



July 2024

Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS July 30, Cohasset ■ August 27, Mountain Iron. (Both 9:30 a.m. Members welcome)



Energy that Powers Our Lives

IN THIS ISSUE

- EPA rule threatens grid reliability
- Howe earns leadership PhD
- LCP scholarship winners
- Co-op calendar photo deadline

Twins clinic takes the ballgame to Cohasset

“Red light! Green light!” sounded Kobi Allen, standing in the outfield at one of Portage Park’s softball fields in Cohasset.

Stretching out and loosening up around 100 kids aged 6-12 required a more fun approach by the Minnesota Twins clinic leader than it would in the right field grass at Target Field. Maybe a future Twin was in the mix, but on May 31, it was all about teaching and spreading the love of the game.

The Twins Community Fund Youth Baseball Clinic, a partnership of the team and Great River Energy, joined the city of Cohasset and Lake Country Power in stepping up to the plate for one of several free statewide clinics this summer.



Kids split into age groups and rotated onto different stations — throwing, batting and fielding — as Twins youth coaches taught fielding ground balls with two hands, “squashing the bug” on their swing and the basic mechanics of throwing.

“Just flick it,” coach Josiah Hayden told a group of 8-and-9-year-olds, holding his right arm upright like a crane’s neck before flipping the ball to his partner with a quick motion of his wrist.

A series of onlooking kids mimicked his motion while they huddled around him.

Parents also had their chance to get on the field: tossing batting practice, shagging batted balls and occasionally testing their reaction times and remaining athleticism

with the errant throw during fielding drills.

As the two-hour event wrapped up, kids left with a swag bag from the Twins and GRE, and two left with hitting/pitching nets that were raffled off. Some left with new skills to take into the summer leagues — others, an introduction to America’s pastime from their local professional baseball team, right in their backyard. ■



36 High school students earn scholarships from Lake Country Power

Lake Country Power is pleased to announce 36 local high school seniors from 30 different schools have been awarded the Lake Country Power 2024 Les Beach Memorial Scholarship. The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship honors a former co-op employee and recognizes student commitment and contribution to local communities.

The \$4,000 scholarships, issued at \$1,000 per year for four years, will help the following graduating seniors pursue their college plans and career dreams:



The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is available to local students from more than 35 area high schools. Qualified students must be co-op members through their parents or legal guardians who receive electric services from Lake Country Power.

The web-based application process for high school seniors will open this winter when qualifying high school seniors may apply for next year's scholarships. The exact dates will be announced this fall, and the online application will be available from the cooperative's website at www.lakecountrypower.coop.

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is made possible through abandoned and unclaimed capital from previous members who can no longer be located.

"We make great efforts to keep these unclaimed monies local to our service area for tax-exempt organizations and charitable purposes, such as scholarships," said Greg Schulzetenberg, LCP manager of community relations and marketing. "The State of Minnesota says these funds cannot be used for internal operations at the co-op but can be used locally if certain requirements are met."

- Reagen Warnygora: Barnum School
- Violena Belcourt: Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School
- Samantha Barry: Cherry School
- Tresa Baumgard: Chisholm School
- Willow Putnam: Cloquet School
- Gracie Foley and Maxwell Hanni: Cromwell-Wright School
- Jaxon Lind: Deer River School
- Sarah Visser: Ely Memorial Secondary School
- Talon Mattson: Esko School
- Alice Irvine: Floodwood School
- Isaac Palecek, Amanda Scherping, and Emily Walters: Grand Rapids High School
- Klara Finke: Greenway-Coleraine School
- Samuel Dobinson: Hermantown School
- Henry Bechthold: Hibbing School
- Emmett Bray: Hill City School
- Courtney Gauthier: McGregor Secondary School
- Kristopher Oman: Mesabi East School
- Danica Matten: Moose Lake School
- Hali Savela: Mountain Iron-Buhl School
- Kaitlin Olson: Nashwauk-Keewatin School
- Victoria Olson: North Woods School
- Ruby Milton: Northeast Range School
- Anne Backlund: Northern Lights Community School
- Dylan Schwarz: Northland-Remer School
- Cooper Kalnbach and Cameron Pease: Proctor School
- Wrenna Galloway and Ellie Norvitch: Rock Ridge High School
- Natalie Brewer: South Ridge School
- Edward Pinski: Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School
- Milla Beldo and Owen Hoepner: At Large category
- Elijah Schafbuch: Home school

LCP's Howe graduates with leadership Doctorate

Derek Howe, chief operating officer at Lake Country Power, graduated with his PhD in leadership on May 3, 2024, from the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky.

He started the online program in 2019 and published his dissertation in December 2023. It included 22 classes in leadership and business.

Howe studied leadership traits and how they impact positive financial performance, specifically looking at electric cooperatives. He sent about 400 surveys to co-op leaders in 11 states around the north central U.S. and received a statistically significant return of

35 to proceed with the study. Findings include that leaders using contingent rewards and were good at using inspirational motivation had a statistically significant impact on financial performance. Leaders that were more passive and spent more time putting out fires had a statistically significant negative impact on financial performance.

He also said the study found a significant correlation of co-op leaders who rose through the ranks having higher levels of trust, loyalty and respect than formally educated leaders.

Howe took on the leadership study to improve his own leadership ability, what type



of leader he is and how to mentor his staff.

"I think leadership is situational and you have to look at yourself and what traits you have and do what you can

to move between them," he said. "Then you have to look at your people and the situation, and alter your style to meet that. That's what I think is effective leadership." ■



Product Retirements

As of June 1, 2024, Steffes will cease ordering parts and offering technical support for the following products:

Important message to members

This will impact some OFF PEAK Steffes Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) users.

Members with these discontinued products can contact Lake Country Power Members Services about replacement options.



Double Loop Furnaces
Models
DLF30B & DLF40B



Heat Pump Boosters
Models HPB11
HPB15 and HPB22



LCP DONATES TO HONOR BUS

▶ Lake Country Power made a \$500 contribution toward the "honor bus" transportation expenses to take veterans from Grand Rapids to the Minnesota Twins baseball game in July. There will be 50 veterans on the bus, and each will receive a water bottle with LCP's logo for the drive. Bemidji bus line is donating the bus, but the veterans have to pay for the fuel. So the funds will go toward fuel expenses. Pictured are Phil Hansen, Joel Kvilvang, Jason Hoerler and Kenny Hurlbutt. Dog is K-ehleyr.



(800) 421-9959
lakecountrypower.coop

Questions? Contact Steffes:
 (888) 783-3337
offpeak@steffes.com

LCP still seeking 2025 co-op calendar entries

Electronic entries are still being accepted via email for the 2025 co-op calendar contest. The deadline is Thursday, August 1, to tzaun@lcp.coop. Remember to include a photo description for each entry.

The calendar will showcase the photography talents of LCP's membership. Your photography should be scenic, capturing the beauty of northern Minnesota's four seasons. Horizontal/landscape photos qualify for proper design while vertical photos do not. Members can enter up to 10 photos per membership (household). Photos should be at least 1 MB in file size – anything less will not print clearly.

A panel of judges will select the winning photos in "round one" of the judging process. During "round two," members will select the finalists through a contest on LCP's Facebook page.

Winners will receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill and will be notified in October. ■



2024 CO-OP CALENDAR

Integrity • Accountability • Innovation • Community



EQUIPMENT QUIZ

Q

How much does a Demand Response Unit (DRU) cost?

?

- A) \$173 C) \$97
B) \$212 D) \$402

*LCP began installing the new Aclara DRUs in 2020, which replaced all of the old load control receivers that have been used to control various EnergyWise programs. LCP needed to do this exchange because the former technology was obsolete and will be retired by LCP's wholesale energy provider, Great River Energy, by year-end 2025. **Answer: B**

RECIPE CORNER EASY PULLED PORK (AKA PICKLE JUICE PORK BUTT)



From the Kitchen of:
**Lynne Marihart,
McGregor**



- Approx. 3-pound pork shoulder roast (also called pork butt)
- Use ¾ of a 32 oz. jar of dill pickle juice; plan to serve pickles
- 2 cloves of garlic, smashed; add more to taste
- Pepper optional
- Buns and butter

Place pork butt, pickle juice and garlic in a slow cooker and turn on high. Cook 2 to 2 ½ hours, until pork is cooked and easily shredded. Taste and add more pepper or garlic powder as needed. Pick out fatty bits, drain and serve in a bowl. Butter buns and toast in a frying pan if desired. And set out some pickles!

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768, or e-mail jlumes@lcp.coop. 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.

Power plant rules threaten grid reliability

This spring, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four major new regulations for the electric industry, including a much-anticipated rule to cut emissions from power plants, a sweeping move that will aggravate reliability concerns for electric cooperatives and other utilities nationwide.

The power plant rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that is not yet reliable or commercially available.

These national mandates will have implications for us in the Northland, and the concern has also created bipartisan opposition in the U.S. Senate for review. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is saying “the path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable,” according to NRECA CEO, Jim Matheson. “It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid.”

Matheson also says, “the new EPA rules ignore our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and are the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future.” This is something that concerns me as a leader here at Lake Country Power.

The power plant rule will force the early closure of electricity generation sources that are available 24/7 and will also impede

the construction of new natural gas plants. The timing of these sweeping new rules is particularly troubling as electric utilities face a surge in demand for electricity from factors like transportation electrification and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Under the new rule, existing coal-fired power plants that plan to operate past the start of 2039 must install CCS to capture 90% of emissions by 2032. The rule also requires new natural gas plants that operate more than 40% of the time to install CCS and capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. These standards, and their reliance on unproven CCS technology, will undermine electric reliability.

Lake Country Power is committed to doing everything possible to cut carbon emissions and adhere to the new state and federal mandates on the books, but we must raise caution and take action when it comes to the reliability and affordability of electric service for you, our members.

Electric cooperatives understand the need to keep the lights on at a cost local families and businesses can afford. Clean energy technologies must be balanced with generation sources that are always available to ensure a reliable electric grid.

Electric cooperatives like LCP deliver power to 42 million Americans. Our top priority is to meet our members’ energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that. ■



By Mark
BAKK
General Manager

Kingsley earns CCD certificate



Lake Country Power Director Dan Kingsley recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model.

Lake Country Power has a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of

knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making

March 26, 2024 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported that he attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) PowerXchange in San Antonio, Texas from March 4-6 and Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) annual meeting. Olson also said LCP directors had the chance to visit with Minnesota legislators to discuss issues and concerns related to the industry.

General Manager Bakk reported his attendance at the March Great River Energy (GRE) board meeting and MREA annual meeting and Member Manager Group meeting, as well as participating in the legislative visits. Bakk also reported that GRE is in communication with USDA

Rural Utilities Services about potential funding through a new loan and grant program.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Director Bruckbauer and Director Olson were selected as nominees for election as a GRE director for a one-year term that would begin June 5, 2024. Bruckbauer and Olson were also named LCP voting delegates for the GRE annual meeting.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at 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.



▶ Robin Rousch of Stillwater photographed Alfredo watching the sunset after a storm on Upper Island Lake near Cromwell.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use. Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy. Source: energy.gov

Co-op Contacts

Mark Bakk, General Manager	800-421-9959 mbakk@lcp.coop
Jason Long, District 1	218-240-9611 jlong@lcp.coop
Michael Forsman, District 2	218-365-5789 mforsman@lcp.coop
Steve Raukar, District 3	218-966-0298 sraukar@lcp.coop
Jeff Sheldon, District 4	218-398-6104 jsheldon1@lcp.coop
Robert Bruckbauer, District 5	218-290-8729 rbruckbauer@lcp.coop
Daniel Kingsley, District 6	218-259-7366 dkingsley@lcp.coop
Craig Olson, District 7	218-393-2276 colson@lcp.coop
Brian Napstad, District 8	218-485-1528 bnapstad@lcp.coop
Larry Anderson, District 9	218-428-2722 landerson@lcp.coop

BY THE NUMBERS | APRIL 2024

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



	2024	2023
Cost of Purchased Power	\$20,596,364	\$20,331,723
Other Operating Expenses	\$15,493,406	\$14,982,985
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$36,089,770	\$35,314,708



	2024	2023
Operating Margins	\$5,549,887	\$5,169,122
Non-Operating Margins	\$810,173	\$548,050



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

Published monthly by Lake Country Power
8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768
Editor: Jerry Burnes • jburnes@lcp.coop
Lake Country Power Service Centers:
Cohasset • Kettle River • Mountain Iron
800-421-9959 • www.lakecountrypower.coop
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

