on people, costs and communities involved in a transformation like this. Specifically, a special thanks to the Minnesota-North Dakota chapter of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE), Great Plains Institute (GPI), and Clean Grid Alliance (CGA) who have helped us focus on practical solutions while working together, to do what's right.

As a cooperative, our success is determined largely by how well we serve our member-owners and interact with the world and people around us. Our efforts are paying off. Today, our member satisfaction is at an all-time high, and we commit uncompromisingly to being a responsible corporate citizen and leader in the evolution of the electric industry. ■

**Currently, our wholesale power rates are 12% below the weighted regional average cost of electricity, and we project wholesale rate decreases over the next several years.**





## July 27, 2021 • Regular Monthly Meeting

### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson held discussion about Great River Energy's proposal to sell Coal Creek Station. The LCP board will vote on this topic later during the board meeting.

General Manager Bakk commented about Great River Energy's financials and year-to-date power cost adjustment charges, Northland Connect, Coal Creek Station, etc.

### THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved the voting delegates (Mark Bakk) and alternates (Craig Olson) for the companies with which Lake Country Power does business.

Approved a resolution granting signature authority to five staff employees within their

respective departments or oversight areas on behalf of the Lake Country Power Board.

Approved to adopt a resolution related to Great River Energy's Asset Purchase Agreement with Rainbow Energy Center, LLC and Nexus Line, LLC, pursuant to which GRE agrees to sell Coal Creek Station, HVDC system and related assets.

Approved the 2022 right-of-way contracts for Lake States Tree Service and Northern Clearing.

Approved revisions to Policies 412, 414, 415 and 416. ■

**Editor's Note:** These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a printed copy.



► This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for Patty Maki of Gilbert. She took this stunning photo overlooking Twin Lakes near Aurora. She calls it "summer gold."



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model. Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

### Co-op Contacts

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Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not oversee day-to-day LCP operations. Administration of maintenance, electric service and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff.

**Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.**

### Newsline

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Cohasset • Kettle River • Mountain Iron  
800-421-9959 • [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop)  
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## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — July 2021

	2021	2020
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 55,468,643	\$ 54,095,924
Cost of Purchased Power	30,706,133	27,629,918
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	7,310,994	8,307,672
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,679,575	2,342,045
Administrative and General Expense	3,575,650	3,827,636
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	9,883,254	9,596,202
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>53,155,606</b>	<b>51,703,472</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,313,037	2,392,452
Non-Operating Margins	965,784	558,008
Total Margins before Subsidiaries	3,278,821	2,950,460
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	1,300,863	177,782
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 4,579,684</b>	<b>\$ 3,128,242</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>365,244,872</b>	<b>357,468,242</b>

**Editor's Note:** These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a copy.