



July 2019

# Newsline



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Resilient Electric System  
Teaching Kids Safety

**BOARD MEETINGS** July 29 – 9:30 a.m. at Grand Rapids Service Center ■ August 27 – 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center

## Cooperatives are an integral part of our communities

There's a quiet transformation happening across the nation. America's smaller communities are changing in remarkable ways—while holding steadfastly to the values that, for generations, have made them the places people choose to build a better life for themselves and their families.

To embrace the beauty of a simpler lifestyle. To live independently; yet, to also be part of a community that looks out for neighbors. To grow in new ways, in new directions. To feed the world, change the world, build the future.

Because America's rural communities may seem quiet—but scratch below the surface and you'll find a whole lot happening. There's a new energy here to go along with the more affordable, down-to-earth way to live that's been here all along. And the opportunities to create

something new have never been greater.

These are the communities served by America's electric cooperatives. You might think of us as the local electric company, and you'd be right: We're led by members like you, created by and for the communities we serve. Electric cooperatives are community-focused organizations who work to deliver affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to our members. And every co-op is as unique as the community that shaped it, changing over time as our communities grow and change.

We're local and we're independent. But together, we're mighty: across the country, local cooperatives work together and learn from one another to develop new technologies and infrastructure. And in the process, we bring electricity to one in eight Americans



By Greg  
**RANDA**  
LCP general  
manager

## It's a loan, not a grant

We'd like to clarify a recent news story about LCP receiving a "grant" from the Rural Utilities Service. It's a loan, not a grant. The \$52 million loan was processed through the USDA for LCP's engineering work plan that was approved by the board late last year. Work plans are typically reviewed and approved every three-to-five years for age-related system replacements, system safety, and reliability improvements.

Financing through the RUS, a federal government agency, is provided through low-interest loans with each work plan. The loan must be paid back. If it was a grant it would be free money, which is not the case.

and over 19 million homes, businesses, farms, and schools in 47 states. Co-ops themselves provide 71,000 great jobs, invest billions in local economies every year, and are a driving force in helping attract and grow business and industry in rural America.

We're always looking for new ways to help our members save energy, save money and take advantage of the technology that's changed the way we live.

It's all part of the cooperative spirit that's always been one of the best things about living in our community.

Neighbors looking out for neighbors. People working for the common good. Even as we celebrate our differences and our individual achievements, knowing that we can't do everything alone—we're all in this together. And we are stronger and better for it.

That's community. That's what fueled the co-op movement so many years ago—and it's the source of our new energy today. The power of community is what being an electric cooperative is all about. ■



# Ask Syver: Herbicide application Q&A



Beginning in June, more than 1,000 miles of power line corridors are scheduled for herbicide application as announced in the March 2019 *Newsline*. We asked Syver Kolden, manager of forestry services, to answer some frequently-asked questions regarding this yearly maintenance process.

**Q: Is this harmful to pollinating insects or the monarch butterfly?**

**A:** No. The products used by our contractors are non-toxic to honeybees, monarchs, and other pollinating insects. We only treat the tall-growing, woody plants within the powerline corridor. We're careful to avoid low-growing shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and wild berry plants. This way, the pollinator-friendly plants eventually dominate the powerline corridor and are a rich nectar source for pollinating insects.

**Q: I've seen machinery that can mow the brush. Wouldn't it be better to clear it that way?**

**A:** Mowing is only a temporary solution because

these plants grow back even thicker than before. Instead, when we use herbicide to remove a tree species, the low-growing plants and shrubs flourish.

**Q: Do these applications pollute the lakes, streams or groundwater?**

**A:** We do not ever target anything that is within or directly adjacent to standing water. Applicators receive extensive training and select the most appropriate product for each site condition. Interestingly, several of the products we use are also used by state agencies to control invasive lake weeds.

**Q: Why can't LCP just bury the lines on my property and avoid the problem altogether?**

**A:** We hear this question a lot. It is up to four times the cost to construct, maintain, and locate outages on underground lines. However, you do have the option to pay for the cost of burying the line within your land. ■

## Summer picnics set for August

Join us for Member Appreciation Days in August. This popular event is for LCP members, and celebrates co-op membership.

Members will receive a picnic lunch, bucket rides for the kids, attendance gifts, a chance to win prizes, and see an electric vehicle that's been added to LCP's fleet.

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



**August 13:**  
Mountain Iron  
Service Center

**August 14:**  
Kettle River  
Service Center

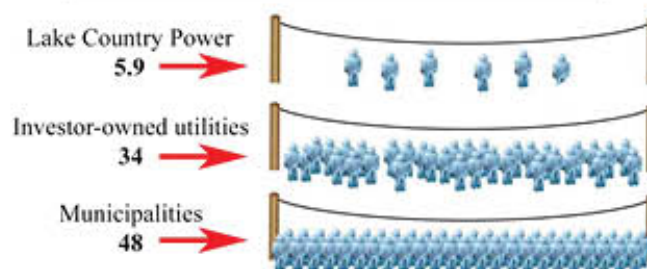
**August 15:**  
Grand Rapids  
Service Center

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 will be awarded at each service center. ■

### NUMBER OF CONSUMERS PER MILE OF LINE



This graph shows how the density in populations served differs among Lake Country Power and other neighboring utilities. LCP's density per mile-of-line is low because cooperatives serve the rural countryside areas – not cities. Nearly 95 percent of LCP's membership base is residential and seasonal. Other electric companies that serve large commercial and industrial loads and cities benefit greatly from larger revenues, helping offset their overall fixed costs and rate structure. Learn more about your electric cooperative at [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop).



# Strength in numbers – electric cooperatives join forces to ensure electric system is resilient

Electric cooperatives and other utilities have always worked hard to ensure the reliability of the electric system that serves you. But in today's world, where there are ongoing security threats and Mother Nature continues to deliver severe weather like we have never seen before, the bigger goal for cooperatives has become ensuring the electric system is resilient.

"A resilient electric grid is one that can withstand most reasonably anticipated security or weather events, and one that can bounce

back quickly if we do experience a cyberattack or extreme weather event," said Gordon Pietsch, director of transmission planning and operations for Great River Energy, Lake Country Power's wholesale power provider.

Electric cooperatives nationwide work with government agencies and other electric providers to ensure they are prepared for cyber and physical security threats, as well as the impacts of extreme weather.

For example, Great River Energy participates in the Cyber Security Risk

Information Sharing Program (CRISP) developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Through this program, Great River Energy can receive and share important security information. For instance, if another participating electric utility is seeing signs of an attempted cyberattack, Great River Energy will hear about the malicious activity and be on heightened alert.

"There is strength in numbers," said Marc Child, information security program manager for Great River Energy. "Collectively, we're a powerful force against those who would attack the North American electric grid. Our information-sharing networks

such as CRISP tap into the cooperative spirit where we, by nature, help each other every day. By sharing what I know with other cooperatives, I can prevent an attack from succeeding elsewhere. Information is a powerful tool."

Great River Energy has also been part of a partnership with the DOE and 16 other U.S. electric utilities looking at how to make sure the country's energy systems can handle extreme weather and climate change impacts. Together, this Partnership for Energy Sector Climate Resilience has discussed the biggest challenges each utility faces regarding the risks of extreme weather. ■

## A RESILIENT ELECTRIC GRID BOUNCES BACK FAST



► District 5 Director Robert Bruckbauer, Remer, Minn., recently achieved the Director Gold Credential education level. Directors reach this level through continued education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification, and the Board Leadership Certification (BLC). Congratulations, Bob.



## Register me for the Coal Creek Tour!

I understand space is limited so I'm signing up today. Enclosed is my check for \$170 per person. Update for the 2019 tour: The group will lodge at Staybridge Suites Bismarck, which includes an evening social with complimentary food, drinks and games in the hotel's beautiful courtyard. **September 17-19.**

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 payment to Tami Zaun, Lake Country Power, 2810 Elda Drive, Grand Rapids MN 55744. Registrations must be received by August 21.



# Zaps, sparks and linemen teach kids about electric safety

More than 1,000 elementary children learned how to be safe and respect the power of electricity this spring. Through dynamic outdoor safety demonstrations and classroom presentations, children learned important safety lessons they'll carry for life.

"We're teaching them because we care about kids and the safety and well-being of our communities," said Tami Zaun, public relations coordinator. "Accidents happen when we're in a rush or forget to think about the risks associated with electrical contacts. Even adults can forget the dangers over time, so it's important to instill a safety message in kids' minds at an early age."

## Classroom Lessons

Called the Hot Stick Program, this presentation is geared for third-graders in the classroom. Students learn about the safety hazards that lurk outdoors and within the home.

Using a table top display, kids can see the consequences of electrical contacts that can happen from knives poked into toasters, appliances in water, tree houses near power lines, kites caught in lines, underground lines, and more. The display zaps and lights up to help explain how electricity uses the body to find its path to ground, if touched.

Following the table top display, linemen show and



tell about the personal protective equipment they wear to do their jobs safely – a highlight for each child.

## Outdoor Demos

The outdoor safety demonstration uses a dynamic high-voltage trailer with 7,200 volts of electricity to drive the safety message home for grades four and up.

Each demonstration vividly shows the effects of contact with a powerline and how to avoid accidents.

If your school would like a safety presentation next spring, please contact Tami Zaun at [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop) or 800-421-9959, ext. 7152. ■

## The One Card That Does It All®

The Co-op Connections® Card offers cooperative members product and service discounts at participating retail businesses. In turn, businesses benefit from increased customer traffic, and from promotions in co-op communication materials.

Not only does the Co-op Connections card offer local business discounts, it also offers discounts nationally. More than 500 electric cooperatives in 46 states participate in the program, providing 32,000 local and national business offerings. Visit [connections.coop](http://connections.coop) or [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) to discover where you can save money.

Lake Country Power launched the Co-op Connections program in May 2011 by mailing a card and two key fobs with information in a colorful envelope to each of its members. If you became a member later, or have lost your cards, request a card or download the app to your mobile device.

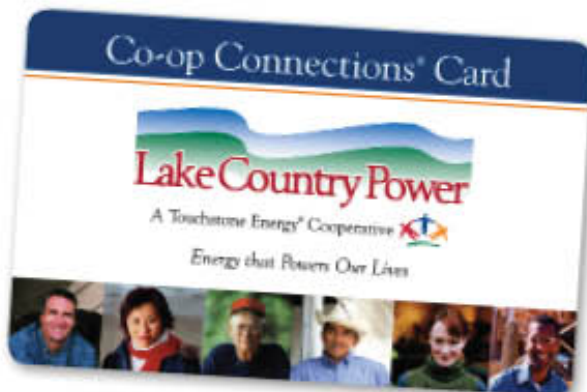
## Download the App

If you lost your card or key fob, don't worry. You can download the Co-op Connections app to your mobile device. Then you'll always have the card handy and can search discounts, both locally and nationally, while you're on the go.

To download it, search "Co-op Connections" in your App store or Google Play, and download it today for convenient savings and search capabilities.

## Pharmacy Savings

The Co-op Connections card acts as a benefit discount offer on prescriptions as well. While it is not insurance and cannot be used in conjunction with insurance, it may offer a better discount than your insurance provider.



It's worth asking your pharmacist to run a comparison. Have them use the information on the back of the card to determine the discount. Then you choose whichever discount is greater.

Please note that these discounts are available only at participating providers. Find participating locations at [HealthySavings.coop](http://HealthySavings.coop) or call 800-800-7616. If you know the name, strength and quantity of the medication, you can find the discounted price of the medication by visiting [rxpricequotes.com](http://rxpricequotes.com).



# LINEWORKER GEAR

Dressed for safety, success and dangerous work

When you work with high voltage power lines everyday, what you wear can save your life.

A lineworker's gear may be cumbersome and heavy, but it's essential for going home safely.

Dan Cooper  
Journeyman Lineworker



- HARD HAT:** protects the head from blows and falling objects.
- SAFETY GLASSES:** protects the eyes from loose debris, other hazards and electrical flashes.
- INSULATED GLOVES:** protects from burns and electric shock. Gloves are tested every 30 days to withstand 17,000 volts, and are worn inside leather glove protectors.
- FIRE-RESISTANT CLOTHING:** reduces the potential for burns if an electrical arc happens. The clothing will self-extinguish in seconds.
- CLIMBING BELT:** carries all the tools a lineworker might need when working from a pole. It also attaches the lineworker to a pole, which allows them to stay secure so they can work safely with both hands.
- TOOL POUCH:** hangs from the side of the climbing belt to hold tools that may be needed on the job.
- CLIMBERS/HOOKS:** these are steel or aluminum leg shafts which are strapped on just below the knee and around the boots. It holds the pointed steel gaffs in place on the inner side of the lineworker's boots.
- GAFFS:** these are sharp steel points used to dig into a wood pole. It allows the lineworker to climb safely and efficiently.
- FALL ARREST EQUIPMENT:** fastens around the lineworker and the pole, and is used to prevent falling.
- BOOTS:** these have steel toes and a composite shank built into the sole to support the feet, especially when climbing a pole.
- HANDLINE:** a rope with a pulley system used to raise tools and equipment needed when working on a pole or to lower a lineworker to the ground if a pole-top accident happens.
- DITTY BAG:** holds small items, such as nuts, bolts and connectors that are needed for any number of jobs.

## DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1 FOR PHOTO ENTRIES



LCP is accepting entries for the 2020 co-op calendar contest through August 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.)
- 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.
- 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.
- One membership (household) may submit up to 10 photos (separate e-mails required for each photo), but we may limit each photographer to no more than two winning entries.
- Enter color photos that were taken in northern Minnesota, and are appropriately sized for clear printing at 12 inches wide by 9 inches high (300 resolution: minimum resolution of 2,700 pixels by 3,600 pixels).
- Only horizontal pictures will qualify.
- Photos must be e-mailed to [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop). All entries must be received by August 1, 2019.
- Photos must not include people.
- Winning photographers automatically give Lake Country Power permission to use winning photos in the calendar, in other publications, member presentations or electronically online.

## RECIPE CORNER NANTUCKET BLUEBERRY BLOCKS

From the Kitchen of:  
**Norman D. Jarva**  
Gilbert, MN

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground allspice
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- ¼ tsp cloves
- 1 egg
- ¾ cup milk
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1 cup fresh blueberries (if using frozen berries, partially thaw and drain well)

### DIRECTIONS

Sift to blend flour, baking powder, sugar, salt and spices. In another bowl, beat egg, milk and melted butter. Combine dry and wet ingredients, mixing briefly to just moisten dry ingredients. Carefully stir in berries to not crush. Turn into 7"x11" pan.

Bake 375 degrees for 30 – 40 minutes. Dust with powdered sugar. Cool, cut into 8 – 12 blocks.

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



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## April 23, 2019 • Regular Monthly Meeting

### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson reported that he, Director Liimatainen, General Manager Randa and LCP staff Derek Howe and Mark Bakk, met with Fond du Lac about right-of-way clearing concerns. Olson also noted he had several members contact him during the month.

General Manager Randa reported about Great River Energy's rate design committee; Northland Connect Internet; construction is on schedule for LCP's headquarters in the Cohasset Industrial Park; the 2020 annual meeting may be held at the Cohasset Service Center; LCP staff participated at a job fair at Fond du Lac; Grand Rapids Public Utilities annexation; and LCP's attorney is working with the City of Mountain Iron

regarding service territory.

Director of Finance and Administration Bakk gave a brief update on the February financials including energy sales and purchased power.

### THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved the 2018 capital credit allocation.

Approved that Director Carlson be appointed LCP's Great River Energy voting delegate, and Director Liimatainen as alternate. ■

**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 July. Sandy Brooks of Forest Lake took this photo near Lawrence Lake.

## Retired LCP fleet vehicles to be auctioned online

Lake Country Power is partnering with North Auctions of Hibbing, Minn., to hold an online auction for fleet the co-op is liquidating. The electronic bidding will

be through K-Bid.com in September. Please watch for details coming in *Newsline* and on LCP's Facebook page.

## Co-op Contacts

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

**Sherman Liimatainen,** 218-879-3135  
District 9 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 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  
2810 Elida Dr., Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Editor: Tami Zaun • [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop)  
Lake Country Power Service Centers:  
Grand Rapids • Kettle River • Mountain Iron  
800-421-9959 • [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop)  
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## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – April 2019

	2019	2018
Electric Operating Revenue	\$33,832,835	\$34,076,992
Cost of Purchased Power	17,583,861	17,674,159
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	3,948,180	3,566,627
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,530,140	1,550,274
Administrative and General Expense	2,288,646	2,285,658
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	5,264,801	4,909,440
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>30,615,629</b>	<b>29,986,159</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	3,217,206	4,090,833
Non-Operating Margins	675,081	894,195
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>3,892,287</b>	<b>4,985,028</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(244,379)	(265,729)
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$3,647,908</b>	<b>\$4,719,299</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>255,402,446</b>	<b>260,410,472</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.