



October 2020

# Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS October 27 ■ November 24



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Dual Fuel: Check your Backup  
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We appreciate and value the word, local.

We value "local" because it's the nearby hardware store where we can get what we need. It's where we meet friends for coffee. It's the shop where they look us in the eye and smile. It's a word of warmth that makes us feel known and welcome.

Local also means your electric cooperative. It's as local as you and your neighbors because you own the co-op. It's grown and changed with you over the years. Because it's made up of you and your neighbors, co-ops are as unique to each part of the country as you are. And co-ops adapt to help out with what's going on in your community, whether that means bringing electricity to farmsteads 80 years ago, providing the community with access to high-speed internet or helping navigate COVID-19 challenges today.

October is National Co-op Month, and this year, it makes sense to use the time to recognize and celebrate the variety that is the essence of being local.



By Greg  
**RANDA**  
LCP general  
manager

That local heritage for electric co-ops started in the 1930s with neighborly visits, often on horseback from one farm to the next, talking about the lights they could see in the city but didn't have themselves. They weren't likely to get those modern conveniences because no company saw a profit in stringing wires to power a few light bulbs in a remote farmhouse.

## No such thing as a typical co-op

So, the local farmers took matters into their own hands. They pooled \$5 startup fees, organized member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, and convinced local politicians to create a federal loan program to help with the rest of the cost. They created what others didn't see: One of the most efficient agricultural economies in the world and communities based around a variety of business and industry, from manufacturing to tourism.

Today, 900 electric co-ops provide electricity to more than 19 million businesses, homes, schools and farms. They cover more than half

the land in the United States. They employ 71,000 people and invest \$12 billion a year in local economies, generating 5% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product.

Because electric co-ops are so uniquely local, it's hard to describe a typical co-op.

They're big and small. The largest electric co-op serves nearly 350,000 members; the smallest, 113. Lake Country Power serves about 43,000 members.

They're in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. While the electric co-op rural heritage meant they don't serve cities, many of their communities have grown over the decades. About 40% serve counties classified as rural and 60% classified as metropolitan. Another way to look at that variety is by the average number of members served by each mile of its power lines. The co-op with the densest population serves 78 members for each mile of line. The most remote co-op averages less than one person per mile of line. Lake Country Power averages 5.9 members per mile of line.

## Less pollution, more renewable energy

As co-op members became more aware of environmental priorities, co-ops focused

on reducing power plant emissions. From 2009 to 2016 co-ops reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 8%, nitrogen oxide emissions by 24% and Sulphur dioxide emissions by 66%. Co-ops also launched energy efficiency programs, many offering home and business 'energy checkups' to make sure members got the best value for their energy dollar.

Electric co-ops are helping power the growth in alternative energy. Great River Energy, LCP's wholesale power supplier, currently generates 25% of its energy from renewables and 58% from coal. By 2025, GRE projects to generate 63% of its energy from wind, 31% from market purchases and future resources, 4% from hydropower and 2% from natural gas.

Lake Country Power supports the electric vehicle movement. Rebates for home charging stations are available from your co-op.

The world keeps changing, so we will continue to adapt. Each co-op's approach may differ, but we'll do whatever it takes to adapt in ways that make the most sense for the people in our communities.

# October is National Cooperative Month

We made it through Labor Day without any major storms and outages! Hopefully, the LCP co-op employees were able to spend the weekend with family and friends safely, as difficult as that might be in these days of COVID-19. I can think of several holidays recently when LCP workers had to leave the company of family and friends so you could enjoy time with the power we all expect to be there when we flip the switch. Please take a moment to thank your neighbors who are employed in many different departments within the co-op for their sacrifices to "keep the lights on."

Your elected directors at LCP have challenges as well with the new "norm." We are now meeting monthly in person, while observing social distancing and the mandated mask requirement at your new service center in Cohasset. We have been able to conduct business in a manner close to how it was before the pandemic. We now have more conversations electronically. This may be something we do even more after this pandemic passes.

## LCP Holding Company

I want to thank the members who voted in the District 6 election for your support. I have since received the support of my fellow



By Daniel  
**KINGSLEY**  
District 6 Director

directors in being elected as president of LCP Holdings, Inc. I see this as a role of support, oversight and direction.

The holding company oversees two subsidiaries, Lake States Tree Service and Lake States Construction. These

two subsidiaries are located in Cohasset and employ over 200 individuals at times throughout the year. We are truly fortunate to have CEO Scott Larson steering operations for both these subsidiaries.

The subsidiaries service several co-ops, including LCP, and utilities through a competitive bidding process not only in Minnesota but in other states as well. Each subsidiary has its own officers and reports quarterly to the holding company.

As LCP subsidiaries these companies are owned by you the member. It is our job as board members to see that we are acting in your best interests when making decisions both long and short-term. As it should be, there will be disagreements periodically as we strive to do our best for you the member.

Dan Kingsley was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 6. He can be reached at 218-697-2628 and [dkingsley@lcp.coop](mailto:dkingsley@lcp.coop)

## 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](http://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](http://lakecountrypower.coop), and then click "Today's Load" on the homepage 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 the "My Account" tab at [lakecountrypower.coop](http://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.

## Applications due November 15

The next application deadline for Operation Round Up® is November 15. Grants will be distributed in December.



Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" member's electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2.5 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs. Applications are available online at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) (My Cooperative > Community > Operation Round Up®).

# How your co-op is unlike any other utility

Electric cooperatives power 56% of the nation's landmass—from booming suburbs to remote rural farming, timber and mining communities. Lake Country Power is among more than 800 American distribution cooperatives serving as energy providers and engines of economic development for more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.

Unlike investor-owned and municipal utilities, the purpose of a cooperative—above all else—is to provide reliable, safe electric service to its membership at cost (not for profit). In recognition of National Cooperative Month, let's take a look at other ways we are different from other utilities.

- 1. You're a member, not a customer.** Cooperatives are unique because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and can run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative.
- 2. We focus on service, not profits.** Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the most profits for stakeholders, electric co-ops do not earn profits. Instead, any margins or revenue remaining (after all expenses have been paid) are returned to members in the form of

capital credits. Capital credit returns are based on each member's years of participation in the co-op.

- 3. We're local, community-focused businesses.** Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, electric co-ops are involved in local community development programs and projects such as United Way, Operation Round Up®, economic development, youth scholarships and the



Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, etc.

- 4. We're committed to innovation.** Because we answer to local members rather than far-away shareholders, electric cooperatives are

more nimble and able to respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to experimenting and being innovative in ways that benefit the local communities and members we serve.

## CO-OP MONTH FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about a few ways co-ops are unique! Use the word bank if you need help.



1. Co-ops and their members work together toward a common \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Co-ops are \_\_\_\_\_ organizations, so they understand the communities they serve.
3. All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Concern for \_\_\_\_\_ is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Co-ops don't have customers; we have \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Co-ops are \_\_\_\_\_ by the members they serve.

### WORD BANK

LED LOCAL GOAL PRINCIPLES MEMBERS COMMUNITY

Answer Key: 1) goal 2) local 3) principles 4) community 5) members 6) led



Association of  
Minnesota Counties

# CARES Act

Coronavirus Relief Fund

[www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org) > CARES Act

## COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

# Apply Now!

Call 211  
Toll Free: 1-800-543-7709

Visit [211unitedway.org](http://211unitedway.org)

Text "MNRENT" or "MNHOMES" to 898-211

MINNESOTA HOUSING

**Cold Weather Energy Assistance Providers:**  
Assistance may be available for qualifying members under the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program and the CARES Act. For more information, please visit [www.mncounties.org](http://www.mncounties.org) > CARES Act, and [www.211unitedway.org](http://www.211unitedway.org).

<b>AEOA:</b> .....	1-800-662-5711
Virginia .....	1-218-735-6839
Duluth.....	1-218-623-3011
<b>Aitkin County Social Services:</b> .....	1-800-328-3744
<b>Bi County CAP:</b> .....	1-800-332-7161
<b>Bois Forte Tribal:</b> .....	1-800-221-8129
<b>Carlton County Social Services:</b> .....	1-800-642-9082
<b>Cass County Social Services:</b> .....	1-218-547-1340
<b>Fond Du Lac Tribal:</b> .....	1-800-365-1613
<b>Itasca County Social Services:</b> .....	1-800-422-0312
<b>Kootasca:</b> .....	1-877-687-1163
<b>Lake County Social Services:</b> .....	1-218-834-8400
<b>Lakes &amp; Pines:</b> .....	1-800-832-6082
<b>Leech Lake Tribal:</b> .....	1-866-864-8668
<b>Mille Lacs Band Tribal:</b> .....	1-320-532-7880
<b>Pine County Social Services:</b> .....	1-800-450-7263
<b>Salvation Army Office</b> <b>(Heat Share Programs):</b> .....	1-800-842-7279
<b>St. Louis County Social Services:</b> .....	1-800-450-9777



## DIY: Making your home more energy efficient

Looking to save money and improve the comfort of your home?

Start simple. Change a light bulb. ENERGY STAR certified LEDs use at least 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last much longer.

Next, install WaterSense-labeled low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators. These typically cost less than \$20 to purchase and they can stop the drain on water and energy costs.

**Install a programmable thermostat** A programmable unit saves energy by automatically adjusting temperatures while you are asleep or when you are away from home. Newer "smart" models provide advanced features, such as remote control and self-programming. If the job requires more than just a simple replacement, consider contacting a qualified professional.

**Weatherize doors and windows** Gaps and cracks in exterior doors and windows waste energy and reduce comfort. Sealing them can significantly improve heating and cooling system efficiency. Look where the window frames meet the side of the house and check for gaps.

**Air seal your attic** Locate all ceiling fans, recessed lighting fixtures and electrical outlets in the ceiling below your attic. Each of these is a potential source of air leakage. From the attic, pull back the insulation to find the cutouts and seal them with caulk or expandable foam.

**Seal and insulate ducts** Furnace ducts can waste a substantial amount of energy. Use mastic tape to seal ductwork joints in unheated spaces, such as your attic, crawlspace or garage. Wrap the ducts in insulation to increase their energy efficiency. Seal and insulate any ducts you can access in the conditioned part of your house.

## Seeking applications for Community Award



Do you know someone special or an ambitious non-profit organization that has contributed to your local community through an effort of volunteers and unique efforts?

Through an application process, Lake Country Power will recognize the true spirit of community and award a deserving recipient the 2020 Touchstone Energy Community Award.

Community members may cast their nominations by completing an application form, available online at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop). The application requires a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Any organization that meets these qualifications is eligible for a \$500 cash award and recognition.

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 2. Mail to Lake Country Power, Attn: Tami Zaun, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop).

## FINAL NOTICE FOR TREE PHOTO CONTEST



As a final reminder, Lake Country Power is still seeking entries for a special tree photo contest. Members may participate by following these guidelines:

- Each membership (household) may submit up to five photo entries. One winner per household.
- The photos must be focused exclusively on only one tree species per photo: Balsam, Tamarack, Cedar, Maple or Birch, which will represent the names of the conference rooms.
- Photo entries should be at least 3 MB or larger in file size.
- Winners will receive a \$25 credit on their billing statement.
- An employee committee will choose the winning photographs. Employees are not allowed to enter the contest, nor are immediate family members.
- Deadline is 11:59 p.m., November 1, 2020. E-mail entries to [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop), including your name, address, city, state, zip, phone or cell number and name of the tree species in the photo.

## 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 Disconnect 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.

## IT ALL ADDS UP:

Investing in a reliable electric system

How much does underground cable\* cost per foot?

- A. \$2.65 per foot
- B. \$.55 per foot
- C. \$1.10 per foot
- D. \$1.98 per foot



LCP has more than 9,379,000 feet of primary underground cable on its system. \*This price reflects a small single-phase line.

Answer: A



## RECIPE CORNER

### OLIVE BREAD

From the Kitchen of:  
**Lori Hoenisch**  
Rochester

#### DIRECTIONS

Use pre-made pizza crust or make your own and brush with olive oil. Cover with chopped black and green olives. Sprinkle with Italian seasoning. Roll into a tube and brush with egg wash. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown. Enjoy!



#### We need more recipes!

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721 or e-mail [tzaun@lcp.coop](mailto:tzaun@lcp.coop). If your entry is printed in Newswire, 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

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

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

## July 28, 2020 • Regular Monthly Meeting

### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson expressed sympathy on the passing of LCP Director Harvey and the passion he had for Lake Country Power and its members. He also reported that in consideration of General Manager Randa's retirement in January 2021, Olson will be working with Attorney Felstul and LCP human resources to start the process to select/search for a general manager.

General Manager Randa reported that the Great River Energy 2021 load management rates will not change, and GRE is anticipating the 2021 general rate will remain stable. Randa informed the board that there have been several showings of the former Grand Rapids Service Center. Department reports were provided as well.

### THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Elected Director Liimatainen as secretary of the LCP board. Due to the death of Director Harvey who was board secretary, an election to fill this position was held. All directors were able to voice whether they

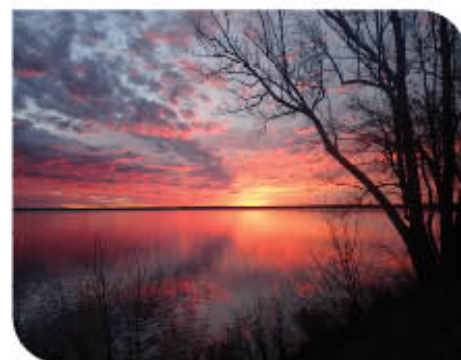
were interested in the position. Attorney Felstul conducted the election.

Approved to declare a vacancy in District 3 and that the vacant board seat be filled in conjunction with LCP's 2021 director elections. The term for District 3 in 2021 will be for two years to fill the unexpired term; the District 3 director seat will be up for election again in 2023.

Approved LCP management's recommendation for the 2021 right-of-way contracts. Northern Clearing received three contract areas, and Lake States Tree Service received three contract areas.

Approved LCP management's recommendation to award three different contracts to Lake States Construction. Proposals were sent to three contractors for bids. ■

**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 October. Bernard Matlock of Cohasset took this photo of a sunset over Bowstring Lake in Itasca County.

## Co-op Contacts

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

**Jason Long,** 218-240-9611  
District 1 jlong@lcp.coop

**Michael Forsman,** 218-365-5789  
District 2 mforsman@lcp.coop

**Vacant (To be filled spring 2021),**  
District 3

**Craig Carlson,** 218-999-7175  
District 4 ccarlson@lcp.coop

**Robert Bruckbauer,** 218-566-2436  
District 5 rbruckbauer@lcp.coop

**Daniel Kingsley,** 218-697-2628  
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**Craig Olson,** 218-393-2276  
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**Jim Huhta,** 218-644-3997  
District 8 jhuhta@lcp.coop

**Sherman Liimatainen,** 218-879-3135  
District 9 sliimatainen@lcp.coop

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](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop)  
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## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – July 2020

	2020	2019
Electric Operating Revenue	\$54,095,924	\$54,471,467
Cost of Purchased Power	27,629,918	27,856,545
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	8,307,672	7,773,028
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	2,342,045	2,628,236
Administrative and General Expense	3,827,636	3,863,222
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	9,596,202	9,557,956
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>51,703,472</b>	<b>51,678,986</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,392,452	2,792,481
Non-Operating Margins	558,008	710,575
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>2,950,460</b>	<b>3,503,056</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	177,782	189,760
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$3,128,242</b>	<b>\$3,692,816</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>357,468,242</b>	<b>374,753,154</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.