

# Happy Thanksgiving

November 2019

# Newslane

**BOARD MEETINGS** November 26 - 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center ■ December 19 - 9:30 a.m. at Mountain Iron Service Center

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Strong National Network  
Charge Your EV with LCP  
Scholarship Season  
Cohasset Service Center

## Electric Vehicle Show & Tell Event connects EV owners with the public

Several types of electric vehicles (EVs), including Teslas, an electric Polaris Ranger and electric bicycles, were available to the public for viewing during a special EV-focused event in Duluth. The event showcased 25 various types of electric vehicles on September 16 during National Drive Electric Week.

A first-of-its-kind in northern Minnesota, the event connected those interested in EVs to those who have already made the leap to purchase and drive an EV.

A discussion panel of EV owners and energy experts shared their experience owning an EV. They also shared information about today's charging technologies, and the charging programs available through LCP, such as the reduced "off-peak" electric rate or enrolling in a renewable energy program called Revolt.

Models of EVs at the event included: Chevy Bolt, Tesla Model S, Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid, Nissan Leaf, BMW i3, Polaris Ranger and electric bicycles. Attendees were treated to free ice cream by Love Creamery, including

a new flavor for the event called "electric blue."

For more information about electric vehicles visit [www.energywisemn.com](http://www.energywisemn.com) and [www.PlugIntoMN.com](http://www.PlugIntoMN.com).

### Busting the EV myths

EVs aren't just for short trips close to home. Technological advancements and an ever-expanding charging network have made EVs a good fit for just about everyone.

"I tell anyone skeptical about electric vehicles to get behind the wheel," said Mark Olson, LCP load management, metering and MDM supervisor. "That's the only way to truly understand how practical and fun they are."

Even though EVs are becoming more common, some myths remain.

### Myth 1: They're expensive

The fuel and maintenance costs of an EV is three to five times cheaper than gasoline- and diesel-powered cars, depending on your local gasoline and electric rates. You might also qualify for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 for the initial purchase of the vehicle.



### Myth 2: They don't go very far

The average range of today's EVs is 196 miles on a full charge. The average American's daily round-trip mileage is less than 30 miles, which makes most models of EVs suitable for the typical commuter.

### Myth 3: There's no place to charge them

Most charging can be completed with the regular outlet in your garage at night. Just plug into the 120-volt Level 1 charging cordset that comes with the

car. You can also invest in more powerful chargers to power up faster. For road trips, public charging stations are becoming more readily available every day.

### Myth 4: They don't have the performance of traditional cars

While most EVs may not currently look as exciting as a sports car, looks can be deceiving – and the acceleration of EVs is no exception. Several models have already set new records at race tracks and vehicle performance events around the world. ■

### HOLIDAY OBSERVED

All LCP offices will be closed November 28 – 29 for Thanksgiving. If you experience a power outage, use SmartHub to report the outage. Register for SmartHub at [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop). Or call 800-421-9959, press #1.



# Thankful for a strong national network among electric cooperatives

When you think about Lake Country Power, you probably associate the co-op with the local community. And you would be right. The leadership team, board of directors and employees all live and work right here in the communities the co-op serves. But you may not realize that LCP is actually part of a much larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the members of the co-op.

## Cooperation Among Cooperatives

When a severe weather event happens in our region, LCP calls on its neighboring co-ops for assistance when needed. Through this



By Michael  
**FORSMAN**  
District 2 Director

system of mutual aid, LCP's operations department coordinates with other co-ops to bring additional trucks, equipment and manpower to help. Cooperatives are good at working together to share resources in order to restore power.

A defining principle of cooperatives is "cooperation among cooperatives." It's why co-ops work together to meet bigger challenges.

Another area in which LCP benefits from cooperation among cooperatives is cybersecurity. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) "Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program" (RC3), LCP is able to access

training, resources and tools to strengthen its efforts to combat cyber threats.

LCP's ability to tap into the larger electric cooperative network and access tools, products, resources and leading practices from across the nation ultimately makes our co-op and our community stronger.

## Global impact

Communities across the globe have benefitted from the lessons learned and experience of co-ops in electrification of rural areas in the U.S.

NRECA International (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) has provided access to reliable and affordable electricity for 120 million people in 43 countries. This effort is made possible through the support of electric co-ops across the country.

Hundreds of lineworkers, engineers and other co-op employees have served as volunteers to bring first-time access to electricity and train local partners to help utilities be sustainable in their own communities.

November is a time of year for reflection and giving thanks. I am grateful for the strong co-op network that enables LCP to better serve its members and our broader communities. When electric co-ops collaborate, they strengthen each other and the communities they serve – and that is something in which to be truly thankful. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone. ■

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Michael Forsman was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 2. He can be reached at 218-365-5789 or [forsmanmd@hotmail.com](mailto:forsmanmd@hotmail.com).

## Charge your EV with Off-Peak or Revolt

As more consumers adopt the advancing technology behind electric vehicles, Lake Country Power is ready to assist its members with options for charging.

"While public EV charging stations add a convenience for drivers, the best deal around is when co-op members go on our off-peak program to charge their vehicle," said Matt Beal, member service representative. "Charging

during the overnight hours on off-peak provides members with a reduced electric rate, bringing them even more value and savings."



The off-peak rate is 4.95 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to 11.36 cents/kWh during

the six shoulder months of the year (March – May and September – November). Off-peak charging hours are generally 11 p.m. – 7 a.m.

Revolt is another EV charging program available to co-op members, which charges your vehicle using 100 percent wind energy. Renewable energy is already part of the energy you receive to power your home, but with Revolt you'll receive a renewable energy credit

(REC). When you charge with the Revolt program, LCP will dedicate wind energy REC's on your behalf, completely offsetting the energy used to power your electric vehicle.

For more information about your EV charging options, please contact the member service department at 800-421-9959, press 6, or visit [energywisemn.com/revolt](http://energywisemn.com/revolt) or [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop). ■



# Scholarships: Application season opens soon

January 1, 2020, is important date for school seniors. That's when Lake Country Power's online application process officially opens for the Les Beach Scholarship. Just as important is the application deadline, which is January 31, 2020.



complete the electronic application and submit

electronic letters of recommendation, go to [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) (under "My Cooperative," click the "Scholarships" tab under "Community").

Scholarship recipients may qualify for up to \$4,000 over four years to help pay for college or technical education. Scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters, and students

must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. They must have a full-time enrollment status at a technical school, community college or university. Qualifying students must also have parents or legal guardians who are members of Lake Country Power.

Stay tuned for more information in next month's *Newsline*. ■

## Electric cooperatives: Partners in community vitality

Electric cooperatives like Lake Country Power play an essential role in attracting commercial activity in the areas they serve.

Utility providers are now often looked at by real estate firms and site selection consultants as key partners in moving economic development projects forward. Co-ops are embracing this role by offering a variety of assistance programs to communities working with new and/or expanding businesses to fill their industrial parks and vacant buildings.

"From rebate programs and financing tools for growing businesses to general support and sponsorship of community-led initiatives, Minnesota's electric cooperatives are some of the most dynamic partners a community can have in

helping to grow the economy and create new jobs," said Todd Johnson, manager of energy services and business development.



**Todd JOHNSON**  
Manager of  
Energy Services  
and Business  
Development

### Co-op Tools

The most effective organizations are building in coordination with their local utility providers by, for example, promoting cooperative financing programs as part of the overall package used to attract new projects.

Any traditional economic development organization can offer tools to reduce capital costs associated with business expansions, but only electric cooperatives can combine these tools with energy management strategies and other resources that also reduce operating costs, long after the ribbon is cut.

### Co-op Support

Utilities generally share the objectives of economic development professionals, and with your local power cooperative, you can also count on them to offer direct support as a member of your community – not just a utility service provider.

These utilities work to provide leadership that

informs and shapes economic development strategies at the state and local level to ensure a long-term vision that is consistent with the values and objectives of each organization.

Electric cooperatives work to maintain this balance when establishing and strengthening relationships with the economic development organizations in their areas. ■

## Economic Development Programs Available

Since 1992, Lake Country Power (and its predecessor co-ops) has helped local businesses and communities expand and grow through a variety of business development tools. LCP has provided access to more than \$6 million in economic development assistance through the years.

Through LCP, local businesses have access to the United States Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development Loan & Grant program (RDLG). LCP also offers a local loan program. In addition, LCP's power supplier, Great River Energy, offers several business financing programs.

These programs and resources help power our region. Recent recipients of LCP business financing include Handberg's Marina in Crane Lake to support a maintenance shop and retail expansion. Natural Harvest Food Co-op also received LCP support to help provide gap financing for its new facility in Virginia, Minn.



# Dedication of the new Cohasset Service Center

More than 80 members, city officials, legislators and community guests helped dedicate Lake Country Power's new Cohasset Service Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 8. Guided tours were offered along with light refreshments.

"A cooperative is made up of a community of members, said Greg Randa, LCP general manager. "This project was made possible by working together with

Cohasset community leaders, our board of directors, our local workforce and local contractors who all worked together with us to make it happen."

Randa added that the Cohasset Service Center is a long-lasting investment in

the community and will help meet the co-op's mission to provide members with safe and reliable service. LCP manages member resources for the long-term, so the Cohasset building was designed to meet present and future needs. This investment replaces a timeworn, overcrowded building in Grand Rapids.

The Cohasset Service Center is officially open Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. During the tours, members learned about a payment kiosk that's available inside the first set of lobby doors. The kiosk is available from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. for members to make payments. Members may also make payments at the front counter in the



▶ Greg Randa, Lake Country Power general manager, cuts the ribbon following a program to dedicate the cooperative's new Cohasset Service Center.

lobby if they prefer.

The tour included stops to see the truck bay/garage, mechanics bay, warehouse and receiving, multi-purpose meeting room, dispatch/area supervisor/line crew room, engineering area, lobby/reception area, billing/call center, communications and member service, information technologies, human resources/safety, board room and administrative offices.

## Know anyone with unclaimed capital credits?

More than 20,000 members may have money waiting from LCP in the form of

unclaimed credits. If you know anyone who moved off the co-op's system without leaving a forwarding address and may have unclaimed credits due, please have them check the new and updated list that's available at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop). Look under "my account" and then "capital credits" for the listing.

If you have any information, please call LCP at 800-421-9959, and press 5 for billing. Any monies not claimed will be used toward Lake Country Power's scholarship program for students pursuing higher education beyond high school. ■



## RECIPE CORNER PIGS IN A BLANKET

From the  
Kitchen of:  
**Kristin Zorn,**  
Canyon

### INGREDIENTS

- Head of cabbage
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup cooked rice
- Onion, chopped
- 1 egg
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 pound hamburger



### DIRECTIONS

Dip cabbage leaves in boiling water. Mix rice, onion, egg, hamburger, salt and pepper together. Place on cabbage leaf and roll up. Secure with a toothpick. Pour tomato soup over and place in oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26009 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55521 or e-mail [tzorn@lcp.coop](mailto:tzorn@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.

## Rachel's Challenge comes to Hibbing

The community of Hibbing will experience Rachel's Challenge courtesy of Lake Country Power's commitment to community and a sponsorship making the program possible. Students and the community will be challenged through a message of kindness and compassion.

The public is invited to attend the free community presentation scheduled for



one hour starting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 11 at the Hibbing High School Auditorium. For more information about Rachel's Challenge, visit [www.rachelschallenge.org](http://www.rachelschallenge.org). ■



# Don't be scammed; Slam the scam

Scammers are calling consumers instructing them to give banking information over the phone to prevent being disconnected of service. They use threats to disconnect service within a matter of hours if payment isn't provided immediately over the phone or via electronic wire. Please do not fall for these scams.



"If you're a member of Lake Country Power, it's critically important to know that we never call members asking for their banking information over the phone or via e-mail," said Mark Bakk, chief financial officer. "We don't call to threaten disconnect. We don't use case numbers tied to your payments. We don't demand payments on the spot. If your bill is over \$100, we don't have programs tied to a specific amount. Please be careful, and don't fall for the many types of scams being used today."

Use caution when receiving suspicious phone calls of this type. If it sounds suspicious, hang up and call LCP to verify your account status at 800-421-9959. ■

## Six efficient gifts to give (or keep)

With Christmas only a month away, it's time to start thinking about unique gifts that are energy efficient. Here are a few ideas based on a range of prices.

1. **Smart power strip. Price: \$15 to \$100:** Smart power strips are the perfect gift for your tech-savvy family members and friends because they'll likely need the extra outlets for their many devices. Smart power strips give more control than traditional ones. By plugging the main hardware item, such as a computer or monitor, into the master outlet, you can easily control the rest of the devices. When that main device is turned off, everything else plugged into the strip also powers off.
2. **Smart thermostat. Price: \$30 to \$600:** A smart thermostat can adjust the temperature by learning your energy use habits over time, which saves you money and keeps you more comfortable. It can also be controlled through a smartphone app.
3. **Solar backpack. Price: \$30 to \$325:** It may sound crazy, but you can actually make the most of the sun's energy with a solar backpack. These handy devices collect and store enough electricity to power a phone, tablet or even a laptop. The solar panels stitched onto the back of the packs are flexible and waterproof.
4. **E-bike. Price: \$250 to \$9,000:** Electric bikes, or e-bikes, are regular bicycles with an electric motor that can be engaged as needed. E-bikes are popular with people who face challenging terrain, bike to work and don't want to work up a sweat, or perhaps find regular cycling too physically challenging. Studies also show that e-biking can bring many of the same physical benefits as non-assisted pedaling.
5. **Electric scooter. Price: \$80 to \$3,000:** The \$49 foldable, foot-powered scooter that exploded onto the scene a decade ago has grown up in a big way. Use one for your daily commute, if it's safe, or as a fun way to simply scoot around the neighborhood. Higher-quality versions will have longer range, larger tires and better suspension. Best for paved surfaces.
6. **Energy efficient tablets. Price: \$40 to \$4,000:** You may already have at least one tablet in your home, but have you considered how energy efficient it is? Try this: Instead of using your TV to binge that new show, consider an ENERGY STAR-rated tablet, and you can use seven times less power. Simply look for the ENERGY STAR label when you're shopping for new tablets. ■



### Buy one string of energy-saving LED holiday lights, get one FREE!

The holiday season is one of the most energy-intensive times of the year, but that doesn't mean you should keep your twinkling, strobing and glittering decorations packed away. Instead, use up to **90% less electricity** by switching from incandescent to durable, longer lasting LED holiday string lights. And now, we're making it easy to make the switch with a **buy one, get one free offer**—available to the first 200 members. Offer begins November 1, 2019.

ENERGY WISE  MN

Take advantage  
of this BOGO  
offer while  
supplies last!

Give yourself the gift of  
energy savings at  
[energywisemnstore.com](http://energywisemnstore.com)

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## Condensed Board Minutes

### August 27, 2019 • Regular Monthly Meeting

#### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson was absent with prior notice given.

General Manager Randa reported about Great River Energy financials, GRE rate design committee recommendation, Northland Connect, Cohasset headquarters building update and grand opening plans, market/sale plan for LCP's Grand Rapids location, Grand Rapids annexation, Energy Issues Summit, member appreciation days, and plans for the board/staff strategic planning session in Sept.

#### THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved to award contracts 2020-11, 2020-12 and 2020-13 to Lake States Construction. ■

**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 November. Andrene Myrum of Hibbing photographed this great gray owl at sunset in the Sax-Zim Bog near Meadowlands.

## Holiday Cheer

Please stop in our service centers for holiday greetings, Christmas goodies and a hot cup of coffee.

Mountain Iron: Dec. 2 – 6

Cohasset: Dec. 9 – 13

Kettle River: Dec. 19 – 23



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install – you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

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

## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – August 2019

	2019	2018
Electric Operating Revenue	\$61,501,968	\$62,675,448
Cost of Purchased Power	31,811,769	33,284,732
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	9,381,232	9,780,087
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	3,060,163	3,026,632
Administrative and General Expense	4,376,027	4,170,246
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	10,716,590	9,959,555
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>59,345,781</b>	<b>60,221,253</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,156,187	2,454,195
Non-Operating Margins	815,513	1,045,327
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>2,971,700</b>	<b>3,499,522</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	189,760	(116,344)
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$3,161,460</b>	<b>\$3,383,179</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>412,236,958</b>	<b>429,401,756</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.

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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

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