May 2018

Newsline

Safety above all else

May is National Electrical Safety Month

By Greg Randa
LCP general manager

"Safety" is a universal word that is mentioned often, and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For, Lake Country Power, it's a core value and highest priority. And that is not empty talk. Over time, the co-op has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else.

At its essence, LCP's mission is to deliver safe, reliable electric service while managing member resources wisely. At the end of the day, we want our employees to return home safely to family and friends. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and attention to training.

Follow leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Our employees are focused on keeping themselves and the community safe around electricity. We establish and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry.

We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our employees have regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective.

We encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the communities we serve, we care about our neighbors. LCP conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects, or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss.

This month LCP will present electric safety demonstrations at Cohasset Elementary, Vermilion Country School, and Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School.

If you would like a safety demonstration at your school, please e-mail Tami Zaun at tzaun@lcp.coop, or call 800-421-9959, ext. 7152.

811®
Know what's **below.**
Call before you dig.

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Pole Testing Continues
Surveying Members in June
Miracle Survival
Choose Off-Peak for EVs

BOARD MEETINGS
May 29 – 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center
June 26 – 9:30 a.m. at Mountain Iron Service Center

PRIMARY NUMBER

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

ALL THE BEST

Good luck to all those participating in Minnesota's walleye and northern pike fishing opener, Saturday, May 12. Happy Mother's Day to all the mom's, too!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

Efficiency, sustainability and value

By Jim Huhta, District 8

Years ago, as a young boy I got to see the diesel generators working in Kettle River. Their size and noise were intimidating, but when I learned we were able to watch Saturday morning westerns and other TV programs my trepidation eased. I started to realize the "value" that these generators provided at an early age!

Today, energy is transforming into multiple forms. Wind and solar are on the march. Cheaper and cleaner gas is replacing coal. Battery technology is developing. Electric vehicles (EVs) will be competing with internal combustion vehicles. Smart-grids are coming. There's a lot of activity in the industry and it's changing in a big way. Quite a transition from those KR generators that supplied all our energy. But then over sixty years has "transformed" this young boy in a big way too.

People are starting to demand the switch to clean energy. Schools, communities, and major companies like Google, are making that switch today. Continued pressure will bend the future towards "clean and green."

We have a diverse mix providing our energy today, and that's good. It provides insurance, and gives credence to the age-old adage, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Energy sources will continue to trend that way and become more efficient and sustainable in providing us value for affordable energy in coming years. Embrace the future because it's coming, and along with it comes sustainability, efficiency and value.

Now, I've gotta get back to the Lone Ranger!

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

Special Notice: Surveying members, summer 2018

LCP will be conducting one more member survey this year, beginning June 11. The focus will be on renewable energy. Please be aware that you may be one of several members who are randomly selected to participate in the survey – so if you get a call about a survey from us, it's legit.

LCP is contracting with a cooperative-affiliated research firm that has years of experience measuring member satisfaction levels and how co-ops score on the American Customer Satisfaction Index. If you are selected, please take 6.5 minutes to participate.

Thank you.

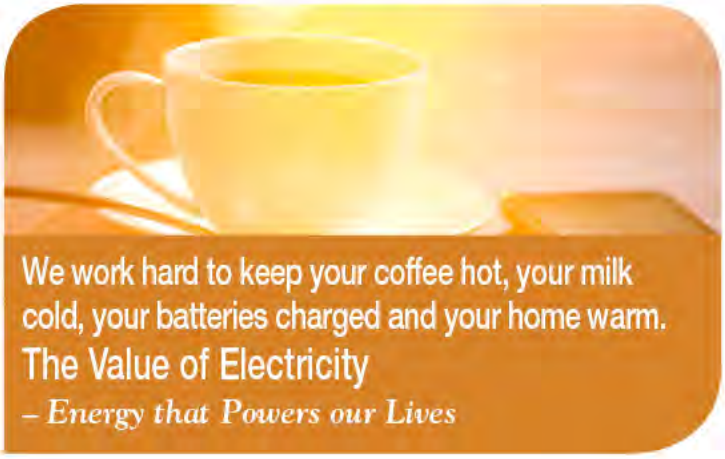
Lake Country Power
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Energy that Powers Our Lives

Pole testing continues for safety and reliability

In the interest of public safety and service reliability, Lake Country Power has hired Ram and Osmose Utilities to conduct a ground line pole inspection on the distribution poles in the western and southern parts of LCP's service territory. The testing will begin in May and will continue through October.

The goal of this routine inspection is to identify poles that may no longer be useful for service, and will be scheduled for future replacement. Crews will be accessing the distribution power lines with pickups, four-wheelers, or on foot. Some poles may require hand excavation to a depth of 18 inches below ground; these will be filled by the end of each day. There will be no interruption of electric service.

Pole testing will take place on five LCP substations: Gowan, Brandon, Grand Lake, Solway, and Pokegama. Ram Utilities will inspect Pokegama, in the western part of LCP's area, while Osmose Utilities Services, Inc., will inspect poles in the southern areas.



Miracle survival

Emotions from explosion still fresh one year later

"It was like a scene from a movie," is how Lake Country Power member Pam Jepson describes the incredible events of her survival and escape just moments before her home burst into flames following an explosion last May.

Pam and her husband, Roger, spoke from their temporary residence in Arbo Township recently to talk about the emotional details of that spring morning.

With a chill in the air, Pam adjusted the thermostat for the home's propane furnace around 9 a.m. on May 16, 2017 — moments later there was a blast.

"I guess, once the heater kicked in, the house just went Baa-LOOOM! I was up in the air, hit my head on the ceiling and came down on my knees. It was like, 'what the heck just happened … what was that!'"

Outside, Lake Country Power employees Jim Yrjanson and Mike Gustafson were finishing repairs to a neutral line damaged by a logging truck when the house exploded.

The two lineworkers were at the edge of the yard, about 75 feet from the Jepson's home. "Jim took off for the house to see if anyone was inside," said Gustafson. "I got into the cab of the truck and contacted dispatch to call 9-1-1."

Yjranson reached the front porch and yelled through rubble into the home. Pam answered, and Yjranson made an immediate plea to evacuate. Along with two pets, Pam scrambled toward the door.

"I ran out, we both were going down the stairs. Sassy (the Jepson's dog) was coming out behind me and the cat went into the woods, and that's when it just blew into flames," explains Pam.

Just like in a Hollywood film, she said it seemed like fire engulfed the home just seconds after the pair made their way across what was left of the deck.

"There were ambulances and fire trucks, and there was everything around, and there was my wife standing there," Roger said, of when he arrived on the scene. "I know that God had a big part in this, to save her. And I don't know what I would have done if my wife would have passed in that explosion. Because everything I'm working for is for her; and my family," he added with emotion.

Roger and Pam Jepson

"It wasn't my time," said Pam. "Nope, she's got one life to live … with me," Roger chimed in with a laugh.

The Jepsons are now putting the finishing touches on their new home, located across the street from the remains of the leveled building. But, not a day goes past without reflection on the gratitude they share for the two LCP employees who came to the rescue.

"I just have to say, that those two guys, I'm so thankful that they were there," said Pam. And, I owe them my life, I really do."

LCP staff member completes intensive leadership program

Mark Bakk, director of finance and administration for Lake Country Power, completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.

Bakk is one of only a few electric utility management staff that will graduate from the Management Internship Program this year.

MIP participants go through three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative management techniques. Participants leave with a better understanding of what consumers want and how to ensure they get it.

Only rural electric cooperative CEOs and top level management participate in the program. This allows greater emphasis of study, on management challenges and the aspects of consumer-ownership that cooperatives enjoy. Participants learn to focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making.

Bakk has completed one of the most exclusive educational programs in the nation for electric cooperative management. He joins three of his LCP colleagues who have also earned MIP certificates.

Mark Bakk, left, receives his certificate of completion for the Management Internship Program from Gary Pfann, NRECA's director of executive and staff education.

LCP's off-peak program makes EVs appealing

If you've been kicking the tires about going electric with your next vehicle, you'll discover additional savings when you charge it on Lake Country Power's off-peak program.

Lake Country Power offers an off-peak program for co-op members to charge their electric vehicles (EVs) during overnight hours, which will save you on energy costs since off-peak is offered at a reduced electric rate.

"Convenience is great with public charging stations, like the one at Doc's in Sturgeon Lake," said Jeff Sheldon, manager energy services and business development for Lake Country Power. "But the best deal around is when co-op members go on our off-peak program to charge an electric vehicle."

Direct current (DC) fast chargers (level 3 chargers) offer electric vehicle drivers the fastest and most convenient charging option while traveling long distances.

It's very rare that an electric vehicle driver would use a DC fast charger for the bulk of their charging. Most vehicle charging happens at home on level 2 chargers. More than 90 percent of charging units in the U.S. are installed in homes that have an EV.

Those who really want to be economical will go on LCP's special off-peak Revolt program, so they receive the reduced electric rate. Charging on off-peak is done during the overnight hours, typically between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Revolt Program

Lake Country Power, through its wholesale power supplier Great River Energy, continues to offer the Revolt program, which ensures EVs are fueled entirely with wind energy on the off-peak rate. This first-of-its-kind program allows EV owners to further support the use of renewable energy.

When a member claims the upgrade, LCP and GRE dedicates wind energy to completely cover the electricity used to fuel an EV for the car's lifetime. The program has been extended through at least the end of 2018.

For more information, contact LCP's member service department at 800-421-9959 (press 6), or visit https://plugintomn.com.

Pricing out the options

What does it cost to charge up on off-peak? For example: A level 2 electric vehicle (EV) car charger (4.5KW) is installed in your garage, and your EV needs a 4 hour charge.

Off-Peak

4.5 KW
x 4 hours of charge*

18 kWh's
x .0495¢/kWh

89¢ of electricity

*A typical 4-hour charge will get you 70 miles.

Gasoline

70 miles of gas
÷ 25 mpg*

2.8 gallons of gas
x $2.49/gallon

$6.97 worth of gas

*Assuming your gas vehicle gets an average of 25 miles per gallon.

Change Habits to
BEAT THE PEAK

You can beat the peak (and save money!) by decreasing your power use when energy demand and prices are at their highest. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Laundry for Less:
Full loads mean fewer cycles, and washers and dryers run in the late evenings add less heat and humidity to the home. Energy can cost less outside of peak hours.

Cool Off/Calm Down:
Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat, resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember, lower fan settings use less energy.

Intramural Competition:
Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, gaming console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen and save.

Countertop Convenience:
Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, induction cooktops, Crock-Pot® and toaster ovens put more cooking heat where you need it.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Annual Cogeneration Notification to Membership

In compliance with Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Lake Country Power is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as the qualifying facility. Lake Country Power is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Cooperative. Interested members should contact Lake Country Power, 2810 Elida Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, or call 800-421-9959.

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.

- **A.J.'s Fastlube & Auto Repair,** Ely
- **Forest History Center,** Grand Rapids
- **Cook Area Credit Union,** Cook
- **Anytime Fitness,** Hibbing, Virginia and Grand Rapids
- **Blue Iris,** Grand Rapids
- **Northern Landscape & Garden Center, Inc.,** Hibbing

Recipe Corner

Mamma Mia – Unbelievable Satisfying Salad

Christi Wyborny, Nora Springs, Iowa & Cohasset, MN

Chop:

- 1 head cauliflower
- 1 head broccoli
- 1 small red onion

Add: 4 cups red grapes (seedless)

Cut up:

- 1 pound smoked bacon into 1" pieces, fry until brown (place on paper towel to cool and absorb grease)

Dressing (make an hour ahead, and add last)

- 2 cups Hellman's Mayonnaise
- ½ cup sugar (can use Truvia)
- ¾ cup grated parmesan cheese

Stir dressing into salad with the bacon. This salad is easy and keeps great for days in fridge. Makes you want to yell, "Mamma Mia."

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.

Condensed Board Minutes

February 20, 2018 • Regular Monthly Meeting

The following reports were given:

President Craig Olson reminded directors to complete their general manager evaluation forms, and return to him. He will compile the information and set a date to meet with Greg Randa for his annual review. Olson also reported about a conversation he had with a member.

Greg Randa, LCP general manager, reported about Northland Connect Broadband year-end results; gave an update about LCP's headquarters building that will be built in the Cohasset Industrial Park – bids are projected to go out in March; Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting; and LCP strategic planning set for April 12.

Mark Bakk, director of finance and administration, reported about the December financials.

The following actions were taken:

Approved to receive the LCP Co-Generation Annual Report Filing that was presented by LCP staff concerning the Cooperative's cogeneration systems.

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 May 2018. Helen Lorenz took this darling picture on Big Sucker Lake.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Source: *energy.gov*

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date —February 2018

	2018	2017
Electric Operating Revenue	$18,982,786	$17,415,927
Cost of Purchased Power	10,680,307	10,023,782
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	1,683,690	1,562,284
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	717,776	676,849
Administrative and General Expense	1,143,057	1,082,394
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	2,112,776	2,060,577
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	**16,337,606**	**15,405,886**
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,645,180	2,010,042
Non-Operating Margins	(2,237)	134,813
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	**2,642,943**	**2,144,855**
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	-	-
TOTAL MARGINS	**$2,642,943**	**$2,144,855**
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	**151,673,168**	**134,791,858**

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.*

Co-op Contacts

Greg Randa, General Manager granda@lcp.coop	800-421-9959
Jason Long, District 1 jaselong@gmail.com	218-240-9611
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 bobbruckbauer@northlc.com	218-566-2436
Daniel Kingsley, District 6 kingsdan27@gmail.com	218-697-2628
Craig Olson, District 7 colson@iupat82.org	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
Editor: Tami Zaun
tzaun@lcp.coop

Lake Country Power Service Centers:
Grand Rapids • Kettle River • Mountain Iron
800-421-9959 • www.lakecountrypower.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.