

Happy Thanksgiving!

LakeCountryPower



Energy that Powers Our Lives

November 2023

Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS November 28 ■ December 21 (9:30 am at Cohasset Service Center. Members welcome)

IN THIS ISSUE

You are a member
Modernizing the grid
Co-op calendars: taking orders
Scholarship process opens Jan. 1

Preparing your dual fuel system for winter

The crisp evenings have arrived in the Northland and, if you haven't already turned it on, it's time to start thinking about your heating system this fall.

For dual fuel members at Lake Country Power, this is a good time to check your primary electric heating and backup heating systems before the winter chill returns.

Dual fuel is a load management program where a home's primary heating system is electric and can be interrupted by the cooperative during times of peak system demand or system emergencies (up to 400 hours per heating season). An alternate non-electric, typically a fossil fuel or qualifying ETS (electric thermal storage) heating system, is the backup that heats your home during the control times.

It also provides great value to LCP members, saving hundreds of dollars a year in heating costs on a typical home and operates at a reduced energy rate. Its cost efficiency is because electric rates are more stable compared to other fuel types, which is why Lake Country Power encourages members to fill their secondary fuel sources



By Monique SANDQUIST
Manager of Member Service



Fill it up this fall.

soon, as propane and fuel prices are more likely to increase in the winter months.

Existing dual fuel members can also check their systems with four practical tips to ensure a warm home when it's needed:

1. Operate the electric heating equipment to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat.
2. Operate the backup heating system (oil or propane) also to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat. Have your gas or oil furnace/boiler checked periodically by a professional HVAC contractor.
3. To get notified directly, by email

or text alerts, when dual fuel is being controlled, you can sign up for load control notifications in SmartHub. If you do not have SmartHub yet, please visit lakecountrypower.coop > My Account > Sign In, click Login/Register.

4. To monitor the control periods of dual fuel throughout the heating season, visit lakecountrypower.coop, then from our home page click on Today's Load.

Lake Country Power members who have a question about dual fuel or any of our other load management programs can call our offices, during business hours, at 1-800-421-9959, and press 6 for our Member Service department. ■

Operation Round Up® gives more than \$51,000 to local programs



Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Electric Trust Board recently approved \$51,953 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 34 grant applications and distributed funds to 31 projects and programs this past quarter.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up® are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary Trust Board of nine co-op members administers the trust. Of the funds collected through the program, 100% is distributed to charitable organizations through an application and selection process. The Trust Board uses special guidelines and policies when choosing recipients.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

Among Lake Country Power's 43,000 members, 67% of all active electric accounts participate in the program through voluntary contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959.

Request your 2024 co-op calendar



The 2024 co-op calendars are ready... and beautiful! Supplies are limited to a first-come, first-serve basis and two per membership. Request your free 2024 co-op calendar online at www.lakecountrypower.coop, call 800-421-9959, or pick up a copy at our service centers.

Our offices will be

Closed

for

Thanksgiving

**Thursday, Nov. 23 &
Friday, Nov. 24**

To report outages, use the SmartHub app
or call (800) 421-9959

www.lakecountrypower.coop

The logo for Lake Country Power, featuring a stylized blue and green wave above the text "Lake Country Power" and "A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative" with a small logo.

Modern technology on the electric system

Technology makes today's electric grid more reliable, responsive and convenient for cooperative members. It also makes it possible for cooperative members to better manage their energy consumption and costs by allowing access to connected devices, such as smart thermostats, and providing better visibility into energy use data.

Electric cooperatives also realize significant benefits from these technologies, which can improve security, reduce peak loads, better facilitate the integration of renewable energy and lower operational costs.

Electric cooperatives across the nation are following this path toward "grid modernization," making one of the world's finest displays of technological innovation — the electric grid — even more impressive. Lake Country Power and Great River Energy, our wholesale electric provider, are far along in our efforts to modernize the grid.

Great River Energy has updated its telecommunications networks over the past six years and is seeing much improved performance and reliability. The cooperative also employs a back-up network to ensure data continues to flow even if there is a telecommunications outage.

According to the Energy Information Administration, 81% of electric meters in the United States are using some kind of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI).

These modern meters fulfill an integral role in providing data from homes and businesses to cooperatives and their member-owners. AMI automates metering functions using communication networks and eliminates the need for employees to go house-to-house to read meters. AMI also helps quickly verify where there are electric outages or when restoration is complete. Data collected through AMI can also be used to identify maintenance needs.



Furthermore, Lake Country Power and Great River Energy have meter data management systems in place to ensure data that is collected from the advanced meters can be analyzed and used to enhance operations.

Finally, Great River Energy and Lake Country Power use modern demand response management technology so that in times of high electricity usage, the cooperatives can call upon member load management resources, such as air conditioners and water heaters, to more precisely reduce peak demand and save money for the cooperative. ■

Use your Co-op Connections® Card this holiday season

November marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season, with Small Business Saturday happening November 25, but with your Co-op Connections® membership you can help support local small businesses year-round.

This free co-op membership card offers cooperative members deals on products and services to more than 24,000 local and national businesses. The card helps save on automotive, clothing, dining, travel and more.

Each member of Lake Country Power receives the Co-op Connections® Card without cost or signing up, and it's yours to keep — forever. LCP is proud to be part of the communities we service and appreciative of the opportunity to help our members

save, while also supporting the local business community.

Co-op Connections® also recently launched a new website at connections.coop and a free phone app to make accessing your member benefits even easier, with great deals and special promotions. You can download the app through Google Play or the Apple App Store.

For more information on the Co-op Connections® Card and a full list of local and national businesses and deals, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop/co-op-connections-card. If you lost your card and need a replacement, call LCP at 800-421-9959, or you may download the app on your smart device by searching Co-op Connections®.

Four ways to safeguard your home this winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are four ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...

Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power



strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors. ■

RECIPE CORNER DELLIE'S LEMON CHEESECAKE

From the
Kitchen of:
Jan Dircks,
Zim



Crust:

- 1 pkg graham crackers, crushed fine
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup sugar

Mix together and press into an 8x10 pan on bottom and up the sides

Filling:

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 pkg instant lemon pudding
- 1 ½ cups milk

Cream the cheese until smooth. Then add milk to the pudding, mix and stir until smooth. Beat into cream cheese a little at a time until smooth. Pour into the crust and refrigerate until set.

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

smart hub **Tip**

Q: Need to report an outage, or have other issues or questions?

A: Using your SmartHub account makes reaching us easier than ever. Under "Contact Us" click the option "Report an Issue/Inquiry." You'll then have the option of picking "Power Outage" or "Other issues/General Inquiry."

You are a member, not a customer

That's the co-op difference!

Many businesses use the word "member" to describe their customers. Places like Sam's Club or Costco and even American Express like to refer to their customers as members. You pay a fee to buy their goods and services, but that is really all you get for the "membership." No right to vote for the Board of Directors or to participate in any meaningful way in the organization.



By Steve
RAUKAR
District 3
Director

In cooperatives like Lake Country Power, membership really does mean something more than just the right to buy electricity. Co-ops of all types are founded on seven cooperative principles that give us guidance and strategic direction. Membership also gives you rights as an owner of this co-op.

Economic partnership

Lake Country Power is connected to you. There is a business relationship that serves you (the member) and the co-op. Since co-ops are solely owned by people in the community, they have a mutual interest to ensure that both the co-op and the member do well and prosper.

Transparency

As an owner of the co-op, you have a right to know how it operates and how decisions are made that directly impact you. If the co-op is transparent and combines this trait with integrity and fairness, it will build trust with the members.

Character

In this case, character is best defined as how your co-op thinks, acts and operates. It includes the current and historical identity, the vision, mission and the sense of shared values with co-op members. Research, education and training are critical functions that Lake Country Power must conduct on an ongoing basis to ensure that we always have the best information to make decisions.

The cooperative business model is the best one on earth, but like any enterprise, it is up to the human beings who work at the co-op, who serve on the board and the members like you to ensure that the principles and values do not fade over time.

First and foremost, Lake Country Power strives to be thought of as a member-owned cooperative that gives you the best value of any utility. If it succeeds, our community thrives and you will always value being a member — not a customer. ■

Steve Raukar was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 3. He can be reached at 218-966-0298 or sraukar@lcp.coop.

Scholarship process opens January 1

SAVE THE DATE! January 1, 2024, 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, 2024.

To complete the electronic application and submit electronic letters of recommendation, go to www.lakecountrypower.coop > My Cooperative > Community > Scholarships.

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.

August 29, 2023 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson reported that he attended the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Energy Issues Summit. President Olson and Director Bob Bruckbauer are LCP's representatives on the Great River Energy Board. Director Bruckbauer commented on the Northland Reliability Project that is projected to be completed in 2030.

General Manager Mark Bakk commented on several wind contracts that Great River Energy is exploring. Mr. Bakk also said LCP Strategic Planning will be held Oct. 11-12 at Fortune Bay, where right-of-way areas and aging infrastructure will be toured as part of the co-op's long-range plan.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved a purchase agreement of real estate owned by Lake Country Power Holdings, Inc.

Approved a capital expenditure purchase of two unbudgeted trailers for \$37,000 to replace older trailers that can no longer be used. The trailers are used to transport equipment to complete work orders.

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.



► Bernard Matlock of Cohasset captured these beautiful fall colors at High Falls in Grand Portage.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen! When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy. When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy. Source: energy.gov

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BY THE NUMBERS | AUGUST 2023

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."



	2023	2022
Cost of Purchased Power	\$36,473,540	\$41,853,916
Other Operating Expenses	\$30,968,806	\$30,698,792
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$67,442,346	\$72,552,708



	2023	2022
Operating Margins	\$7,944,452	\$1,094,008
Non-Operating Margins	\$990,198	\$995,303



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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