



August 2017

Newsline



Energy that Powers Our Lives

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From a Director's View

Land Purchased in Cohasset

Solar Capacity Factor

Residential Energy Use Survey



Operation Round Up® closing in on \$2 million in community grants

Operation Round Up recipients



Thanks to Operation Round Up, it's a sunnier summer for many area communities.

Through the assistance of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved \$39,700 in contributions to local community programs this past quarter.

The cooperative's Trust Board

reviewed and considered 59 grant applications and distributed funds to more than 40 projects and programs. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$1.9 million has been distributed to more than 1,700 community-based projects and programs.

"The concept behind the program extends the principle on which electric co-ops were built over 75

years ago," said Mike Birkeland, director, member service and community relations. "And that is, neighbor helping neighbor to benefit the communities in which we live and work."

Operation Round Up® is a voluntary and charitable program unique to electric cooperatives. It provides financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding

up" member's electric bills to the nearest dollar. The most members contribute in a one-year period is less than \$12.

Applications are available online at www.lakecountrypower.coop. Deadlines are quarterly: Feb. 14, May 14, Aug. 14 and Nov. 14.

BOARD MEETINGS

Aug. 29 – 9:30 a.m. at
Kettle River Service Center
Sept. 26 – 9:30 a.m. at
Mountain Iron Service Center

COAL CREEK TOUR

It's time to hop a ride! Register for the Coal Creek Tour no later than Aug. 29. Space is limited. Travel dates: Sept. 19 – 21.

SEE
PAGE 3
for
Registration
Form

PRIMARY NUMBER

Lake Country Power's phones are answered 24 hours a day. Our primary phone number is 1-800-421-9959.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Co-op events are posted at www.lakecountrypower.coop. Go to "Community" and click "Events."



As one of nine co-op directors who've been elected to Lake Country Power's board to oversee the cooperative, we are often times asked questions. I'd like to answer a couple questions that I'm often asked.

The first question is how to pay your bill, and sometimes how to pay it on-time. That's because some members receive their social security payments the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, making it hard to pay on time. I'd like to offer a few helpful solutions.

I'd recommend SmartHub as the best way to make payments on your electric account. You can make a payment at any time, manage your account and report power outages when you set up a SmartHub account. It's a great tool that I'd encourage everyone use.

If you don't have technology in place to establish and maintain a SmartHub account, there are other payment options available. Budget billing is one, and it'll level out your monthly energy bills so you pay a fixed amount each month. It's based on the average of the previous 12-month bill history and is re-evaluated twice a year (March and August) for catch up on remaining balances due.

Another payment option is LCP Easy Pay, which is an automated payment method.

To get started, you'll need to complete an application and submit a voided check to LCP.

Members can also pay by credit card: Visa, MasterCard or Discover. LCP also accepts MoneyGram payments. Or you can pay by phone by calling LCP's payment line at 888-222-6892.

The second question I'm often asked is about donations. Contributions for local community programs and projects are provided from LCP's Operation Round Up® through an easy application process. Due dates are February 14, May 14, August 14 and November 14.

Since October 2004, Operation Round Up has contributed more than \$1.9 million thanks to the members who allow LCP to "round up" their bills. The application is available online at lakecountrypower.coop under the "Community" tab, or call 800-421-9959.

If I, or any of the other directors can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

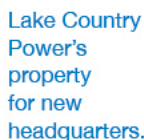
Craig Carlson was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 4. He can be reached at 218-999-7175 or carlsonlcp@gmail.com.

LCP finalizes new headquarters plan with land purchase

LCP's General Manager Greg Randa and Director of Finance and Administration Mark Bakke met with the City of Cohasset Thursday, June 29, to finalize the purchase agreement of land for the cooperative's new headquarters building. The land is in the phase II area of the Cohasset Industrial Park, just a short distance west of LCP's current location on Highway 2.

Lake Country Power also received development incentives from the Cohasset Economic Development Authority for the new building location.

"We anticipate breaking ground this fall when footings will be installed and construction will go through the winter," said Randa.



The Cohasset Industrial Park is expanding its industrial park and LCP will be the first tenant in the new development. LCP also plans to move the existing solar array in Grand Rapids to the new site.



Be alert

Help prevent copper theft

IF YOU SEE ANYTHING unusual, or anyone other than utility personnel or contractors around electrical facilities, equipment, or utility poles, call 911 immediately.

GREAT RIVER ENERGY costing electric cooperatives and our members thousands of dollars each year.

Individuals who steal copper from electric utility equipment interrupt service and create life-threatening situations for themselves, our employees and the public.

You can help prevent copper theft by being alert to suspicious activity and reporting it.

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

Agricola Electric Cooperative • Arrowhead Cooperative, Inc. • BENCOC Electric Cooperative • Brown County Rural Electrical Association • Comstock Energy • Cooperative Light & Power • Crow Wing Power • Delta Electric Association • East Central Energy • Federated Rural Electric Association • Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association • Irons-Whearty Cooperative Electrical Association • Kandiyohi Power Cooperative • Lake Country Power • Lake Region Electric Cooperative • M'Cloud Cooperative Power Association • Mole Lake Cooperative • Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative • Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative • Mobile Cooperative Electric • North River Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Redwood Electric Cooperative • Rouseaux Electric Association • South Central Electric Association • Stearns Electric Association • Steele-Powace Cooperative Electric • Todd-Moore Electric Cooperative • Wright-Hersperly Cooperative Electric Association



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New Outpost to meet members' needs

LCP officials recognized a recent investment with a public celebration and special open house in June. More than 100 members, township officials, local leaders, co-op representatives and media turned out for a ribbon cutting, lunch and tours at the new Ely Outpost.

"This is a great long-term investment for co-op members – especially members in the Ely area," said Mike Forsman, LCP district 2 director. "This is a building members can be proud to own."

Four linemen work hard to keep the energy flowing for residents near Ely and surrounding areas: Bill Koschak, Jason Shultz, Kael Richards and Ron Nelson. The building replaced rented space that was old, small and inadequate for trucks and equipment. Crews moved into



the new space in November 2016.

The Ely Outpost is strategically located east of Ely near LCP's Winton Substation, which supplies energy to nearly 1,800 members.

The 5,000 square foot building has three drive-through stalls so lineworkers can enter and exit the building more safely and efficiently.

It was built by local contractors and uses LCP's EnergyWise programs for heating the building.



Registration for the Coal Creek Tour in ND

- ☐ I want to go on the Coal Creek Tour to North Dakota, Sept. 19 – 21. I understand space is limited on a first-register basis. The cost is \$170 per person, due Aug. 29. Registration includes transportation, two nights lodging at the Holiday Inn Express in Bismarck, dinner and a full day tour with lunch.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Pick-up locations available (please choose one):

- ☐ Grand Rapids service center
☐ Kettle River service center
☐ Mountain Iron service center

Please mail this registration form and check to Lake Country Power, Tami Zaun, 2810 Elida Drive, Grand Rapids MN 55744.

Online auction to open fall 2017 Retired LCP fleet vehicles to be auctioned online



Lake Country Power is partnering with North Auctions of Hibbing, Minn., to hold its second online auction on fleet the co-op is liquidating. Several LCP fleet pickups will be included in the auction.

The auction is open exclusively for member-consumers of Lake Country Power. The electronic bidding will be through K-Bid.com. Plans are still underway to determine a starting date for online bidding and end date. More details will be provided from LCP this fall.

Kettle River couple invests in “the good life”

Lake Country Power member Gene Dutkin's life might just be the definition of a true 180-degree turn.

Dutkin was born in Philadelphia, grew up in southern New Jersey, and spent several years in New York City. Aspirations and future goals changed when he met his wife, Barnum native Melinda Ninefeldt, during their college years in Texas.

Ninefeldt grew up on a northern Minnesota farm, a stark contrast to Dutkin's rearing.

“The size of Melinda's farm would have held 20,000 people back where I grew up,” said Dutkin. And, this was just one attraction, an underlying reason why he wanted to migrate to rural America nearly 30 years ago.

“I wanted to live out here and see if we could do it the way they used to do it,” he said. “I didn't even know people still lived like this.”

Alternative Path

So, deciding to leave his career as an engineer, Gene and Melinda took their young son and traded the bustle of the East Coast for the solitude of a beautiful wooded spot in northern Minnesota.

The lack of white noise on the serene landscape was hard to accept for Dutkin. At first.

“It was a huge adjustment. The first time I walked down our driveway it was so quiet I thought I was going to get mugged. It was just weird. I never experienced anything like that. I mean the quiet, not the mugging,” he said with a chuckle.

In order to make it work, the family of three needed to find a niche to support their newfound lifestyle. That came in the form of farming on their 200-acre plot of land.

Ninefeldt worked for a time as a nurse, but both husband and wife then went all-in with raising natural, quality food products. It included certified organic vegetables, and other elements such as chickens, hogs, turkeys and syrup.

“We harvest it, eat it or sell it right away,” said Ninefeldt of producing food with no preservatives, adding they do not eat many processed foods.

She also said: “It's good for our souls ... we are physically active all the time, and feel good about how we are maintaining the land; we're good stewards.”



Melinda Ninefeldt and Gene Dutkin enjoy “the good life” in front of their home near Kettle River.

Eye on efficiency

The team relies on rural power provided by the co-op, but supplements Lake Country Power with wood heat and solar power to maintain their 2,000 square foot earth-berm home and out buildings.

Dutkin and Ninefeldt are just one of the many unique stories that flow through the LCP membership. Reminding us all that without a rural cooperative power supply, many dreams of enjoying this beautiful country in such a rewarding way would

not be possible.

“We have good neighbors, and we know our neighbors,” added Ninefeldt. “We've just enjoyed raising good food ... that people enjoy.”

Success in pursuing a life of simplicity; a choice to depart from the fast pace of today's world.

“It's nice, I like it this way,” says Dutkin. “I think a lot of people are going back to the land, or trying to, on some level.”

And the Survey says ...

LCP power supplier to conduct residential energy use survey

In the effort to plan and forecast future electricity usage and consumer energy needs, LCP's power supplier, Great River Energy will be conducting a residential end-use survey in August and September. The survey is critical in helping GRE develop forecasts for power generation and supply in the future.

The information will also help GRE as it plans long range load forecasts. Participation is voluntary, but if members take part, it helps LCP and GRE plan for adequate generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure to meet member needs well into the future.

Solar capacity factor reaches 14.1%

Over the past six months, Lake Country Power's 20 kW solar array in Grand Rapids generated 12,200 kilowatt-hours. This may sound impressive, but the capacity factor was 14.1 percent.

That means the panels produce kilowatt-hours at a 14 percent rate of overall production capacity. To achieve 100 percent capacity, solar panels would have to be exposed to direct (cloudless) sunlight 24 hours a day (and night), 365 days per

year with no other variables such as snow on panels, etc.

“Our solar array provides members an opportunity to view hourly, daily and historical electricity generation online, said Mike Birkeland, LCP director of member service and community relations. We find most members making these investments rarely end up doing it to save money. The numbers take a long time to produce a payback. Usually, it's a long-term outlook, with more

than money savings at the heart of the decision.

For anyone interested in this type of investment, we recommend spending the time, effort and energy up-front researching the topic. The solar facility at our Grand Rapids service center is a great resource in that regard.”

To view the energy output from Lake Country Power's local solar array, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop.



Rural Electric Youth Tour Recap

Thank you to everyone at Lake Country Power who made it possible for me to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour this summer.

Each day I learned more about the historically-rich Washington, D.C. I saw

many memorials (Jefferson, Lincoln, Vietnam), and museums (Smithsonian). My appreciation for each site flourished while learning that nearly everything constructed in D.C. is symbolic.

While visiting the two Jima Memorial, we watched the Marine Corp practice their drills—a memorable experience.

Throughout the week, I traded my Minnesota stickers with those from other states, which was a fantastic way to meet new people! I loved learning about



By Erin Genereau
LCP's 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour delegate

other states, and hearing the different accents was fascinating.

Adam Schwartz's presentation on cooperatives was fantastic. I learned a great deal, and gained a better understanding of what cooperatives do. The National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association's Youth Night was my favorite event. Every speaker was amazing, and our keynote speaker was truly inspiring. During this time, we also learned how cooperatives are making an impact internationally by providing electricity and opportunities for third-world countries.

This sums up the point of the trip, and the meaning behind cooperatives: Together we can do anything. This lesson resonated in everything I saw, and learned over the week: Learning about our nation's great leaders

bringing people together in times of difficulty, how cooperatives provide us with more opportunities and also brought us young individuals together so as to enrich our minds.

As a nation, as people, and as cooperatives, we can achieve great things when we are willing to work together. For these reasons, I encourage other students to be a part of the Youth Tour. It truly is an unforgettable trip, one I am incredibly thankful to have had the opportunity to attend. The lessons you will learn,

and memories you will make are invaluable.

Editor's Note: Applications will be available this winter for high school juniors and seniors who want to apply for a chance to be selected as LCP's delegate for the Youth Tour in 2018. Be sure to watch your newsletter for details. Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (Community/Youth Tour) for more information.

Save money with your card

You work hard, so let **The One Card That Does It All®** work hard for you. Get connected to hundreds of local deals and thousands of national discounts from the businesses that participate in the Co-op Connections Card.



Golfing this month?

Take advantage of these discounts.

- **Minnesota National Golf Course, McGregor:** \$5 off a round of golf per person, per card, per day.
- **Nevada Bob's Golf, Duluth:** 10% off all foot wear and apparel
- **Pine Hill Golf Course, Carlton:** 10% off normal green fees



Recipe Corner

Creamy Wild Rice Soup

Carolyn Lehtikoinen, Cloquet

- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. minced onion
- ½ cup flour
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 can Canoe cooked wild rice, drained
- ½ cup finely grated carrots
- 1/3 cup cubed ham or 1 can chicken
- 3 Tbsp. chopped almonds
- 1 cup half & half
- 2 Tbsp. dry sherry wine (optional)
- ½ cup chopped parsley or chives
- Dash of salt



Melt butter in saucepan and sauté onion until tender. Blend in flour. Gradually add broth. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture comes to a boil. Boil 1 minute. Stir in rice, carrots, ham, almonds and salt. Simmer 5 minutes. Blend in half & half and sherry. Heat to serving temperature. Garnish with parsley or chives. Yields 6 cups.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 2810 Elida Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, or e-mail tzaun@lakecountrypower.com. If your entry is drawn and printed in Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account. Recipes will be published as space allows.

Condensed Board Minutes

May 30, 2017 • Regular Monthly Meeting

The following reports were given:

President Craig Olson presided over the meeting.

Greg Randa, LCP general manager, provided a verbal report on GRE's budget, discussions of the GRE Power Purchase Contract Committee, Northland Connect, Ely Outpost open house, LCP new director orientation, bids for automated meter infrastructure, and property closing on land in Cohasset Industrial Park among other topics.

Mark Bakk, LCP director of finance and administration, reviewed the March 2017 unaudited financials with the board.

The following actions were taken:

Approved a resolution opposing Great River Energy's transmission rate methodology because it is not favorable to Lake Country Power and other northern cooperatives.

Approved the companies on the 2018 right-of-way bidders list for work next year.

Approved to adopt a resolution to amend and restate the retirement security and/or 401K pension plan for LCP.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at www.lakecountrypower.coop in the "Member's Area." 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 August 2017. Jeff Brooks of Forest Lake, captured this beautiful sunrise with a little fog on the lake at the cabin on Lawrence Lake.

Final Reminder:

Co-op calendar contest ends Sept. 1

The 2018 co-op calendar contest closes at 11:59 p.m. on September 1. Enter for a chance to win up to \$30 credited to your bill.

Photo Contest Guidelines

1. Only Lake Country Power members may enter the contest. (LCP employees and their immediate families and spouses are not eligible to enter the contest.)
2. Photos must be electronic. Photos must capture the beauty of northern

- Minnesota. You may submit photos taken in spring, summer, fall and/or winter. The photos must be taken by you, not someone else.
3. Photos will not be accepted if the following information is not provided in the e-mail with the electronic photograph: Name, address, city, state, zip, phone/cell, e-mail, location taken and a photo description.
4. One membership (household) may submit up to 10 photos (separate e-mails required), but we may limit each photographer to no more than two winning entries.
5. Enter color photos that were taken in northern Minnesota, and are appropriately sized for printing at 12 inches wide by 9 inches high (300 resolution: minimum resolution of 2,700 pixels by 3,600 pixels).
6. Only horizontal pictures will be accepted. Vertical photos will be eliminated.
7. Photos must be e-mailed to tzaun@lakecountrypower.com. All entries must be received by September 1, 2017.
8. Photos must not include people.
9. Winning photographers automatically give Lake Country Power permission to use winning photos in the calendar, in other publications, member presentations or electronically online.

Co-op Contacts

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Sherman Liimatainen, District 9	218-879-3135 sgliimatainen@gmail.com

Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care than 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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Lake Country Power Service Centers:
Grand Rapids • Kettle River • Mountain Iron
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Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — May 2017

	2017	2016
Electric Operating Revenue	\$38,311,480	\$36,894,930
Cost of Purchased Power	20,364,904	19,175,588
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	4,924,297	4,085,303
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,798,508	1,640,052
Administrative and General Expense	2,664,484	2,631,063
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	5,793,789	5,839,642
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	35,545,982	33,371,649
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,765,498	3,523,281
Non-Operating Margins	1,077,125	999,902
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	3,842,623	4,523,183
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(192,928)	(246,534)
TOTAL MARGINS	\$3,649,695	\$4,276,649
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	278,321,545	281,508,034

Editor's Note: These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop in the "Member's Area." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a copy.