

February 2017

# Newsline

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Touchstone Energy Community Award

## Remembering a member of the “family”

**By Greg Randa**  
LCP general manager

We lost a friend, a leader and member of the cooperative family in January when LCP Board President Dale Long passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. We will miss Dale — his positive attitude, his character, his sense of community, his humanity and his leadership.

He was 61-years-old. We were blessed to know him, serve under him and serve with him since he was elected to the board in 2012. Our condolences and prayers are with his wife Diane, sons Jason and Ryan and their families.

As a director, Dale was keenly aware of his responsibilities. He understood his role and personified the Duties of Care, Loyalty and Concern as members should expect of a director.

He acted in good faith and in the best interests of the cooperative. He took time to listen and made decisions patiently and responsibly. When faced with adversity, he responded with dignity and grace.

He acted with the care any reasonably prudent person would



Dale Long

exercise when it came to asking questions, making decisions and determining strategy and investments for LCP. In short, he was the kind of director that makes a co-op work — and work well for members.

As president of the board, he set a positive tone for the entire organization. He supported values and initiatives that supported LCP's mission and vision to better serve members.

He focused on adapting and adopting policies that focused on the best interest of the membership as a whole — not individual gain or benefit or an individual agenda.

Dale loved to restore old cars and trucks. He enjoyed working on, and riding, vintage snow machines. He shared his interests, knowledge and hobbies with his family. They will forever hold the memories of a husband and father who

listened, laughed, lived and loved — sharing homegrown values he learned from his parents while growing up, and living, in northern Minnesota his entire life.

He was also community-minded. He served as the mayor of Orr for several years and retired as a Business Agent/organizer for the I.U.O.E. (International Union of Operating Engineers), Local 49 in 2014.

He was a leader. As a leader, some disagreed — and politicized — his decisions and his positions. But from my vantage point, he operated with integrity, patience and grace. He embodied a spirit and an optimism that was consistent and true to his character.

As I stated above, we lost a leader, a friend and member of our cooperative family. The board will determine how to fill the position of District 1 Director in the coming months in accordance with our bylaws and election policies.

That process will unfold in the near future and Dale's position will be filled on the Board of Directors. But his memory, his spirit and his legacy will remain.

Godspeed, Dale. We will miss you.

### BOARD MEETINGS

February 21 — 9:30 a.m. at  
Kettle River Service Center

March 28 — 9:30 a.m. at  
Mountain Iron Service Center

### PRIMARY NUMBER

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

### DISTRICT MEETINGS UNDERWAY

Keep watch on your mailbox for a letter of invitation to attend your district member meeting. Full schedule at [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop).



# Right-of-way a top priority for members' reliability

Despite the challenging set-backs from weather conditions in 2016, most right-of-way maintenance work was completed by year-end with some carryover work to be finished in 2017.

If the ground would have frozen in time last fall, tree crews could've finished a few more miles of work near Cotton and south of Eveleth. These areas will now be finished this year.

"Overall, 2016 was extremely busy and plagued by storms," said Syver Kolden, manager of forestry services. "We had so much rain last summer and fall that a lot of work was done wading around in swamps and saturated conditions to get the job done."

More than 1,580 individual tree requests were handled in 2016 as well, which happens when members spot "danger" trees that could cause power outages.

## 2017 Priorities

The board approved a \$4.3 million investment for right-of-way clearing and member tree

clearing requests in 2017. This year's integrated vegetation management (IVM) work plan includes nearly 932 miles of line that will be cleared and maintained to achieve improved service reliability and peace of mind. LCP has 8,235 miles of line, total.

"We use the best tool in the shed," said Kolden, referring to the IVM process where clearing is completed in a variety of ways including mechanical trimming, aerial bucket trimming, herbicides, and mowing machines. "We are on a seven-year cycle and clear areas by substation and circuits."

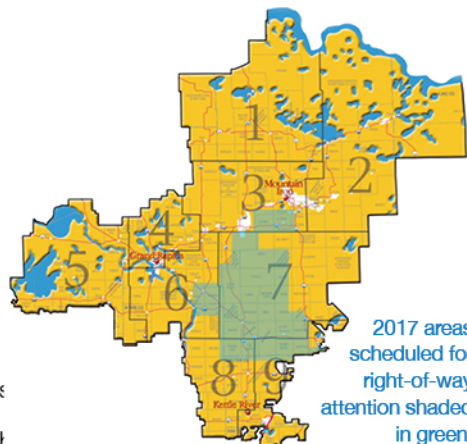
## 2017 areas of focus include:

- Lakeland Substation: east of Eveleth
- Iron Substation: Cherry
- Grand Lake Substation: Hermantown and Esko
- Cedar Valley: north of Floodwood

- Gowan Substation: south of Floodwood
- Brandon Substation: areas between Floodwood, Hermantown and Cloquet
- Round Lake Substation: Big Sandy Lake area

Three contractors will be to do the work: Lake States Tree Service, Northern Clearing and Asplundh Tree Experts. These companies have local crews and are familiar with northern Minnesota.

Mid-cycle work is scheduled for areas near Ely and Babbitt. These areas were cleared two years ago, so touch-up work will be done with herbicide on any new growth. Other areas for mid-cycle work will include crew chief recommendations and any issues with power quality or transmitted signals for automated meter reading.



Besides wild weather, the little "buggers" that live in the woods are still attacking trees. The concerns are the same as last year, so tree crews will keep a careful watch to rid right-of-way areas of any weak or dead trees — spruce bud worms and hypoxylon canker (black fungus). So far the Emerald Ash Borer hasn't moved into LCP's service area, but is present in Duluth and Superior. LCP is watching the situation closely, and will keep members informed.

# Reminder to attend a district member meeting

Join us for a cup of coffee and a hot meal on a cold night when we host a district meeting near you. We'll have all kinds of relevant information "on the plate."

R.S.V.P. by calling Angie Hanttula at 800-421-9959, extension 4521 or 218-322-4521, or e-mail [ahanttula@lakecountrypower.com](mailto:ahanttula@lakecountrypower.com).



The National Honor Society will serve members another hot meal at South Ridge School.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TOWN/DISTRICT	R.S.V.P. By
February 1	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	South Ridge School, 8162 Swan Lake Road, Culver, MN	Culver – District 7	January 25
February 2	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Cromwell Pavilion	Cromwell – District 8	January 26
February 7	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Balsam Township Community Center, 41388 Scenic Hwy., Bovey, MN	Bovey – District 4	January 31
February 9	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	American Legion, Orr	Orr – District 1	February 2
February 16	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Side Lake Community Center, Side Lake (look for sign: French Town Hall)	Side Lake – District 3	February 9
March 2	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Grand Ely Lodge	Ely – District 2	February 23
March 9	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Spang Hall, 35402 Spang Road, Hill City	Hill City — District 6	March 2



## Co-op calendar contest opens

The 2018 co-op calendar contest is officially open for members to begin submitting their beautiful scenic entries.

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. The photos are not required to include power lines, but may if you choose.

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.

If you'd like a copy of this year's co-op calendar, submit an online request at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) and we'll mail you one at no



charge, or visit one of the service centers. The 2017 calendar features the beauty of our region through the eyes and camera lenses of talented co-op members. Supplies are going quickly, but a few copies remain.

Winners will receive a \$15 credit on their electric bill. If you are lucky to win with two entries, you'll receive a \$30 credit on your bill. Winners will be notified in October.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Volunteers awarded for 35 years of service to disabled community



Accepting the Touchstone Energy Community Award for Itasca County Volunteers for the Handicapped Association is (L - R) Scott Jeffers, Brian Carlson and Nick Wourms.

Lake Country Power selected the Itasca County Volunteers for the Handicapped Association of Grand Rapids, as the winner of its annual Touchstone Energy Community Award. The co-op chose this non-profit organization for the 35 years they've touched the lives of those living with disabilities in communities spanning from Bemidji to Duluth.

"This group has volunteered their time and fundraised to do so many good projects since 1982 for those with disabilities," said Misty Ryan of Lake Country Power. "They are the reason there are sidewalks on Highway 169 south of McDonald's in Grand Rapids, and the reason there are ramps and seating in the fairground's grandstand that's accessible to those with a handicap."

As winner of the Touchstone Energy Community Award, the Itasca County Volunteers for the Handicapped Association was awarded a plaque and \$500 that will go toward the group's future projects.

"We really appreciate being

recognized for the Touchstone Energy Community Award," said Brian Carlson, volunteer and chair of the Itasca County Volunteers for the Handicapped Association. "We don't boast about what we've done in the past 35 years of service because that's not our place. But we have been able to encourage other organizations and government agencies to pick up much of what we started 35 years ago, and that says a lot."

The main objective of Itasca County Volunteers for the Handicapped Association is to reduce barriers for those with disabilities, and to open a door for them to have a better life by continuing to be part of the community in their own way.

Lake Country Power is one of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in Minnesota providing a local community award to encourage and recognize local community contributions. Itasca County Volunteers for the Handicapped Association will compete with winners from other Minnesota-based electric cooperatives for statewide recognition and \$1,000.



# Best timing for an energy assessment


The best timing for an energy assessment or energy audit on your home is in the winter, and since old man winter is still here it's not too late.

Lake Country Power is your contact for general energy assessments and is your liaison for professional home energy audits by certified energy auditors. The cost of an energy assessment is covered by Lake Country Power, while the cost for a blower door test or infrared analysis is covered by the homeowner.

During a home energy assessment, a complete analysis is done to your home within 1.5

- 2 hours by a certified energy auditor. The auditor will check your appliances, electronics, the home's envelope and structure, water heater, lighting, air handling and heating/cooling system.

If you're interested in receiving an energy assessment/audit, please contact Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959, press #6. A member service representative will help assess your general situation and provide the certified energy auditor with your contact information. The auditor will contact you to schedule an appointment.



We work hard to keep your coffee hot, your milk cold, your batteries charged and your home warm.

**The Value of Electricity**  
– *Energy that Powers our Lives*

## Special Notice: Surveying members, spring 2017

Lake Country Power will be conducting a member survey in March and April. Please be aware that you may be one of several members who are randomly selected to participate in the survey – so if you get a call in the next 4 – 8 weeks about a survey from us, it's legit.

Lake Country Power is contracting with a cooperative-affiliated research firm that has years of experience measuring member satisfaction levels and how co-ops score on the American Customer Satisfaction Index. The survey will benchmark several areas of focus, including solar, electric vehicles, outage information, bills and payment options, electric service, etc. If you are selected, please take seven minutes to participate. Thank you.

## Recipe Corner

### Auntie Dot's Chocolate Cherry Cookies

Barbara Shostedt, Gilbert

Cream  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup softened butter and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar.

Add and beat 1 egg.

Stir in 2 1-ounce squares unsweetened baking chocolate, melted.

Stir in alternately after combining dry ingredients:

- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Fold in:

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped walnuts
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped dates
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped maraschino cherries (cut cherries into eighths)



Bake on greased cookie sheets, dropping by kitchen soup spoon. Makes 3 dozen. Test with toothpick for a fudgy crumb. Cool. Frost with your favorite fudge frosting, or melt 6 T. butter and beat in: 2 cups and 2 T. powdered sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup and 2 T. baking cocoa,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk (scant) and  $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp vanilla.

After frosting has set, store in container covered with handy-wrap. Freeze well in plastic container frosted and layered with wax paper. Thaw in refrigerator and bring to room temperature on plate.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 2810 Elida Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, or e-mail [tzaun@lakecountrypower.com](mailto: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.



## Reminder:

## Get your Youth Tour application in on time; go to D.C.

Special reminder for high school juniors and seniors! If you're interested in a free trip to Washington, D.C., on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, you have until 4:30 p.m., March 3, to submit your completed application materials. First three qualifying applications win a \$10 Caribou Coffee gift card! For more information and the application, visit [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop). If questions, e-mail [tzaun@lakecountrypower.com](mailto:tzaun@lakecountrypower.com).

## 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.



- **5% off any purchase \$50 and over** at Deer River Floral & Gifts, 115 Main Ave. E, Deer River, MN
- **10% off any gift item**, excluding flowers and plants at Moose Lake Florist's 310 Elm Ave., Moose Lake, MN

Visit [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) for local and national business participants.

## Sending flowers or gifts to your sweetheart this month?

- **10% off first purchase of \$50 or more** at Blue Iris, 4005 Davis Road, Grand Rapids, MN

## Valentine's Day Trivia

### 1. How many millions of roses are sold and delivered for Valentine's Day?



- A. 205 million
- B. 110 million
- C. 98 million

### 2. Which state produces 60 percent of the roses sold for Valentine's Day?



- A. Florida
- B. South Carolina
- C. California

### 3. About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

True or False?

Source: TheRomantic.com

1. B (The majority are red)  
2. C (However, most come from South America)  
3. True



## Impacting community through Operation Round Up®

208 grants awarded in '16 to more than 200 local projects and programs



More than \$1.8 million has been contributed across the communities of northern Minnesota. Nearly 70 percent of Lake Country Power's members participate in Operation Round Up by rounding their bill up to the nearest dollar. Thank you!

In 2016 alone, more than \$180,000 was awarded to hundreds of local projects and programs. Please complete this form and return to LCP if you're not currently participating in Operation Round Up, but see the value and positive impact this program brings to our region.

### I want to give through Operation Round Up®!

Help a neighbor for less than a dollar a month. You'll give no more than \$12 a year.

You can opt into the program by completing this form and mailing it to Lake Country Power, Attn: Call Center, PO Box 98, Kettle River, MN 55757, or call 800-421-9959 and press #5. Special one-time or occasional contributions are also welcome and appreciated.

I understand that 100% of the funds collected are donated back into the local communities of northern Minnesota.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number on account or account number: \_\_\_\_\_



## November 22, 2016 • Regular Monthly Meeting

### The following reports were given:

General Manager Randa reported about Northland Connect dividend, City of Cloquet proposed franchise agreement, property agreement with the City of Cohasset (for Grand Rapids Service Center), Ely outpost, LCP 2017 budget books, non-disclosure agreement with a business moving into LCP's service area and LCP's online fleet auction.

### The following actions were taken:

Approved Director Liimatainen attend the 2017 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting.

Approved to authorize any interested directors to attend one or all of the NRECA board leadership classes that the Minnesota Rural Electric Association is sponsoring.

Approved to award three contracts to Lake States Construction.

Approved Director Carlson to attend the Great River Energy board meeting in May.

Approved to adopt a resolution where the LCP Board Building Committee recommends hiring Architectural Resources, Inc., as architect for the planning, design, engineering and construction administrative services for the Grand Rapids Service Center.

Approved a resolution supporting the 2016 Long-Range Load Forecast.

Approved that the designated individuals be authorized to sign the audit engagement letter with Brady, Martz & Associates who will conduct the 2016 audit.

*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) 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 Feb. 2017. Cheryl Bunes of Bovey photographed this old shed surrounded in nature's frosted beauty near Nashwauk.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*

## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — November 2016

	2016	2015
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 77,938,303	\$ 75,659,803
Cost of Purchased Power	40,898,991	40,684,460
Distribution Expense - Operations and Maintenance	13,827,914	11,663,238
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	3,712,007	3,624,571
Administrative and General Expense	5,241,913	5,200,351
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	13,212,243	13,593,839
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>76,893,068</b>	<b>74,766,459</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	1,045,234	893,343
Non-Operating Margins	1,479,159	996,614
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>2,524,394</b>	<b>1,889,957</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	188,705	113,833
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 2,713,099</b>	<b>\$ 2,003,791</b>
<b>TOTAL kWh SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>544,829,882</b>	<b>564,943,570</b>

**Editor's Note:** These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://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.

## Co-op Contacts

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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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