



## IN THIS ISSUE

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**BOARD MEETINGS** January 28 - 9:30 a.m. at Cohasset Service Center ■ February 25 - 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center

# Extreme weather highlights importance of reliable electricity

**The 2019 polar vortex demonstrated that members have the right people and power plants ready for extreme weather**

On a normal day, having reliable electricity means you can charge your phone, watch TV and cook dinner.

During extreme cold weather, however, reliable electricity means so much more. Electricity is essential for almost any home heating, whether through all-electric heating systems or for powering the components of a furnace.

The importance of electricity was on display a year ago when a polar vortex sent temperatures well below zero and stressed the electric system for several days.

Lake Country Power deployed line technicians, trucks and equipment to fix any problems caused by the cold weather. At the same time, our wholesale electricity provider Great River Energy carefully operated and monitored the electric system to ensure energy continued to reach LCP and the 27 other cooperatives it serves.

## Extreme weather brings new focus

When winter weather turns dangerous, power line crews suspend normal maintenance in order to closely monitor



the grid and fix issues that arise due to cold temperatures, ice and wind.

"When our system is stressed or damaged, our crews work around the clock to keep the grid operating for our member-consumers," said Priti Patel, Great River Energy's vice president and chief transmission officer.

## Region-wide collaboration

Great River Energy works with the regional grid operator, known as the Midcontinent Independent System Operator or MISO, and neighboring utilities to prepare for possible scenarios. During events like the polar vortex, MISO can issue cold weather alerts, which direct utilities to prepare all power plants to be dispatched on short notice.

## During extreme weather, you need options

Wind energy now represents a hefty portion of the energy on the Midwest

electric grid. When temperatures dip below -20 degrees Fahrenheit, however, wind turbines can voluntarily shut down entirely to protect vital components.

That's where Great River Energy's "peaking" power plants come in. When demand for electricity is high (times of "peak" demand), these plants provide additional energy typically fueled by natural gas. During extreme cold, when natural gas is also needed to heat homes and schools, those same plants can operate dependably with fuel oil.

"The handful of coldest days of winter demonstrate the value of a diverse portfolio of generation resources," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "It requires a variety of fuels and technologies to ensure our members are warm and comfortable in every season and in any weather." ■



# Rate outlook for 2020

Lake Country Power will make rate adjustments for EnergyWise programs beginning with February bills. The changes are a response to seasonal differences in market power costs during off-peak hours.

The primary change involves the introduction of seasonal rates for off-peak programs (space heating, water heating and electric vehicle charging). Off-peak market power costs more in the winter versus the summer.

It means members with off-peak programs will see slightly higher off-peak rates during the winter months than summer months. The change will take effect in January and will be reflected on February bills.

Members enrolled in off-peak water heating and storage heating programs will see an increase of \$4.00 for every 1,000 kWh of usage during the winter season (October-April). The off-peak change will equal 50 cents for every 1,000 kilowatt-hours of usage

during the summer season.

Off-peak usage in the winter months follows the weather. If temps get cold, usage goes up. If the winter is warm, members don't use as many kilowatt-hours. As a result, typical off-peak heating loads in the winter often range from 3,000-5,000 kWh per month.

Members enrolled in dual fuel and interruptible water heating and vehicle charging programs will also see a small change in rates beginning with January kilowatt-hour usage.

Dual Fuel members will see an increase of \$2.00 for every

1,000 kilowatt-hours of usage per month. For comparison, the new Dual Fuel rates are equivalent to propane prices of \$1.53 per gallon, and propane would have to be \$1.29 per gallon to match the new off-peak rates.

A power cost study is also underway to review other 2020 costs and rates. LCP will start the year holding general service rates flat and will maintain that position as long as costs and revenues allow. The power cost study will serve as a tool for the board as it reviews costs, revenue requirements and service and reliability goals in 2020 and beyond. ■

## Join us for co-op conversation and hot soup

If you're looking for reliable and honest news you can count on in uncertain times, we have it. You're invited to hear it first-hand from your local electric cooperative.

We invite you—as a member-owner—to join us. Meetings start at 5:00 p.m. with a light supper, followed by staff updates and time for member questions. If you cannot make your district meeting, you are welcome to attend another member meeting.

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



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TOWN/DISTRICT	RSVP BY
JAN. 22	5-7PM	Wabana Town Hall 30980 CLEARWATER RD	Grand Rapids - District 4	JAN. 15
JAN. 29	5-7PM	Cotton Community Center 9087 Highway 53	Cotton - District 7	JAN. 22
JAN. 30	5-7PM	Blackberry Town Hall 25349 Dove Lane	Blackberry - District 6	JAN. 30
FEB. 5	5-7PM	Cromwell Pavilion	Cromwell - District 8	JAN. 29
FEB. 6	5-7PM	Hope Lutheran Church Moose Lake	Moose Lake - District 9	JAN. 30
FEB. 18	5-7PM	Orr Community Center (formerly the American Legion)	Orr - District 1	FEB. 11
FEB. 20	5-7PM	Grand Ely Lodge	Ely - District 2	FEB. 13
FEB. 26	5-7PM	Remer High School (commons area and room C113)	Remer - District 5	FEB. 19
MAR. 19	5-7PM	Side Lake Community Center	Side Lake - District 3	MAR. 12



# Three LCP directors achieve certification



▶ L-R: Olson, Kingsley and Forsman

District 7 Director Craig Olson, Culver; District 6 Director Dan Kingsley, Hill City; and District 2 Director Mike Forsman, Ely; recently achieved their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD).

The first part of NRECA's three-part Director Education Program, the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program consists of five courses that focus on basic governance

knowledge, financial and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Upon completion of all five CCD courses, directors are awarded the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate by NRECA. Once the CCD is completed, participants can then pursue the Board Leadership Certificate. ■

# Seeking students who want to attend Youth Tour

**Apply for a chance to win a learning adventure**



Attention high school juniors and seniors! Lake Country Power is seeking applications from this year's high school juniors and seniors who want to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 20 – 25, 2020. The first three qualifying applicants will receive a \$10 Caribou Coffee gift card from Lake Country Power, so hurry.

Youth Tour is open exclusively to students whose parents or legal guardians receive electric service from Lake Country Power – a membership perk.

For more information and an application form, visit [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) > My Cooperative > Community > Youth Tour. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m., March 3, 2020.

# Reminder: Election process underway

The nomination process for Lake Country Power board of director positions begins January 16, 2020. The three-year board terms for District 3 (George Harvey, incumbent), District 6 (Dan Kingsley, incumbent) and District 7 (Craig Olson, incumbent) are expiring.

Any Lake Country Power member who has voting rights in Districts 3, 6 and 7 and is interested in seeking

nomination for the board of directors should follow these procedures:

1. Pick up a nomination packet, and complete a qualification questionnaire confirming you meet all qualifications for director as described in Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws of Lake Country Power.
2. Submit a nomination petition signed by 15 Lake Country Power members. If a husband and wife have a joint membership, it will be counted as one signature.
3. Submit a board candidate biography of no more than 180 words in length.

Nomination packets will be available at all three

service center locations beginning January 16. The deadline for submitting nomination materials is 4:30 p.m., February 5, at the Cohasset Service Center. For more information, visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) (My Cooperative/Directors & Districts). ■



# Experience savings and convenience with an EV

When you've only ever driven a gas-powered vehicle, it can be difficult to think realistically about making the switch to an all-electric car.

But with how affordable they're becoming, the convenience of "fueling up" your car at home, plus the added bonus of knowing you're positively impacting the environment, it may be a more practical option than you think.

## Cost savings

While electric vehicles (EVs) are less expensive to own and operate than a traditional gas-powered vehicle over the long-term, they can cost more upfront to purchase. That's where incentives come into play. For example, the federal government offers consumers a tax credit of up to \$7,500 to put toward the purchase of a new EV, which

can significantly lower the price tag. The primary cost of an EV is its battery, but innovations in design and manufacturing drove battery prices down more than 80 percent between 2010 and 2018.

The fuel cost savings start adding up once you own

an EV. Electricity prices are traditionally more stable than gas prices, and EVs are three times more energy-efficient than gasoline-powered vehicles. This means a typical EV can travel about 43 miles on \$1 of electricity. While total savings depend on current gas prices and your driving habits, someone who drives 12,000 miles per year could save \$1,300.

## Convenience

You already charge all your personal electronics at home – why not your vehicle, too?

LCP offers another cost savings solution, this time on a home EV charger. By enrolling in LCP's ChargeWise program, you'll be able to receive a rebate to offset the cost to install an EV charger controlled on an off-peak rate.

Another convenience factor of EVs is that very little maintenance is required beyond changing windshield wipers and tires. They have fewer moving parts to break down – no carburetors, spark plugs, starters/alternators, etc. – which means they're

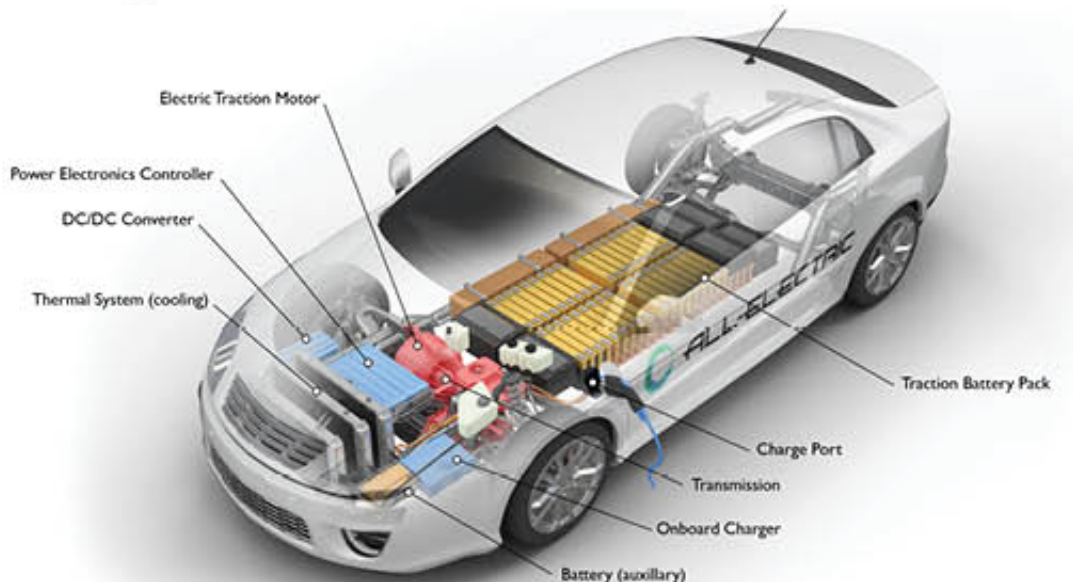
also more reliable than their gasoline-powered counterparts. EVs are also extremely quiet since they don't produce combustion noise.

## Environmental benefits

EVs have better overall environmental attributes than traditional vehicles because of their higher efficiency, lower energy consumption and no tailpipe emissions.

Plus, utilities like LCP and its wholesale power provider Great River Energy are producing energy from many renewable sources, including hydro and wind. As the source of electricity gets greener, so does the vehicle.

There's even a program you can enroll in once you own your EV that will ensure you are "fueling" your vehicle with 100 percent wind energy for its lifetime at no additional cost. By signing up for Revolt, LCP will dedicate wind energy renewable energy credits on your behalf to offset the energy used to power your vehicle. ■



afdc.energy.gov



## RECIPE CORNER WILD RICE SOUP

From the Kitchen of:  
**Lisa Diehl Foreman,**  
Edina

### INGREDIENTS

- Cook 1/2 cup wild rice
- Brown six strips bacon and one chopped onion; add both to cooked rice

### Then add:

- 1 can chicken with rice soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom or potato soup
- 3 1/2 cans milk
- 1 cup grated Velveeta cheese or mild cheddar cheese

### DIRECTIONS

Simmer 10 minutes and serve. Can add substitute chicken broth for the chicken rice soup. Can also add diced carrots and almonds. "This is an old REA favorite recipe of mine," said Lisa.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26009 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55212 or e-mail: [lsam@lcpcoop.com](mailto:lsam@lcpcoop.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.





## Cold weather rule effective October 15

The Cold Weather Rule, Section 216B.097 of the Minnesota State Statutes, provides that from October 15 through April 15 an electric cooperative cannot disconnect a residential consumer for nonpayment of service, if the disconnect affects the **primary heat source and all of the following conditions are met:**

1. The consumer declares an inability to pay and completes the Inability to Pay form; and
2. Household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median income. Income may be verified on forms provided by LCP or by the local energy assistance provider with whom the consumer has applied for energy assistance; and
3. The consumer enters into and makes reasonably and timely payments under a mutually agreeable payment plan, that considers the financial resources of the household; and
4. A consumer receives from LCP referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the consumer's energy bills.

The law does allow for LCP to disconnect when it is necessary from October 15 to April 15, so please act promptly. LCP works with members during the Cold Weather Rule period, just as we do throughout the year. We don't want to interrupt

service to any member, but in a cooperative, all members suffer when any bill remains unpaid. If bills remain unpaid, this amount must be absorbed by members who faithfully pay their bill each month. LCP would rather work with members to establish and maintain adequate payment schedules of their past due bill. A statement explaining the payment plan to secure continued service, a Payment Arrangement letter, will be provided.

Before disconnecting service to a residential consumer from October 15 to April 15, the cooperative must provide the following information:

- notice of proposed disconnection (disconnection notice); and
- statement explaining consumers' rights and responsibilities (Inability to Pay form); and
- list of energy assistance providers (Inability to Pay form); and
- forms available for consumer to request cold weather disconnect protection (Inability to Pay form).

If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act promptly. If you do not meet all the conditions of the Cold Weather Rule, mutually acceptable payment arrangements can be set up to prevent interruption of an electric service. Please contact Lake Country Power if you have any questions about the Cold Weather Rule: 800-421-9959.

## Energy Assistance Providers:

AEOA:  
1-800-662-5711  
Virginia  
1-218-735-6839  
Duluth  
1-218-623-3011  
Aitkin County  
Social Services:  
1-800-328-3744  
Bi County CAP:  
1-800-332-7161  
Bois Forte Tribal:  
1-800-221-8129  
Carlton County  
Social Services:  
1-800-642-9082

Cass County  
Social Services:  
1-218-547-1340  
Fond Du Lac Tribal:  
1-800-365-1613  
Itasca County  
Social Services:  
1-800-422-0312  
Kootasca:  
1-877-687-1163  
Lake County  
Social Services:  
1-218-834-8400  
Lakes & Pines:  
1-800-832-6082

Leech Lake Tribal:  
1-866-864-8668  
Mille Lacs Band  
Tribal:  
1-320-532-7880  
Pine County  
Social Services:  
1-800-450-7263  
Salvation Army  
Office  
(Heat Share  
Programs):  
1-800-842-7279  
St. Louis County  
Social Services:  
1-800-450-9777

## Seeking students to apply for \$4,000 scholarships

**Students:** Don't wait until it's too late to apply for the Les Beach Memorial Scholarship – and your chance at a \$4,000 scholarship from Lake Country Power!

This year's graduating high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are LCP members have until 11:59 p.m., January 31 to apply. To complete the electronic application and submit electronic letters of recommendation, go to [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) (under "My Cooperative," click the "Scholarships" tab under "Community").

Scholarship recipients can qualify for up to \$4,000 over four years to help pay for college or technical school. 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.

To qualify, the student or the student's parent/legal guardian must be a member

**Deadline closes  
January 31  
11:59 p.m., for high  
school students**

of Lake Country Power, meaning they receive electric service directly from the coop at their residence or cabin.

Lake Country Power offers scholarships to one student, per year, at more than 30 high schools in the LCP service area. Scholarships are also offered for home-schooled students and to students who qualify in the "at-large" category, as defined on LCP's website. The funds are made possible through unclaimed capital credits.

Letters of recommendation from teachers will be accepted via the online link through February 15, but all other student-submitted materials must be complete by Jan. 31 or the student won't be considered.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

"Lake Country Power" is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political belief, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Lake Country Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



## Condensed Board Minutes

### October 29, 2019 • Regular Monthly Meeting

#### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson stated three directors reached the education level of Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD): Mike Forsman, Dan Kingsley and Craig Olson.

Directors Bruckbauer and Olson are LCP representatives on the Great River Energy board. They reported about the power cost adjustment, load control, financials, rate committee, etc.

General Manager Randa reported about Great River Energy rate design committee activities; Northland Connect; Cohasset Service Center ribbon cutting; staff work on the 2020 budget, which includes a proposed increase in LCP load management rates effective January 1; building and grounds maintenance at Cohasset; etc.

#### THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved the LCP building committee meet

with management to start the process and plan to put the Grand Rapids Service Center on the market.

Approved the 2018 Form 990 and that it be filed with the IRS.

Approved the 2019 capital credit retirement recommendation as prepared and presented by staff.

Approved the 2020 director election timeline including approval of the three-year agreement with Survey & Ballot Systems.

Approved to reappoint Directors Forsman and Kingsley as voting alternates for Minnesota Rural Electric Association. ■

**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) 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.



► This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for January. Jeff Brooks of Forest Lake took this photo of a pine marten on Admiral Road in Sax-Zim Bog.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov

## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – October 2019

	2019	2018
Electric Operating Revenue	\$74,539,464	\$ 76,383,170
Cost of Purchased Power	37,560,653	39,126,820
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	12,158,833	12,142,006
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	3,789,971	3,745,694
Administrative and General Expense	5,429,087	5,112,809
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	13,928,601	12,853,695
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>72,867,144</b>	<b>72,981,024</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	1,672,320	3,402,146
Non-Operating Margins	952,409	1,225,554
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>2,624,729</b>	<b>4,627,700</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	416,096	144,020
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$3,040,825</b>	<b>\$4,771,720</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>498,962,869</b>	<b>526,690,968</b>

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

## Co-op Contacts

**Greg Randa,** 800-421-9959  
General Manager granda@lcp.coop

**Jason Long,** 218-240-9611  
District 1 jaselong@gmail.com

**Michael Forsman,** 218-365-5789  
District 2 forsmamd@hotmail.com

**George Harvey,** 218-741-6633  
District 3 gharvey@accessmn.com

**Craig Carlson,** 218-999-7175  
District 4 carlsonlcp@gmail.com

**Robert Bruckbauer,** 218-566-2436  
District 5 bobbbruckbauer@northlc.com

**Daniel Kingsley,** 218-697-2628  
District 6 kingsdan27@gmail.com

**Craig Olson,** 218-393-2276  
District 7 colson@iupat82.org

**Jim Huhta,** 218-644-3997  
District 8 hatcheck@frontier.com

**Sherman Liimatainen,** 218-879-3135  
District 9 nucpp@yahoo.com

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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Editor: Tami Zaun • [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop)  
Lake Country Power Service Centers:  
Cohasset • Kettle River • Mountain Iron  
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