



October 2019

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BOARD MEETINGS October 29 – 9:30 a.m. at Cohasset Service Center ■ November 26 – 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center

By the Community, for the Community

Contemplating National Co-op Month

With October being National Cooperative Month, I'd like to reflect on who we are as your local electric cooperative and more importantly, the nearly 43,000 members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how the co-op was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are catalysts for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to manage member resources wisely and serve to help our communities prosper.

Locally Governed

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of our community of members because we are locally governed. Lake Country



By Greg
RANDA
LCP general manager

Power's leadership team and employees live right here in your communities. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to serve by neighbors like you.

We know our members have a valuable perspective.

That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through member surveys, community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting and other events, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed Internet, equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

Concern for Community

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional

utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We partner with local organizations like United Way and other worthy programs through our Operation Round

your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Lake Country Power as more than your energy



October is National Co-op Month.



Electric cooperatives are led by the community, for the community.

Up® giving program. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. We award scholarships to young people pursuing higher education. And the list goes on.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through

provider, but instead as a local business that supports the communities of northern Minnesota and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. ■

Recognizing national cooperative month

October is National Cooperative Month. Take a moment and reflect on an organization and the pioneers who developed them. Many of us take them way too much for granted.

The birth of cooperatives started in England with stores. Weavers got fed up with high prices in "company stores" so they started their own. Our electric cooperatives began during the Roosevelt administration. "For-profit" companies didn't want to serve the rural areas due to huge expenses and little profit, so rural people decided to do it themselves.



By Jim
HUHTA
District 8 Director

I grew up in a family that straddled both types. My dad managed co-op stores before I was born and then managed an electric co-op while I was in school. I heard many stories about both and developed a deep respect for their service to rural communities. The rich history demonstrated principles involving effective teamwork that really makes a difference in our everyday world.

Over the years co-ops have evolved from a time when rural farmers milked by the light of kerosene lamps and women cooked over wood stoves and laundered clothes with washboards

and tubs. Today co-ops power 88 percent of U.S. counties, serve 20 million homes, businesses, farms and schools. Co-ops own and maintain 42 percent of all distribution line. There are 831 distribution co-ops like Lake Country Power across the U.S. In addition, 62 generation and transmission co-ops, like our power supplier Great River Energy, provide local co-ops and the communities we serve with electricity. A remarkable feat, wouldn't you agree?

The evolution continues through clean energy development. Solar and wind projects are rapidly emerging throughout the country. Some co-ops have established broadband or other beneficial services for members, and some

have "for-profit" businesses initially acquired to hedge against threats of deregulation during the 90's. LCP is one them and this past year our subsidiary company provided a dividend to LCP members in excess of \$459K.

Member-owned, non-profit co-ops are unique. Each have their own individual challenges, are run by an elected board, and allocate margins to members. As you enjoy the colors of October this fall, celebrate your cooperative and reflect upon the history of 'where we once were,' to 'how far we have come.' ■

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

Dual Fuel: Check your backup

Dual Fuel is a controlled heating program that's offered at a reduced electric rate. It can be shut off for up to 12 hours at a time, typically during periods of severely cold weather or when the demand for electricity is high.

The dual fuel program helps control electric demand during peak usage periods, which is why the reduced rate can be offered. It's also why an adequate backup system is required.

During the heating season, the electric heat portion of your Dual Fuel system may be controlled up to a



maximum of 400 hours, however this is rare. If you're on Dual Fuel, check the electric and non-electric (dual) parts of your heating equipment now. Also, fill your fuel tank full in case it needs to run for hours at a time. ■

5 Tips

1. Operate the electric heating equipment to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat.
2. Operate the oil or propane system also to be sure the system responds to a "call for heat" from the thermostat.
3. Have your gas or oil furnace/boiler checked periodically by a professional HVAC contractor. For cold weather, there is nothing better than having peace of mind knowing your Dual Fuel heating system will work as it should. For a list of contractors, visit lakecountrypower.coop > Money Saving Programs > Residential Members >

Contractor Resources.

4. If you wish to monitor the anticipated control periods of Dual Fuel through the heating season, visit lakecountrypower.coop, and then click on "Today's Load Control Times" under the EnergyWise Programs section of LCP's website.
5. If you'd like to be notified in advance of a Dual Fuel control event (text message and/or e-mail), sign up for load control notifications in SmartHub. Don't have SmartHub yet? Visit lakecountrypower.coop to get started.

Please call 1-800-421-9959, press #6, if you have questions concerning your Dual Fuel heating system or would like to add your electric water heater to the 8-Hour Interruptible program. ■

Seeking applications for Community Award



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

It took a grassroots effort of community-minded folks to start the electric cooperative movement 80 years ago. With that same grassroots effort in mind, we are seeking applications from any type of organization that has contributed to their local communities through a special effort of volunteers and unique efforts.

Through an application

process, LCP will recognize the true spirit of community and award a deserving organization the 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award.

Any organization that meets these qualifications is eligible for a \$500 cash award.

Community members may nominate an organization or association by completing an application form, available at LCP's service centers or online at lakecountrypower.coop. The application requires a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 1 to Tami Zaun at Lake Country Power. Mail to Lake Country Power, Attn: Tami Zaun, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop. ■



Save money with Co-op Connections®

You work hard, so let The One Card That Does It All® work hard for you. Keep these businesses in mind, and bring your Co-op Connections® Card to save money – or download the App. For a full listing of business participants, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (Community/Co-op Connections Card). Find national deals online at www.connections.coop.

- **Deer River Floral & Gifts**, Deer River: 5% off any purchase \$50 and over
- **Blue Iris**, Grand Rapids: 10% off first purchase of \$50 or more
- **Moose Lake Florist's**, Moose Lake: 10% off any gift item, excluding flowers and plants
- **Heather Halverson Massage**, Chisholm: \$10 off your first Ashlatsu massage
- **The Pebble Spa Co.**, Ely and Virginia: \$10 off any treatment, excludes ala carte, packages, spa parties or other specials.
- **Whispering Pines Massage and Spa**, Nashauk: 10% off your next massage



Energy Assistance Providers:

AEOA:
1-800-662-5711

Virginia
1-218-735-6839

Duluth
1-218-623-3011

Aitkin County
Social Services:
1-800-328-3744

Bi County CAP:
1-800-332-7161

Bois Forte Tribal:
1-800-221-8129

Carlton County
Social Services:
1-800-642-9082

Cass County
Social Services:
1-218-547-1340

Fond Du Lac Tribal:
1-800-365-1613

Itasca County
Social Services:
1-800-422-0312

Kootasca:
1-877-687-1163

Lake County
Social Services:
1-218-834-8400

Lakes & Pines:
1-800-832-6082

Leech Lake Tribal:
1-866-864-8668

Mille Lacs Band Tribal:
1-320-532-7880

Pine County
Social Services:
1-800-450-7263

Salvation Army Office
(Heat Share Programs):
1-800-842-7279

St. Louis County
Social Services:
1-800-450-9777

Enhanced SmartHub app to launch this fall

New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Look for a refreshed and enhanced new mobile app this fall.

Lake Country Power's SmartHub online and mobile app provides a lot of features that help you manage your account, from billing and payment info to detailed usage analysis. It's a great tool to help you access your account information on the go or online.

This fall, a new upgrade for the SmartHub mobile application will roll out that will help you get to the features you need quickly



and efficiently.

First, you'll notice the mobile app will have a fresh, new look. When you open the app, you'll be able to see

your usage analysis right up front or can contact us with the click of a button right from the home screen.

Outage and billing alerts will

also be displayed right on the home screen, making it easy for us to communicate important information with you. Billing, payment and other features will be available with one click of a button in a new condensed menu.

Look for these changes coming this fall. We hope these app updates will help provide a more user-friendly and efficient experience. All of the features you like now about SmartHub will still be available, just with a refreshed look and an enhanced user experience. ■



Military personnel disconnection law

The 2007 Minnesota Legislature passed a law called the Military Personnel Disconnection Law. The law recognizes the value of military service and limits utility disconnections if a member of the household has been issued orders such as active duty, deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during that period. To be eligible for disconnection protection, the member must contact the cooperative to request a "Military Personnel Disconnection Protection Form," meet income eligibility guidelines and set up a mutually acceptable payment schedule.

Before disconnecting service to military personnel in situations as listed above, the cooperative must provide the following information: notice of proposed disconnection; statement explaining customers' rights and responsibilities; list of energy assistance providers; disconnect protection form and a statement explaining the payment plan to secure continued service.

Please contact Lake Country Power, if you have any questions about the "Military Personnel Disconnection Law" or energy assistance programs.



RECIPE CORNER SINFUL GRASS

From the
Kitchen of:
Robert Delich,
Bovey



INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 6 T. butter
- 10 asparagus spears
- 2 large eggs
- ¾ cup heavy cream
- 3 T. freshly grated parmesan cheese
- ¼ tsp. grated nutmeg
- Juice of one lemon
- 3 T. minced parsley

DIRECTIONS

Cook the spaghetti in boiling, salted water until barely tender. While it's cooking, melt the butter in a pan. Add the asparagus (cut into one-inch lengths) and cook over low heat about 5 minutes. Break eggs into a bowl and add cream, cheese, nutmeg, parsley and half the lemon juice. Blend into a nice sauce-like mixture.

Drain the pasta. Return to the warm pan along with the asparagus, butter and lemon juice. Toss the asparagus around in the sauce over low heat for 30 seconds. Taste and add more lemon juice if you like. Serves 2-3 people as a main meal, or more as a side.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail: taun@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.

More than 1,100 members and guests attend Member Appreciation Days

LCP members connected with their co-op community in August for the annual member appreciation days. Members enjoyed a picnic lunch including bucket rides with linemen, photos in the bucket booth, electric safety

lessons, seeing a Chevy Bolt electric vehicle and learning more about the co-op's money saving programs and SmartHub. Be sure to join your co-op at next year's event. ■



Condensed Board Minutes

July 29, 2019 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson reported about several member inquiries that he forwarded to General Manager Randa.

General Manager Randa reported about GRE's strategic planning session; Northland Connect; Great River Energy will not be moving the array of solar panels from Grand Rapids to Cohasset; the Grand Rapids annexation; City of Mountain Iron service territory update; and an interview with the Star Tribune.

Chief Financial Officer Bakk referenced the additional information in his report due to the reorganization that brought the member service functions into the finance and administration department. He also reported that efforts will be made to improve call statistics in various call groups.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved the following LCP members to serve on the Operation Round Up® Trust Board: Tarry Edington (District 4), Mary Jo Stenson (District 8), and Mary Bianco (District 2).

Approved the 2020 right-of-way contracts for Lake States Tree Service and Northern Clearing.

Approved to make repairs to the Mountain Iron member/employee parking lot, including asphalt removal, additional class five and resurfacing the parking lot with four-inch asphalt.

Approved Policy 427 as it relates to the meter exchange project. ■

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.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Cooler weather is on the way! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill. Source: energy.gov



► This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for October. Julia M. Bies of Tamarck took this photo on Big Sandy Lake when the colors around the lake were beautiful.

Co-op Contacts

Greg Randa, 800-421-9959
General Manager granda@lcp.coop

Jason Long, 218-240-9611
District 1 jasealong@gmail.com

Michael Forsman, 218-365-5789
District 2 forsmanmd@hotmail.com

George Harvey, 218-741-6633
District 3 gharvey@accessmn.com

Craig Carlson, 218-999-7175
District 4 carlsonlcp@gmail.com

Robert Bruckbauer, 218-566-2436
District 5 bobbruckbauer@northlc.com

Daniel Kingsley, 218-697-2628
District 6 kingsdan27@gmail.com

Craig Olson, 218-393-2276
District 7 colson@iupat82.org

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

Sherman Liimatainen, 218-879-3135
District 9 nucpp@yahoo.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

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800-421-9959 • www.lakecountrypower.coop
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Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – July 2019

	2019	2018
Electric Operating Revenue	\$54,471,467	\$52,565,713
Cost of Purchased Power	27,856,545	28,659,065
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	7,773,028	7,239,266
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	2,628,236	2,472,137
Administrative and General Expense	3,863,222	3,567,518
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	9,557,956	8,535,130
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	51,678,986	50,473,116
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,792,481	2,092,597
Non-Operating Margins	710,575	1,308,956
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	3,503,056	3,401,554
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	189,760	(198,210)
TOTAL MARGINS	\$3,692,816	\$3,203,343
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	374,753,154	360,786,485

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.