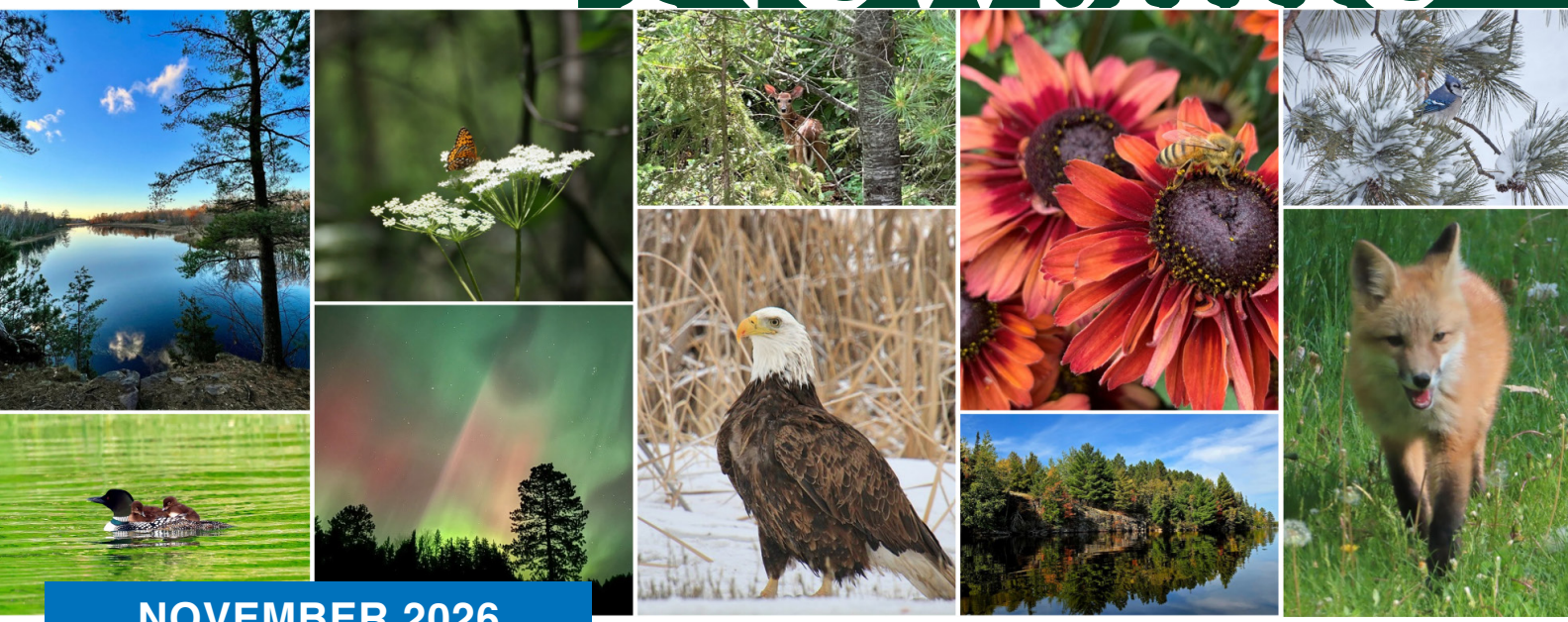
Lake Country Power
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Newsline



NOVEMBER 2026

More Than a Pretty Picture: LCP Calendar Connects Members

A brilliant sunset over a northern Minnesota lake. A snow-covered trail winding through the woods. The wildlife of the region moving through their habitats. Each photograph tells a story, and for Lake Country Power, those stories have become an annual tradition through the co-op calendar.

This year is no different. Photographs submitted by members throughout the cooperative showcase the landscapes, wildlife and changing seasons that make northern Minnesota special.

The selection process begins with a small committee reviewing submissions and organizing their favorites into seasonal categories. Galleries featuring the selected photographs are then posted on LCP's Facebook page, where members vote for their favorites.

The winning photographs, three for each season and one per household, earn a place in the calendar, but the experience has become about much more than selecting beautiful pictures.

"We started doing the co-op calendar in 2013 and since then it has cultivated a way to build relationships and connections with our members, some of whom don't get involved with their co-op other than through the calendar contest," said Tami Zaun, public relations coordinator at LCP. "So, it's more than just a pretty calendar."

For Zaun, coordinating the project, the calendar has opened doors to conversations and connections with members who share a love of photography, nature and the communities they call home.

What begins as a photo submission can turn into a conversation about a favorite fishing spot, a love of loons, a memorable sunrise or the patience required to capture the perfect wildlife photograph.

The finished calendar is a celebration of northern Minnesota through the eyes of the people who live here.

And while the photographs change each year, the tradition reflects something that remains constant: the connection between Lake Country Power and the members it serves.

"Every year after counting the number of Facebook likes per photo and sorting through the entries to prevent ties, I tell myself, 'That's how the cookie crumbled this year and we have another beautiful calendar,'" Zaun said of the process, which often leaves her with more beautiful photos than she can fit. "This is such a fun project. It's actually one of my favorites each year because of the connections I make with such a talented group of members."

The 2027 Co-op Calendar is arriving soon. Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop for more information and to see all the winning photos. Online calendar orders will be open while supplies last. Due to high demand last year, calendar orders are limited to a first-come, first-served basis and one per membership.

Why I'm Thankful for Co-ops and LCP Members

As Thanksgiving approaches, it's a natural time to reflect on the things we're grateful for.

Here in northern Minnesota, we understand the importance of neighbors helping neighbors. We know what it means to lend a hand when the snow piles up, check on someone when the power goes out or come together when a community needs support. That same spirit is at the heart of a cooperative.

Lake Country Power belongs to the people it serves. Members live along rural roads, on lakes and farms, in small towns and miles from the nearest community. It's spread across a large part of northern Minnesota, but the co-op shares something important: this cooperative is ours.

That's why I'm thankful Lake Country Power is guided by seven cooperative principles that have stood the test of time. Those principles remind us that membership is open, members have a voice, and the cooperative exists to serve them. They call on us to remain independent, provide education and information, work with other cooperatives and show concern for the communities we call home.

I'm thankful for the employees who serve Lake Country Power members every day. When a northern Minnesota storm rolls through and trees come down, co-op crews head out into the wind, snow and cold to restore power. Behind them are employees answering calls, coordinating work and making sure members have the information they need.

I'm also thankful for members who take an active role in their cooperative. You ask questions, vote in director elections, attend meetings and tell us when something matters to you. That involvement helps us make better decisions for the communities we serve.

Living in northern Minnesota isn't always easy. The distances are long, the winters can be unforgiving and our communities face challenges that aren't always understood elsewhere. But we also know how to look out for one another.

That's one of the reasons the cooperative model fits northern Minnesota so well.

This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful to serve a cooperative built by and for the people who call this place home. Thank you for your trust, your involvement and your membership.

Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours.

Craig Olson was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 7. He can be reached at 218-393-2276 or colson@lcp.coop.



Sincerely,
Craig Olson,
LCP Director District 7

Board Meeting Highlights: August 25, 2026

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Following Reports Were Given:
President Olson reported on his attendance at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Energy Issues Summit and the Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative legislative event. Several LCP directors attended both meetings.

General Manager Bakk reported on reliability concerns due to recent MISO alerts. Several times already in 2026 LCP was notified about potential energy shortfalls within the Midwest energy grid that could have resulted in a major disruption of electric service in northern Minnesota. This was discussed as a major concern regarding the generation and transmission of electricity moving forward.

The Following Actions Were Taken:
Approved a three-year construction contract with Lake States Construction with a 3% annual escalator.

Approved the right-of-way contract that will move LCP from a seven-year cycle to a six-year cycle starting in 2028 and ending in 2033. The new contract covers 6,243.5 miles.

Approved Steve Raukar and Larry Anderson as guest directors to attend the GRE meeting March 3-4, 2027.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. To view a complete copy, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." A SmartHub account is required. To request a printed copy, call (800) 421-9959.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: NOVEMBER 24 | DECEMBER 17 *(9:30 am at the Cohasset Service Center, Members Welcome)*

DID YOU KNOW?



Now effective. Lake Country Power's Kettle River service center has updated its office hours. The office will now be open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Reminder: Holiday Office Closures

Lake Country Power service centers will be closed in recognition of the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day holidays as follows:

THANKSGIVING:
Closed Thursday-Friday, Nov. 26-27.
Reopening 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30.

CHRISTMAS:
Closed Thursday-Friday, Dec. 24-25.
Reopening 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 28.

NEW YEAR'S DAY:
Closed Friday, Jan. 1, 2027.
Reopening Monday, Jan. 4, 2027.

Members can still call (800) 421-9959 or use SmartHub and texting services to report outages.

It's Holiday Cookie Time!

Lake Country Power will have free individually wrapped cookies and coffee available in our Mountain Iron, Cohasset and Kettle River service centers. We are expecting cookies to arrive Wednesday, December 2.

Stop in and help us ring in the holiday season!

New Talent, Stronger Team: Lake Country Power Welcomes Two New Engineers

Lake Country Power recently appointed Lee Gustafson as an electrical engineer and Steve Mattson as a Metering & SCADA engineer.

Both will work out of the Cohasset service center.



Lee Gustafson,
Electrical Engineer



Steve Mattson,
Metering & SCADA Engineer

Gustafson, of Grand Rapids, Minn., will be responsible for providing electrical engineering services related to the planning, design, construction, operation, reporting, and maintenance of Lake Country Power's electric distribution system.

Gustafson earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Minnesota State University-Mankato in 2021. Prior to that he earned his Associate of Science Degree in engineering in 2018 and his Associate of Applied Science Degree in power generation in 2013 from Itasca Community College. Most recently, he worked for Minnesota Power as an electrical engineer.

As a metering & SCADA engineer, Mattson's primary responsibility will be providing engineering support and leadership of Lake Country Power's AMI, SCADA, associated communication systems and associated maintenance activities. He will also be responsible for developing and maintaining the software and infrastructure necessary to support the company's strategic goals. This position provides supervision for eight technicians and three dispatchers.

Mattson earned his Bachelor of Science Chemical Engineering degree from the University of North Dakota. He has more than 25 years of experience working in engineering and utility operations. Since 2013, he was the wastewater manager for the Grand Rapids Public Utilities and supervised a 13-member team. He has a strong background in SCADA, Allen Bradley and process control management. He also has experience working for Minnesota Diversified Industries, Lonza, Hercules, Boise Paper Solutions and Boise Cascade.



Lake Country Power is Turning 30!

Next year marks a milestone for Lake Country Power: 30 years of serving our members and communities.

In next month's newsletter and throughout 2027, we'll take a look back at how Lake Country Power came together, how the cooperative has changed over the past three decades and some of the people and moments that helped shape who we are today.

But we want your help telling the story.

Were you a member when Lake Country Power was formed? Have an old photo of a co-op crew, truck, office or community event? Maybe you have a memorable outage story, remember when electricity first came to your family's property, or have a Lake Country Power memory that has stuck with you over the years.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your memories with us:

- Old photos or newspaper clippings
- Stories about Lake Country Power and its predecessor cooperatives
- Memories of employees, crews or community events
- Then-and-now photos from your home, farm, cabin or business
- Anything else that helps tell the story of our cooperative

Some submissions may be featured as we celebrate 30 years of Lake Country Power throughout 2027. To submit, send to jburnes@lcp.coop.

SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS OPENS JANUARY 1

Save the date! January 1, 2027, is important for high school seniors because that's when Lake Country Power's online application process opens for the Les Beach Scholarship. The application deadline is January 31, 2026.

To access the application, go to www.lakecountrypower.coop/scholarships. Applicants will need to create an account and complete the application online.

Scholarship recipients may qualify for up to $4,000 over four years to help pay for college or technical education. Scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters, and students must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. They must have a full-time enrollment status at a technical school, community college or university.

Qualifying students must also have parents or legal guardians who are members of Lake Country Power.

HOW TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Stay alert for fraudulent utility calls. Scammers can spoof caller ID to make a phone call appear to come from your electric utility—even when it doesn't. They may threaten disconnection, demand immediate payment or ask for personal information. Don't rely on caller ID alone to verify a caller's identity. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and contact your utility using the phone number printed on your bill or listed on the official website.

Source: FTC

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.



Small Change Helps Bring Big Stories to Life

For young performers on the Iron Range, stepping onto the stage can be a magic carpet ride to a whole new world this December.

That's especially true for children involved with Cultures, Humanities, and Arts on the Iron Range (CHAIR) in downtown Virginia, which is preparing for its upcoming production of Aladdin.

The production is another opportunity for local children to explore theater, develop confidence and discover talents they might not otherwise have a chance to showcase.

"Some kids come in a little nervous, but by the end of the production, you can see how much they've grown," said CHAIR Executive Director Paul Gregersen. "It's not just about putting on a show. It's about building confidence, making friendships and giving kids a place where they belong."

Lake Country Power members recently helped support that mission through Operation Round Up®, which awarded CHAIR funding for its children's production of Harry Potter.

While the characters and stories may change, the goal of giving local children opportunities to shine can be accomplished through spare change.

Participating Lake Country Power members voluntarily round their monthly electric bills up to the nearest dollar, and those pennies add up. Since 2004, LCP has distributed more than $3.8 million to nonprofit organizations and community projects in the region.

From food shelves and emergency services to youth activities and the arts, the program demonstrates how small contributions can make a lasting difference.

For organizations like CHAIR, the program demonstrates how small contributions can make a lasting difference.

"Productions like these take a lot of work and resources, and support from Lake Country Power members makes a real difference," Gregersen said. "It helps local kids experience theater, and we're grateful to live in a community that recognizes the value of the arts."

As CHAIR prepares to take audiences through the Arabian Nights of Aladdin, it's another reminder that — to riff a phrase from Genie — Operation Round Up® has phenomenal cosmic powers... and needs only itty-bitty contributions.

Learn more about Operation Round Up® at www.lakecountrypower.coop/operation-round-up

Learn more about CHAIR and its upcoming productions at www.chair-mn.org.

By The Numbers | August 2026

Lake Country Power is committed to responsibly managing resources to maintain the Cooperative's financial stability. Below is a snapshot of the year-to-date unaudited financial report. A complete set of financial statements can by viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative."

YTD OPERATING REVENUE

2026	$85,020,812
2025	$82,908,499

	2026	2025
Cost of Purchased Power	$43,513,061	$42,047,528
Other Operating Expenses	$36,906,723	$34,698,790
Total Cost of Electric Service	$80,419,784	$76,746,318

YTD kWh's SOLD
469,047,412
2025 Comparison: 468,567,176

51,902
ACTIVE SERVICES
2025 Comparison: 51,680

	2026	2025
Operating Margins	$4,601,029	$6,162,181
Non-Operating Margins	$1,579,803	$1,311,340

YTD TOTAL MARGINS
$6,180,832
2025 Comparison: $7,473,521

UTILITY PLANT (NET)
$339,549,817
2025 Comparison: $323,716,382

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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 services, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.

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Holiday Cooking: Save Energy in the Kitchen

During the holiday season, you may spend more time cooking, baking and prepping for family and friends. A few small changes can help you save energy, lower utility costs and keep your kitchen running efficiently.

Saving energy in the kitchen starts with using the right appliance for the job, keeping equipment in good condition and making simple changes to everyday cooking habits.

- **Use small appliances when possible.** Choose an air fryer, microwave, slow cooker or toaster oven for small meals or side dishes. They often use less energy than a full-size oven.
- **Keep the oven door closed.** Use the oven light instead of opening the door to check on food. Opening the door lets heat escape and makes the oven work harder.
- **Thaw frozen foods ahead of time.** Move frozen foods to the refrigerator in advance to avoid microwave defrosting.
- **Cook more at once.** Bake multiple dishes together when possible and make larger portions to freeze for later.
- **Turn down the thermostat while cooking.** Cooking and baking can warm your home quickly, especially when guests are gathered.
- **Run full loads.** Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it to make the most of each cycle.
- **Skip heated dry.** Use the air-dry or eco-mode setting to dry dishes while reducing energy use.

Drop Donuts

Submitted By: Stefanie Bolks, McGregor

2 Tbsp. soft butter
¾ cup sugar
4 egg yolks, beaten
1 cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla
¼ tsp. salt
3 cups flour
3 tsp. baking powder

DIRECTIONS:

Beat egg yolks. Add sugar and butter and beat. Add vanilla, salt, half of milk, half of flour with baking powder and beat. Add remainder of milk and flour and beat. Drop by teaspoon into 370°F oil for 2–3 minutes. Donuts will turn themselves.

Submit your recipe to Lake County Power, Attn. Editor, 8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768, or email jburnes@lcp.coop. If your entry is printed in the Newsline, you'll recieve a $5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address, and phone number of your account.