July 2018

Newsline

Lake Country Power
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Energy that Powers Our Lives

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Teaching Kids Safety
Member Appreciation Days
Outage? Use SmartHub
Save on Water Heating

BOARD MEETINGS
July 31 – 9:30 a.m. at Grand Rapids Service Center
August 28 – 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center

Unclaimed credits help students chase their dreams

Lake Country Power is pleased to announce 28 local high school seniors from 28 different schools have been awarded the Lake Country Power 2018 Les Beach Memorial Scholarship – valued at $112,000. The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship honors a former co-op employee and recognizes student commitment and contribution to local communities.

The $4,000 scholarships will help the following graduating seniors pursue their college plans and career dreams:

Deanna Wallin:
Carlton School

Alyssa Reini:
Cherry School

Isaac Stone:
Cloquet School

Alyssa Hoff:
Cromwell-Wright School

Ashley Drotts:
Deer River School

Matthew Johnson:
Esko School

Ryne Prigge:
Ely-Memorial Secondary School

Morgan Schuchard:
Eveleth-Gilbert School

James Pedigo:
Floodwood School

Julie Anderson:
Grand Rapids School

Bailey Hubbard:
Greenway-Coleraine School

Abigail Kukowski:
Hermantown School

Jacob Lastovich:
Hibbing School

Izabella Bishop:
Hill City School

Anabel Marotz:
McGregor Secondary School

Emily Baudek:
Mesabi East School

Aaron Bode:
Moose Lake School

Henri Parenteau:
Mountain Iron-Buhl School

Karlyn Lorenz:
Nashwauk-Keewatin School

Tate Olson:
North Woods School

Melissa Nelmark:
Northeast Range High School

Kayci Zorman:
Northland-Remer School

Zachariah Coughlin:
Proctor School

Lily Hall:
South Ridge School

William Keute:
Virginia School

Kobey Cofer:
Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School

Jamie Pleus:
At Large category

Anne Rovinsky:
Home school

Ryne Prigge
Ely-Memorial Secondary School

Melissa Nelmark
Northeast Range High School

Tate Olson
North Woods School

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is available to local students from more than 30 area high schools. Qualified students must be co-op members through their parents or legal guardians who receive electricity services from Lake Country Power.

The electronic application process for high school seniors will open again, January 1, 2019, when qualifying high school seniors may apply for the next round. The online application is available from the cooperative's website.

Lake Country Power also offers $1,000 scholarships to five area community college foundations and three Minnesota lineworker schools to support students in trade schools and community/technical college programs.

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is made possible through unclaimed capital credits. After seven years of trying to locate former members holding unclaimed credits, the State of Minnesota permits electric cooperatives like Lake Country Power to use unclaimed funds for charitable purposes, such as scholarships. If LCP didn't use the funds locally for scholarships, the State of Minnesota would require the funds be used in the state's general fund.

For a list of names of former members with their last known city of residence, visit lakecountrypower.coop/my account/capital credits. If you know someone on the list, call 800-421-9959 and press 5.

PRIMARY NUMBER

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

COAL CREEK TOUR

It's time to hop a ride! Register for the Coal Creek Tour no later than Aug. 20. Space is limited. Travel dates: Sept. 11 – 13.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Co-op events are posted at lakecountrypower.coop. Go to "Community" and click "Events."

Electric safety 101

School program teaches students important electric safety message

There were plenty of sparks, arcs and zaps to keep the attention of more than 400 elementary-aged children during Lake Country Power's electric safety demonstrations as they learned how to be safe and respect electricity.

Each year, Lake Country Power sponsors electric safety demonstrations at the local elementary schools in the cooperative's service area. The 50-minute presentation shows students and teachers the potential dangers that can happen when people forget to respect both high-voltage and low-voltage electric currents. This year LCP sponsored the safety event for schools in Cohasset, Walker and Tower.

"Many kids didn't realize what happens to the inside of the body when an electrical current runs through it," said Kathy Wiederin, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School. "It's good to remind students never to touch powerlines, especially downed powerlines."

Several electrical accident scenarios are demonstrated and discussed, including:

- Ladders, antennas, toasters and bad extension cords
- Construction equipment
- Downed wires
- Digging dangers
- Electric tools and water
- Ground fault circuit interrupters
- Kites and fishing lines
- How to exit a vehicle safely, if downed lines are present

Kids also learn about the professional equipment that must be worn and used by lineworkers to do their job safely. At the conclusion of the electric safety demonstration, students are given an opportunity to ask questions to Lake Country Power's lineworkers.

If your school is looking for a dynamic way to educate students about electric safety, contact Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959, ext. 7152, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop. The program is free to schools with a sponsorship from Lake Country Power.

Celebrate summer: Picnic style with food, prizes and fun

Be sure to join us for Member Appreciation Days in August. This popular event is for Lake Country Power members, and celebrates co-op membership.

Members will receive a picnic lunch, bucket rides for the kids, attendance gifts and a chance to win some prizes.

The festivities are scheduled 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

August 21:
Mountain Iron Service Center

August 22:
Kettle River Service Center

August 23:
Grand Rapids Service Center

Come with any questions you may have about our heating and cooling programs, or billing programs like SmartHub.

Informational tables will be available at each event.

Kids will have fun going for bucket rides and having a chance to win a fishing rod – 10 rods will be awarded at each service center.

Come learn more about electric vehicles, as well. A Chevy Bolt EV will be on display for everyone to see and learn more about EVs.

How are you heating the water at your cabin?

Choose the 8-hour program and save

If you're a cabin owner served by Lake Country Power, and you're not using the co-op's 8-hour interruptible water heating program, you're letting hard-earned money go down the drain.

The 8-hour water heating program was designed for cabins, but also works well for homes and businesses with limited space for a larger water heater tank. The program supplies hot water over a peak period while the electrical supply is interrupted up to eight hours a day, which is typically on the hottest or coldest days of the month.

All you need is a water heater of at least 50 gallons or more to participate in the program – you'll receive a reduced electric rate of 6.15 cents per kilowatt-hour. The program can be wired in conjunction with your existing dual fuel program, too. It's also popular for those on the four-hour peak shave water heater program.

Call Lake Country Power's member service department to find out more at 800-421-9959, press 6. Or visit lakecountrypower.coop.

Basic tips during summer outages

While LCP's distribution system is more than 99 percent reliable, summer storms can take down trees, break lines and poles, and cause extended outages. Follow these tips to help minimize the inconveniences of losing electric service.

- Make sure one of the phones in your home is not a cordless phone as these require electricity to charge. Also, have a mobile phone for backup and charge it in your vehicle, if needed.
- Use a battery powered flashlight, not candles.
- Keep a battery operated radio handy to listen for outage information and updates, or check in through our website or social media on your smart phone or tablet for updates.
- Protect your belongings. Shut off or unplug any sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs and computers to protect them from power surges. Buy surge protectors to protect equipment.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food should keep for up to 48 hours in a full, freestanding freezer or fridge, if the door remains closed; a half-full freezer or fridge about one day. If the outage persists, cover your refrigerator or freezer with a blanket, make arrangements to store food at another location, or purchase dry ice from a bait shop or other store.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Essential supplies: flashlight, batteries, radio, extra supply of water, food.
- If you see a downed power line, STAY AWAY! Call LCP at 800-421-9959.
- Visit www.fema.gov, www.nws.noaa.gov, www.redcross.org and www.disastersafety.org for additional preparation tips.

Use SmartHub.

It's the most efficient way to report power outages. It's quick, easy and goes straight into LCP's dispatch for crew assignments. No more long waiting times for your call to be answered. Using the app, you can report it in a snap. Get SmartHub at lakecountrypower.coop, or call 800-421-9959 if you need help signing up.

Great River Energy sets 50% renewable energy goal for 2030

Voluntary goal will more than double current renewable energy supply

Great River Energy recently announced a company goal to supply its member-owner cooperatives, including LCP, with energy that is 50 percent from renewable resources by 2030.

Great River Energy has already met Minnesota's 25 percent renewable energy standard eight years ahead of requirements. Both home- and business-owners are increasingly interested in having more renewables in their energy supplies.

Great River Energy has spent more than a decade positioning its portfolio, lowering costs and reducing dependence on coal as a fuel source, while improving the overall flexibility of its generation portfolio. These measures have resulted in a 35 percent reduction in Great River Energy's carbon dioxide emissions since 2005.

GREAT RIVER ENERGY™

Road construction:

Minnesota's other season underway

Comparisons drawn between highway repair and line maintenance

Road construction season is underway in Minnesota following a testier than normal winter and shortened spring. Likewise, line maintenance is also underway as the summer season steams ahead.

Just as detours can be frustrating to travelers, power outages can yield the same-type-result for members. Underlying each is the need for maintenance, keeping the system healthy and improving reliability for consumers.

The Highway 73 example

Members in the southern part of the service area may remember a major travel disruption last summer when the main artery, Highway 73, from Cromwell south to Kettle River was severed for months during bridge repair. The long, winding detour was more than inconvenient for travelers. No one knew this better than LCP members Brian and Pauly Granholm, who live just north of the bridge.

"It took 15 minutes to get from here to there," said Pauly, as she pointed to her daughter's house just across the river. That quarter mile distance was replaced with 10 miles of detour on dirt roads.

The degree of frustration was wide-ranging. The Granholms made the most of it, but their experience with the numerous commuters who tried to navigate the detour was surprising. "We had to pull more than one person from the ditch," Pauly said. "It was crazy," she added, "most people were mad" as motorists moved signs, drove through their yard, and were just plain rude to them because of the repair work.

The bottom line was that the closure was necessary. "The rails on the bridge were all rotted off," explained Brian. "I think that bridge was built in 1939, something like that they said. It was the original rails on the bridge."

Power quality comparison

Just like old bridges, some cooperative electric utility equipment has been around for many years. That's why the Lake Country Power work plan includes replacing over 70 miles of line per year.

The co-op makes every effort to be proactive to try to avoid situations that cause major inconveniences. New line, new poles, meters, transformers, and right-of-way clearing are common annual capital budget and maintenance projects. And, like road construction, at times this takes time, money, patience, and understanding.

But, unlike road work, most members never know line maintenance is happening. That's because the work is largely unseen, and electric service is rarely affected due to equipment repair and replacement.

"Very seldom do we have a power outage," says Brian. "A few years ago they changed a bunch of the lines here and they upgraded the system. I think that has a lot to do with it."

Brian and Pauly Granholm in Sept. 2017, following completion of bridge work on Highway 73 north of Kettle River.

Though completely different animals, a comparison can be drawn between Minnesota's road construction season and the maintenance of LCP's electric system. Both are necessary to the health of the infrastructure we all rely upon every day.

Making it better

Sometimes inconveniences are imperative for improvement — on the road and on the lines.

"It's a funny world out there," adds Brian. "There's people that just do not understand that to make this road better they had to shut it down. They were upset about that, but its reality."

Roads get us where we are going, power gets us comfort where we live. Without maintenance, the system will fail — whether it's on the highways or in the electric veins of a home.

"So yeah, you don't even think about the road," he said. "Same as you don't think about your power turning on or not."

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

WARNING: SLAM the SCAM$ could it be a scam?

Scams are on the rise, and scammers are getting more clever than ever. Whether it be a phone call, e-mail or other private message, remember to take caution before responding.

If you receive a call, or e-mail, instructing you to give banking information or any other type of personal information, it's a scam. Don't do it. Often, scammers will prey on utility customers by threatening to disconnect your service for nonpayment.

Tip: Hang up or delete the e-mail, and call us at 800-421-9959 to verify your account status. If you use SmartHub to manage your LCP account, you'll be able to verify your account online, even on the weekend.

Lake Country Power will never call or e-mail members to ask for banking information, credit cards, or other personal information. Please be aware, and always be careful.

Stay Away from Electrical Substations

An electrical substation converts electricity to a lower voltage so it can be safely routed and delivered to your home. Because high-voltage power runs through substation equipment, please avoid substation areas and the fences that surround them. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: *energy.gov*

Save money with your Co-op Connections® 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.

Keep these businesses in mind, and bring your card to save money. For a full listing of business participants, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (Community/Co-op Connections Card). Find national deals online at www.connections.coop.

- **Black Woods Bar & Grill,** Duluth
- **Snickers Pizza Shop,** Eveleth, Virginia and Chisholm
- **Jack's Auto Service Center,** Grand Rapids
- **Vista Fleet,** Duluth

Recipe Corner

Low-Fat Blueberry Muffins

Kathy Ojala, Ely

- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 ¾ cup plus 1 T. flour
- 2 ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 large egg whites
- 1 tsp. grated lemon zest
- 1 6-oz. container of low-fat lemon yogurt
- 1/3 cup skim milk
- ¼ cup unsweetened applesauce
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Lemon sugar topping: Mix together ¼ cup sugar and ½ tsp. grated lemon zest.

Combine blueberries and 1 Tbsp. flour in small bowl; toss to coat. In large bowl, whisk together remaining flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In medium bowl whisk egg whites, yogurt, milk, applesauce, sugar, lemon zest and vanilla. Add blueberries. Add to flour mixture. Stir until moistened. Spoon into muffin pans and sprinkle with lemon-sugar topping. Bake at 375 degrees for 18 – 20 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan 5 minutes, and then on a wire rack.

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.

April 24, 2018 • Regular Monthly Meeting

The following reports were given:

President Craig Olson reported about LCP's strategic planning meeting that was held April 12, General Manager Randa's evaluation, and LCP's annual meeting. Olson appointed a Policy Committee – appointed are Directors Kingsley, Liimatainen and Long.

Greg Randa, LCP general manager, reported about the Great River Energy member manager's meeting, LCP's annual meeting, LCP strategic planning, a proposed amendment to the GRE wholesale power contract, demand side management rates for EnergyWise programs, Northland Connect Internet, Canadian National Railroad, and the LCP building committee with bid openings for contractors on April 26.

Board terms were discussed for the Operation Round Up® trust board. Terms for Operation Round Up directors coincide with LCP director terms, and trust board appointments in districts 1, 5 and 9 will be needed, going forward.

The following actions were taken:

Approved Director Liimatainen as LCP's voting delegate at Great River Energy, and Director Olson as alternate.

Approved the 2017 $6.9 million capital credit allocation.

Approved to adopt a resolution that Lake Country Power's board votes in favor of the All-Requirements Member Approved MDRs, and authorizes and directs LCP management to execute and deliver the Member-Directed Resource Approval agreement.

Approved to change the 2018 LCP strategic planning dates for Sept. 26 – 27.

Approved to adopt the long-range comprehensive financial plan for Lake Country Power, which provides guidelines and direction from the board of directors to management in order to maintain a sound financial position and provide for the security of the co-op's financial resources.

Approved the LCP Building Committee be authorized to award the bid for the headquarters building in Cohasset and that the committee bring their recommendation to the full board in May for approval.

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.

This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for July 2018. Sandy Brooks of Forest Lake captured this loon enjoying the evening on Lawrence Lake.

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date —April 2018

	2018	2017
Electric Operating Revenue	$34,076,992	$31,907,732
Cost of Purchased Power	17,674,159	17,447,582
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	3,566,627	3,844,954
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,550,274	1,381,006
Administrative and General Expense	2,285,658	2,124,990
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	4,909,440	4,749,367
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	**29,986,159**	**29,547,899**
Net Electric Operating Margins	4,090,833	2,359,833
Non-Operating Margins	894,195	1,073,683
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	**4,985,028**	**3,433,515**
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(265,729)	(192,928)
TOTAL MARGINS	**$4,719,299**	**$3,240,588**
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	**260,410,472**	**236,853,777**

Editor's Note: *These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed 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 copy.*

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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
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Lake Country Power Service Centers:
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