



June 2017

Newsline

LCP Scholarship helps 28 students chase their dreams

Hard work, perseverance and a commitment to community pays off. At least that's the case for 28 high school students and eight community college students who earned Lake Country Power's scholarships this year.

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 LCP. Valued at \$4,000 (\$500 per semester), more than 140 area high school students applied through an electronic application process in January.

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is made possible through unclaimed capital credits. The applications are reviewed and scored by LCP's Operation Round Up trust board. The electronic application process will open January 1, 2018 for next year's graduating seniors

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. Applications for these

scholarships are available directly through the colleges.

28 High School Recipients

Congratulations to the following 2017 graduating seniors who were selected to receive Lake Country Power's Les Beach Memorial Scholarship.

Colton Ziegler:
Barnum School

Alana Baasi:
Cherry School

Megan Aldrich:
Chisholm School

Erin Genereau:
Cloquet School

Sawyer Strelnieks:
Cromwell-Wright School

Jordyn Newberg:
Deer River School

Erin Bianco:
Ely School

Reid Davidson:
Esko School

Kaitlyn Rigstad:
Eveleth School

Eric Hall:
Floodwood School

Hannah Danielson:
Grand Rapids School

Elyssa Peterson:

Greenway-Coleraine School

Parc Chamerrick:
Hibbing School

Kailey Gilmer:
Hill City School

Abby Schoeben:
McGregor School

Samuel Hunt:
Mesabi East School

Erika Kosloski:
Moose Lake School

Julia Rudolph:
Mountain Iron – Buhl School

Jessica Plaisted:
Nashwauk-Keewatin School

Ashley Vito:
North Wood School

Maree Poppenhagen:
Northeast Range School

Cole Ruff:
Northern Lights School

Kali Wake:
Northland-Remer School

Boyd Billman:
Proctor School

Cole Davidson:
South Ridge School

Joshua Baumann:
Virginia School

Jonathan Lanari and
Michael Ciriacy:
home schooled



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Michael Forsman, district 2 director for LCP, presents Erin Bianco (Ely) with the Les Beach Memorial Scholarship.



Matt Beal, member service representative for LCP, presents Erin Genereau (Cloquet) her scholarship.

BOARD MEETINGS

June 27 – 9:30 a.m. at
Mountain Iron Service Center

July 25 – 9:30 a.m. at
Grand Rapids Service Center

HOLIDAY OBSERVED

All LCP offices will be closed July 4 for Independence Day. If you experience a power outage, use SmartHub to report the outage. Register for SmartHub at lakecountrypower.coop. Or call 800-421-9959, press #1.

PRIMARY NUMBER

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Co-op events, including board meeting schedules, are posted at lakecountrypower.coop. Go to "Community" and click "Events."



Making hay

By Jim Huhta, District 8

Stress resulting for farmers dealing with nature's curveballs is sometimes triggered by poor planning, old equipment that is wearing out and needs repair, or various other combinations.

I sometimes joke about my old career as an air-traffic controller by saying that it was more stressful putting up quality hay for our horses, than it was to work an arrival or departure rush during thunderstorm season at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

We owned a hobby farm and were part of a "mini co-op" consisting of three families that operated older equipment. We put up our own hay, and many times a "quick fix" to beat a storm was required to get the hay up before it rained.

Our primary equipment owner-operator enjoyed the challenge, but I had that adrenalin rush satisfied at my real job. And, believe me these horses were special and got the best hay possible!

Eventually, I retired and started a small farm operation. My bride and I agreed prior to this endeavor, to buy new or better equipment so major maintenance projects would rarely be required. With all this "good planning," we still manage to perform maintenance at a more frequent basis than I'd like. Too many rocks!

Mother Nature is always messing with the weather, and many times the "windows" to get things done depend on well-maintained equipment.

My stress story runs parallel to what we, as a board, are trying to do with the infrastructure at Lake Country Power. LCP serves a large area and needs to constantly repair, replace, and upgrade equipment to insure continuous reliable service for its members.

Some of LCP's powerlines date back to the 1950s, but the co-op is taking a proactive approach with \$5.9 million that will be invested into the system for various construction projects this year. LCP needs to replace at least 75 miles of line each year to maintain a reliable and viable grid.

LCP will also invest \$4.3 million this year in right-of-way work. A lot of planning and equipment goes into these necessary system upgrades!

Beginning in 2018, LCP will replace its meters at all member locations with new metering technology. Each project in the co-op's work plan is ongoing to insure members like you and me get the best service possible.

Farmers "make hay when the sun is shining." For "stress-free" members of LCP, the co-op will continue planning, investing and working hard to make sure you can "make hay any time," despite the occasional rock.

Jim Huhta was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 8. He can be reached at 218-644-3997 or hatchcheck@frontier.com.

Annual meeting addresses authenticity of co-ops and plans for future

Keeping the coffee hot, the milk cold and batteries charged is at the core of Lake Country Power's mission. But after more than 80 years delivering rural electric service, expectations are measured many different ways these days.

That's the message Lake Country Power shared with nearly 400 members and guests at its annual meeting Wednesday, April 19, in Grand Rapids, Minn.

"The world has changed and companies are getting bigger and less personal," said LCP General Manager Greg Randa. "But as a member-owned organization, we still recognize the presence and power of local ownership and membership."

Randa added that it's the power of membership that sets co-ops apart from most other utilities and businesses. He referenced district meetings, member appreciation events and numerous communication channels to keep

members engaged and informed.

"We know our response to a new service request, a question about your energy usage, or advice about how to save money on your electric bill, goes a long way to making your life simpler," said Randa.

Randa provided a preview of the significant work and investments the co-op will make in the near future. Lake Country Power needs to replace at least 75 miles of line each year for the next 75 years. He also outlined plans for a new headquarters and a new metering system for co-op members going forward.

Lake Country Power members were provided an opportunity to contribute to Second Harvest North Central Food Bank of Grand Rapids. Members gave 155 pounds of food and more than \$200. In exchange, LCP gave 200 LED bulbs.

Election Results

Director election results were announced. Candidates ran unopposed in Districts 3 and 7:

District 1:	
Steve Peterson, Jr., Tower	334 votes
Jason Dale Long, Cook	465 votes
District 3:	
George Harvey, Britt	472 votes
District 6:	
Perry Jarva, Bovey	273 votes
Dan Kingsley, Hill City	299 votes
Mark Langanki, Warba	109 votes
District 7:	
Craig Olson, Culver	433 votes

All members received a bylaw ballot with several proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Cooperative. Lake Country Power received 4,724 bylaw ballots with nearly 96 percent of the members voting to approve the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the board of directors held a re-organizational meeting. Board officers are: Craig Olson from District 7, President; Sherman Liimatainen from District 9, Vice President; George Harvey from District 3, Secretary; and Craig Carlson from District 4, Treasurer.

If you missed the annual meeting, catch the videos on LCP's website and YouTube channel: www.lakecountrypower.coop and www.youtube.com/lakecountrypower.

Genereau to attend 59th annual Youth Tour in D.C.

Erin Genereau, a senior at Cloquet High School, will be packing her bags this month to fly with 40 other students from Minnesota to Washington, D.C., thanks to a sponsorship from her electric co-op, Lake Country Power. There, she will spend one week with more than 1,600 students and 250 chaperones on the Rural Electric Youth Tour.



The Rural Electric Youth Tour has brought more than 40,000 high school students to Washington, D.C. for a week in June every year since 1958.

"We believe that students should see their nation's capital

up close, learn about the political process and interact with their elected officials," said Tami Zaun, public relations coordinator for LCP. "We also believe students should learn the fundamentals about electric cooperatives and the many great things co-ops do for rural America and their local communities."

Genereau was one of 12 applicants for this rewarding opportunity. In addition to completing an application process, her parents receive electricity from Lake Country Power, which sealed her qualification for consideration.



Erin Genereau from Cromwell, selected as Youth Tour delegate for Lake Country Power.

More information: www.lakecountrypower.coop, www.nreca.coop, www.mrea.org and www.facebook.com/NRECAYouthTour.

Open house at Ely Outpost

Save the date!

Please join us for a special ribbon cutting and open house at Lake Country Power's new Ely Outpost. Following a brief and informal program, lunch* will be served for members. Staff will be available for conversation and tours.

Wed., June 28

**1378 McMahan Blvd.,
County Road 88, Ely**

12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*Please R.S.V.P. with name and number in your party by June 21. Contact Angie Hantula at ahantula@lakecountrypower.com or 218-322-4521.

Incentive to manage your account with SmartHub



When you contact LCP to choose paperless billing through SmartHub this month, you'll receive a special incentive – a one-time \$5 bill credit for new paperless enrollees.

Paperless billing saves your cooperative nearly \$4.50 each year in administrative costs. As

a not-for-profit co-op, LCP is always looking for ways to do business smartly and efficiently for its member-owners. And everything adds up over time.

To enroll in paperless billing, contact LCP's billing department at 800-421-9959, press #5.



SmartHub perks

- Quickly report a power outage with a simple click
- Make a payment or schedule a future payment
- Enroll in automatic bill payment using a bank account or credit card
- Review a current electric account balance and the energy usage
- Opt-in to receive e-mails and/or text notifications regarding your bill information
- Opt-in to receive e-mails and/or text notifications when dual fuel and interruptible water heating programs are controlled
- View past and current bill statements, payment history and energy usage
- Go paperless

Bus Tour: Join us for the Coal Creek Tour



This is your year to go on the Coal Creek Tour, and it's time. Arrange your travel plans with Lake Country Power for a fascinating opportunity to see how energy is made from baseload coal generation.

The Coal Creek Tour takes place in North Dakota, and is scheduled for September 19 – 21. The cost is \$170 per person. Your registration includes transportation, two nights lodging at the Holiday Inn Express in Bismarck, dinner and a full day tour with lunch. Registrations are due by August 29.

On tour day you'll see:

- **Coal Creek Station**—the largest power plant in North Dakota; learn why this power plant is vitally important to Great River Energy's generation mix.
- **Falkirk Mine**— see the gigantic equipment that is used to help supply 8 million tons of lignite coal each year to Coal Creek Station.
- **Blue Flint Ethanol**—uses a mix of primary and waste steam to produce ethanol, making it one of the lowest-cost facilities in the nation.
- **Garrison Dam**—the fifth largest earthen dam in the world; see the plant that generates electricity which is marketed by the Western Area Power Administration.
- **Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center**—coal combustion products were used in construction of the visitor center; tour the fort and walk the trails along the Missouri River.



☐ I want to go on the Coal Creek Tour to North Dakota.

I understand space is limited so I'm signing up today before my seat is taken.

☐ Coal Creek Tour. Enclosed is my check for \$170 per person.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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 Elida Drive, Grand Rapids MN 55744. Registrations must be received by August 29.

Want your power to come back quicker?

Consider removing some trees.

When the lights go out after a storm, turning them back on takes more than just flipping a switch. A complex system of wires delivers electricity to your home or business.

Lake Country Power crews work with Great River Energy, our wholesale electric supplier, to restore power quickly and safely. Sometimes tree crews must clear tree branches or limbs from the area before repairs can be made.

"Every minute spent clearing a

tree or branch off a power line, is a minute in delay of restoring power," said Todd Johnson, director of operations for LCP. "Even though winds can blow trees into power lines, it's often the trees that were left near the power line that cause the most damage."



And that damage has economic impact on the co-op and on rates to members.

If you'd like to consider some alternatives to trees, such as native habitats for pollinators, visit Great River Energy's website at: <http://greatriverenergy.com/treesandvegetation>.

Capital credit allocation reflects your co-op investment

In early May, Lake Country Power allocated more than \$5.2 million of the 2016 margins into long-term member capital credit accounts.

Because Lake Country Power and Great River Energy are not-for-profit cooperatives, all margins (revenues minus expenses) are allocated back to member-owners in the form of capital credits. The allocation represents your share of "ownership" in the co-op and is paid back to you over time as financial conditions allow.

Allocation notices are being mailed from mid-May to early June. To keep you up-to-date on your capital credit account, the line items, listed on your 2016 Notice of Capital Credit Allocation represent the amount of the 2016 margin allocated to your capital credit membership account.

The allocation is based on the amount of electricity that was used during the 2016 year. Until capital credits are returned through a board approved general retirement, your allocation is invested to improve the reliability and service of your cooperative.

Your capital credit membership account represents your share of ownership in the co-op, and is used to reduce the amount of bank financing for equipment like electric lines, utility poles, substations, transformers and trucks. Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop for more information about allocations and capital credits.



Tips for Summer Outages

While LCP's distribution system is more than 99 percent reliable, summer storms can topple trees, break lines and cause extended outages for co-op members. 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.
- 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.

Co-op calendar contest reminder

Entry deadline:
Sept. 1, 2017

Several LCP members have already submitted their beautiful scenic photos for a chance to be featured in the 2018 co-op calendar. The contest is open *now* and will close Sept. 1.

Your photography should be scenic to capture the beauty of northern Minnesota's four seasons. All entries must be electronic and horizontal, among other contest guidelines you'll want to read before submitting.



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. 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.

- 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.

Emergency Kits for Severe Weather

LCP works hard to keep the power on for its members. However, severe weather can put us in the dark. Stay safe and keep the following emergency supplies on hand:

- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Candles and holders
- Matches
- Radio with batteries
- Paper plates
- Bottled water

Visit www.fema.gov, www.nws.noaa.gov, www.redcross.org and www.disastersafety.org for additional preparation tips.

Recipe Corner

Oatmeal Jim Jam Cookies

Vicky Harding, Grand Rapids

- 1 cup butter
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup hot water
- ½ tsp soda
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1 cup flour



Cream butter and sugars. Dissolve soda in hot water. Add to mixture. Add vanilla, oatmeal and flour. Mix well. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Drop cookies by teaspoon and flatten slightly with back of a fork dipped in cool water. Bake 8 – 10 minutes. Cool for two minutes on cookie sheets, then remove to wire rack to cool completely.

Date filling: 1 pound dates (rinsed, not cut up), ¾ cup orange juice and ¼ cup water. Place ingredients in a saucepan over medium heat. When it starts to boil, turn down heat to simmer and mash with a potato masher while it cooks. In about 3 – 4 minutes you'll have a creamy filling.

To serve: Place 1 – 2 tsp of filling on the bottom side of a cookie. Top with another cookie, bottom side to the filling. Otherwise, serve plain or make sandwich cookies with peanut butter. Cookies assembled in advance become soft and chewy. Cookies assembled just before eating retain a crisp quality.

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.

Editor's Note: The cookies served at the 2017 Annual Meeting were a hit. Some requested the recipe, however, it's a secret recipe. The best we're able to do is to let you know where the cookies originated. The Hopes Royal Country Cookie came from Upper Lakes Foods in Cloquet. Call 800-879-1265, or e-mail info@ulfoods.com.

Condensed Board Minutes

March 28, 2017 • Regular Monthly Meeting

The following reports were given:

President Craig Olson stated he was in contact with General Manager Randa about the LCP employee who had an electrical contact on March 7. Olson was seated to the Great River Energy board of directors, and reported about his experience as a new director on the GRE board. He and Director Bruckbauer reviewed matters relative to GRE's operations including the GRE annual audit, financials, wholesale power contract, fixed members' purchases, etc.

Holding Company President Harvey reported about the operations of Lake States Construction and Lake States Tree Service.

Greg Randa, LCP general manager, reported about an electrical contact investigation, nine district meetings, Moose Lake power contract, Grand Rapids annexation, the staff's strategic planning session, investment in new automated metering infrastructure, Grand Rapids service

center, and the 2018 work plan/loan from Rural Utilities Service.

Mark Bakk, LCP director of finance and administration, reported about the Jan. 2017 unaudited financials. He also reported the audit is done and a representative from the firm will present at today's board meeting.

The following actions were taken:

Approved the form of the director election ballot, which does not include a space for write-in.

Approved to accept the 2016 audit report and the "clean" opinion of the audit work that was conducted of Lake Country Power and its subsidiaries.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at www.lakecountrypower.coop in the "Member's Area." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a printed copy.



This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for June 2017. Brenda Hadrich of McGregor photographed this loon family while in the Boundary Waters Area Canoe Wilderness.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages. *Source: U.S Department of Energy*

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — March 2017

	2017	2016
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 25,180,598	\$ 24,107,622
Cost of Purchased Power	14,158,057	13,454,727
Distribution Expense - Operations and Maintenance	2,526,086	2,173,865
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,044,275	998,063
Administrative and General Expense	1,582,872	1,578,342
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	3,730,498	3,791,689
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	23,041,788	21,996,686
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,138,810	2,110,936
Non-Operating Margins	1,008,052	858,718
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	3,146,862	2,969,654
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(192,928)	(246,534)
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 2,953,935	\$ 2,723,120
TOTAL kWh SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	191,370,478	195,915,994

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

Co-op Contacts

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Michael Forsman, District 2 forsmanmd@hotmail.com	218-365-5789
George Harvey, District 3 gharvey@accessmn.com	218-741-6633
Craig Carlson, District 4 carlsonlcp@gmail.com	218-999-7175
Robert Bruckbauer, District 5 bobbbruckbauer@northlc.com	218-566-2436
Daniel Kingsley, District 6 kingsdan27@gmail.com	218-697-2628
Craig Olson, District 7 cdolson106@aol.com	218-393-2276
Jim Huhta, District 8 hatcheck@frontier.com	218-644-3997
Sherman Liimatainen, District 9 sgliimatainen@gmail.com	218-879-3135

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

Published monthly by Lake Country Power
2810 Elida Dr., Grand Rapids, MN 55744

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Lake Country Power Service Centers:
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