

September 2017

# Newsline



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The Shell is Here, the Nut is Gone

Perks with SmartHub

Cast your 'Like' in Photo Contest

## Online auction available to members

### Retired LCP fleet vehicles up for bid

**SIGN UP** at [k-bid.com/auction/21049](https://www.k-bid.com/auction/21049)



Lake Country Power is partnering with North Auctions of Hibbing, Minn., to hold another online auction on fleet the co-op is liquidating, including four pick-up trucks and one all-terrain four-wheeler. It'll be similar to how people submit bids through other online auctions like eBay.

"The online auction is open only for all currently active Lake Country Power members," said Todd Johnson, LCP operations director. "The member who purchases the vehicle must be the same member who picks up the vehicle and signs the title in their name."

Any interested and current co-op members should register for a free user account at: [www.k-bid.com/auction/21049](https://www.k-bid.com/auction/21049). Once registered, members will be able to view the vehicles, gather more information and place bids. Members will need their LCP electric account number to complete the registration process.

The auction, open exclusively for active member-consumers of Lake Country Power, will begin Sunday, October 1 and end Sunday, October 15, 2017.

The electronic bidding will be through K-Bid.com. Only winning bidders will be required to pay for the items they've won. Winning bidders may pick up their items with proof of

purchase from Lake Country Power's service center in Mountain Iron at 8535 Park Ridge Drive.

If questions, please contact North Auctions at 218-969-3834.

### How to Register

1. Go to <https://www.k-bid.com/auction/21049>
2. Click "Login" at the upper right corner of the website (login is above the "search" tool)
3. Click the "Sign Up" blue button in the box to the right that says "Not registered yet?"
4. Enter your user and location information. Click to check the box that says "I accept the Terms and Conditions." Next, click "Save."
5. The next screen is where you will need to enter your credit card information. Your credit card will not be charged, unless you receive the winning bid on Oct. 15. The credit card is used for verification purposes only and will be tied to the e-mail you provide. One bidder per e-mail.

6. Next, you'll receive an e-mail from K-Bid to confirm your registration. You'll now have access to view more information about the fleet for auction.

7. The next time you want access to the site, you will click login and then the left box that says "Login to your account." Be sure to remember your password.



### BOARD MEETINGS

Sept. 26 – 9:30 a.m. at Mountain Iron Service Center  
Oct. 31 – 9:30 a.m. at Grand Rapids Service Center

### SAVE TIME • SAVE MONEY

Get a \$5.00 bill credit! Go paperless using your Lake Country Power SmartHub account during the months of September, October and November and get a one-time bill credit. [lakecountrypower.coop](https://lakecountrypower.coop)

### 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 are posted at [lakecountrypower.coop](https://lakecountrypower.coop). Go to "Community" and click "Events."





# Local engagement started the co-op

By George Harvey, District 3

Lake Country Power is a member-owned, member-governed local electric cooperative. When the co-op was founded 80 years ago, community members formed it to be a locally-owned, not-for-profit business. Over time as the novelty of receiving electricity waned, the founders passed away. New generations moved into the community, and most now see the electric co-op like any other energy provider – just another utility.

But LCP is different and the key to that difference is you, the member-owner of the cooperative. Without your support, membership and commitment, LCP would not exist.

## Ownership

Research proves that when people own something they treat it differently, which is why the board encourages Lake Country Power members to view themselves as an “owner” rather than a “customer.” As an owner, you play a critical role in the co-op’s success. Each year, if revenue exceeds expenses, a certain percentage is allocated back to you – because you are a member of the co-op.

With that ownership comes certain rights like the opportunity to seek election to serve on the board of directors. If that seems like too big a commitment, we still want and need you to participate in the annual elections.

## Innovation

Lake Country Power welcomes your feedback as the co-op continually looks for innovative ways to help you use energy efficiently and in a more cost-effective manner. One of the best tools LCP offers its members is SmartHub, which helps members keep a close eye on how much energy they use. It’s also a great tool for making payments and reporting outages.

## Community

As a local business, LCP has a real stake in the community, just as you do. That is why we seek opportunities to give back through Operation Round Up®, United Way, Rachel’s Challenge and school safety programs, to name a few.

While electric power is the commodity that your co-op sells, the real power is



that together, we empower this local community. When people feel empowered, they accomplish great things.

True, the world is different today than it was in 1937, but LCP’s mission of serving you and its communities is constant. Working together with your active, inspired engagement, your local electric cooperative can continue to accomplish great things.

*George Harvey was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 3. He can be reached at 218-741-6633 or [gharvey@accessmn.com](mailto:gharvey@accessmn.com).*





# "The shell is here, the nut is gone"

It is a rare occasion when a person proclaims their own epitaph.

However, that's not the case with Lake Country Power member Jennie K. (Dahlman) Hanson, who has spent her life teaching, leading and leaving an impression.

An epitaph is commonly defined as "a commemorative inscription on a tomb or mortuary monument about the person buried at that site," according to Dictionary.com.

Also, "a brief poem or other writing in praise of a deceased person."



"The shell is here, the nut is gone," Hanson said is the writing under her name and birthdate on the front of her tombstone; a marker that she has already purchased and sits in Forest Hill Cemetery south of Cromwell.

One only needs to look at Hanson's ties to rural America in order to understand just how much a tombstone can describe a deep love for farming, values, teaching and kids — all with a keen sense of humor.

"Growing up on a farm as a girl, it was a great life, a great way to grow up," she said in a recent interview about her life in the country. "I was so fortunate to grow up in the 50s ... they were much simpler times."

## One Million Pop Tabs

Her future grave stone is also in the shape of an aluminum can pop tab. The significance of this goes back to a 1989 school project where Hanson, a 30-year elementary school teacher, wanted to teach the magnitude of the one million mark. At the same time, the kids ended

up raising money for a charitable cause.

"My students collected a million pop tabs and those were donated to the Ronald McDonald House," she said. Ronald even made a special appearance, and it was a big event for the school.

"After we had two or three bags of 2,000 filled, they said, 'this isn't going to take long,'" Hanson laughed. "We needed 500 bags of 2,000!"

## Rural Co-op Ties

Hanson's father, Wallace W. Dahlman, was on the front lines when electricity came to their community. He served on the Carlton County Cooperative Power Association board for 25 years. And, she said they were among the first to get a TV.

Power was a real life changer, according to Hanson. "As a farmer, it made farming much easier; easier to cool the milk, chores went faster, and a result our family grew and prospered."

Along with the growth of rural electrification, she has seen numerous changes in the last 60-plus years; many of those firsthand through her teaching career.

"Kids can't go outside without supervision these days," for various reasons, and she says this causes them to "stay inside and play video games," referring to the do-it-yourself world which is giving way to the electronic age.

"They don't have time to be kids," she added. "I played in the woods and invented things ... spent time outside. There was more connection with your parents. It's tough for parents today to raise good kids."

## The Future is Bright

Hanson did note that there are still positives in the world for today's youth. Kids still like to



Jennie Hanson

read, and she is not discouraged. "I'm not worried about the future because when the time comes ... people will figure out a way to do it. The American spirit; people figure out stuff when they need to know it."

Hanson's experiences and commitment to rural communities has also led her to write a regular column for a number of small newspapers. Since 1982 she has been able to share real life events, including trivia and connections to school or special events.



With her philosophy and motto of "no such word as can't," Hanson has become a witty and popular person on the rural landscape.

For anyone who's met Jennie, it should be no surprise that her epitaph has a flip side. The other side of the tombstone says: "School's out. Teacher has gone home."

## Joe discovers perks with SmartHub

SmartHub is the most accessed feature on Lake Country Power's website, and with good reason. With a free SmartHub account, you'll discover more ways to manage and explore your account than you may have thought possible.

"I like how I can check my electric usage from month-to-month, which is a feature I just recently discovered," said Joe Bouchard, a LCP member near Duluth who's been using SmartHub for a while.

After Bouchard's friend told him about all the great features with SmartHub, he went to lakecountrypower.coop where he created his own SmartHub account. Another feature Bouchard appreciates is the load control notifications he's opted to receive via text and e-mail when his dual fuel heating program is being controlled.

"I like using SmartHub to pay my bills online so I don't have to write a check or stop in the office to pay," added Bouchard. "I'm glad



Lake Country Power offers both features — SmartHub and load control notifications."

So far Bouchard hasn't had to use SmartHub to report an outage, but it'll be a handy feature at his fingertips when the time comes.

Like Bouchard, more than 14,000 LCP members are enrolled and are taking advantage of the many features SmartHub offers. To sign up for load control notifications, you'll first need a SmartHub account. Visit lakecountrypower.coop to get started.



# Let the judging begin on

## Co-op calendar contest moves to next phase

Now's your chance to weigh-in on which 12 photos make the 2018 co-op calendar through a Facebook judging contest. How? Simply cast your vote with a 'like' for the photo(s) you'd like to see in the calendar.



Starting at approximately noon on Friday, September 29, four seasonal albums will be placed on LCP's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/lakecountrypower](http://www.facebook.com/lakecountrypower). This is where people can cast a 'like' for the photos they would like printed in the 2018 calendar.

The four albums will be classified as spring, summer, fall and winter and will contain several photo entries as submitted by Lake Country Power members. The Facebook judging contest will end at noon on Friday, Oct. 13.

Winners will receive a \$15 credit on their electric bill. If lucky enough to win with two entries, a member could receive a \$30 credit on their bill. Winners will be notified in October. Any variations from the contest guidelines or ties will be determined by a contest judging committee.

The calendar will be available in November or December to co-op members, free of charge, through an online request form at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop).



We work hard to keep your coffee hot, your milk cold, your batteries charged and your home warm.

**The Value of Electricity**  
– *Energy that Powers our Lives*

## Looking for an easy way to pay your bill?



LCP Easy Pay is an automated payment method that will help you save time and eliminate the hassle of writing checks to pay your electric bills. It's a free electronic funds transfer program designed to simplify your life. The program is ideal for travelers and snowbirds, and assures your good credit rating.

To get started, visit [lakecountrypower.coop](http://lakecountrypower.coop) to download the application, complete it and mail it to LCP along with a voided check. Or you may call 800-421-9959 to request the form and more information about LCP's billing options.

## Choose Wellspring wind and solar

The Wellspring renewable energy program offers wind and solar options for co-op members. Interested members can sign up for the Wellspring Wind or Wellspring solar program with Lake Country Power. Wellspring is a voluntary program offered exclusively to co-op members.



While the electricity that is delivered to your home includes at least 25 percent renewable energy, the Wellspring program allows energy-conscious members the option to feel good about their energy choices.

### Here's how the program works

- An average home uses 800 - 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month
- You can purchase Wellspring Energy in 100 kWh blocks. One block per month is the minimum requirement for a 12-month commitment.
- Eight to ten blocks is equivalent to an average home's monthly electric use.
- Participating members pay an additional amount on their electric bills.
- Participants remain on the program for 12 months, minimum. After 12 months, you may discontinue participation at any time.

Renewable Energy Source	Cost per 100 kWh block/month	Member purchases at least one 100-kWh block each mo. for 12 mo. min.
Wind	50 cents per block	\$6/year
Solar	\$2.00 per block	\$24/year

## Sign me up for Wellspring

You may sign up for both programs, if you like, or one if preferred.

The cost for Wellspring Wind is 50 cents per 100 kilowatt-hour block. The cost for Wellspring Solar is \$2.00 per 100 kilowatt-hour block. Both programs will be an addition to your regular electric charges, and are a one-year commitment.

☐ Wind: Number of 100 kWh blocks wanted per month for Wellspring Wind \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Solar: Number of 100 kWh blocks wanted per month for Wellspring Solar \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to Lake Country Power, P.O. Box 98, Kettle River, MN 55757.



## Cold weather rule effective October 15

The Cold Weather Rule, Section 216B.097 of the Minnesota State Statutes, provides that from October 15 through April 15 an electric cooperative cannot disconnect a residential consumer for nonpayment of service, if the disconnect affects the primary heat source **and all of the following conditions are met:**

1. The consumer declares an inability to pay and completes the Inability to Pay form; and
2. Household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median income. Income may be verified on forms provided by LCP or by the local energy assistance provider with whom the consumer has applied for energy assistance; and

3. The consumer enters into and makes reasonably and timely payments under a mutually agreeable payment plan, that considers the financial resources of the household; and
4. A consumer receives from LCP referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the consumer's energy bills.

The law **does** allow for LCP to disconnect when it is necessary from October 15 to April 15, so please act promptly. LCP works with members during the Cold Weather Rule period, just as we do throughout the year. We don't want to interrupt service to any member, but in a cooperative, all members suffer when any bill remains

unpaid. If bills remain unpaid, this amount must be absorbed by members who faithfully pay their bill each month. LCP would rather work with members to establish and maintain adequate payment schedules of their past due bill. A statement explaining the payment plan to secure continued service, a Payment Arrangement letter, will be provided.

Before disconnecting service to a residential consumer from October 15 to April 15, the cooperative must provide the following information:

- notice of proposed disconnection (disconnection notice); and

- statement explaining consumers' rights and responsibilities (Inability to Pay form); and
- list of energy assistance providers (Inability to Pay form); and
- forms available for consumer to request cold weather disconnect protection (Inability to Pay form).

If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act promptly. If you do not meet all the conditions of the Cold Weather Rule, mutually acceptable payment arrangements can be set up to prevent interruption of an electric service. Please contact Lake Country Power if you have any questions about the Cold Weather Rule: 800-421-9959.

## Energy Assistance Providers

Should you find it difficult to pay your electric bill this winter, these agencies can provide additional assistance and more information.

AEOA  
800-662-5711

- Virginia  
218-749-2912
- Duluth  
218-623-3011

Aitkin County  
800-328-3744

Bi County CAP  
800-332-7161

Bois Forte Tribal  
800-221-8129

Carlton County  
800-642-9082

Cass County  
218-547-1340

Fond Du Lac Tribal  
800-365-1613

Itasca County  
800-422-0312

Kootasca  
877-687-1163

Lake County  
218-834-8400

Lakes & Pines  
800-832-6082

Leech Lake Tribal  
866-864-8668

Mille Lacs Band  
320-532-7880

Pine County  
800-450-7263

Salvation Army Offices:  
800-842-7279

- Cloquet  
218-879-1693

- Grand Rapids  
218-326-5620

- Duluth  
218-722-7934

- Hibbing  
218-263-5096

- Virginia  
218-741-1889

St. Louis County  
800-450-9777

## Save money with your 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.

You'll find discounted deals at these fine restaurants with your card. Visit lakecountrypower.coop (Community/Co-op Connections Card) for details and more offers. Any business interested in joining the program at no cost should contact Tami Zaun at 800-421-9959, ext. 7152 or tzaun@lakecountrypower.coop.

- **2 Gringos Tex-Mex Grill, Ely**

- **Big Sandy Lodge & Resort, McGregor**

- **Chickadee Coffeehouse & Deli, Barnum**

- **Chris Perry Gallery & Freshpot Coffee, Ely**

- **Country Kitchen, Grand Rapids**

- **Dubh Linn Irish Pub, Duluth**

- **Domino's Pizza, Virginia**

- **Front Porch Coffee & Tea Company, Ely**

- **Grandma's Kitchen, Duluth**

- **Grandma's Virginia Grill, Virginia**

- **IronFire Restaurant & Bar, Walker**

- **Italian Bakery, Virginia**

- **Natural Harvest Food Co-op, Virginia**

- **Pasties Plus, Grand Rapids**

- **Pizza Works, Grand Rapids**

- **R J's Coffee Den, Duluth**

- **Sawmill Saloon & Restaurant, Virginia**

- **Toivo's, Grand Rapids**

- **Zeitgeist Arts Café, Duluth**

- **Zorbaz on Big Zandy, McGregor**

### Recipe Corner

## Pistachio Coffee Cake

Bernice Williams, Britt

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 pkg. pistachio instant pudding mix
- 1 cup water
- 2/3 cup oil
- Beat for 10 minutes

Topping: 1/2 cup sugar,  
1 tsp. cinnamon and 1/2 cup  
chopped nuts.

Grease a Bundt pan well. Pour one-third of the topping in pan and swish around. Then alternate the batter and topping, ending with the batter. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Cool 10 minutes and remove from pan. Or you may bake in a 9x13 pan at 40 minutes.

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

### June 27, 2017 • Regular Monthly Meeting

#### The following reports were given:

President Craig Olson stated he had a conversation with a member about a right-of-way clearing matter, and other conversations for executive session.

Greg Randa, LCP general manager, reported about discussions of the Great River Energy PPC committee, open house at LCP's Ely Outpost, automated metering infrastructure committee meetings with vendors, closing of land in the Cohasset Industrial Park and new headquarters that will be built in the Cohasset Industrial Park.

Mark Bakk, LCP director of finance and administration, reviewed the April 2017 unaudited financials with the board.

#### The following actions were taken:

Approved to elect three LCP members who were nominated to serve on the Operation Round Up® Trust Board: David Gibbs, District 1; Jan Bignall, District 6; and Bobbi Maish, District 7.

Approved a board resolution to authorize General Manager Randa sign all documents required for LCP to purchase 25 acres of land in the Cohasset Industrial Park from the City of Cohasset. The co-op plans to build a new service center to replace the aged Grand Rapids Service Center.

*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) 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 September 2017. Robert Nutting of McGregor took this photo on Bell Horn Bay of Big Sandy Lake.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system before the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S Department of Energy

## Co-op Contacts

<b>Greg Randa, General Manager</b>	800-421-9959
<a href="mailto:granda@lakecountrypower.com">granda@lakecountrypower.com</a>	
<b>Jason Long, District 1</b>	218-240-9611
<a href="mailto:jaselong@gmail.com">jaselong@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Michael Forsman, District 2</b>	218-365-5789
<a href="mailto:forsmanmd@hotmail.com">forsmanmd@hotmail.com</a>	
<b>George Harvey, District 3</b>	218-741-6633
<a href="mailto:gharvey@accessmn.com">gharvey@accessmn.com</a>	
<b>Craig Carlson, District 4</b>	218-999-7175
<a href="mailto:carlsonlcp@gmail.com">carlsonlcp@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Robert Bruckbauer, District 5</b>	218-566-2436
<a href="mailto:bobbruckbauer@northlc.com">bobbruckbauer@northlc.com</a>	
<b>Daniel Kingsley, District 6</b>	218-697-2628
<a href="mailto:kingsdan27@gmail.com">kingsdan27@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Craig Olson, District 7</b>	218-393-2276
<a href="mailto:colson@iupat82.org">colson@iupat82.org</a>	
<b>Jim Huhta, District 8</b>	218-644-3997
<a href="mailto:hatcheck@frontier.com">hatcheck@frontier.com</a>	
<b>Sherman Liimatainen, District 9</b>	218-879-3135
<a href="mailto:sgliimatainen@gmail.com">sgliimatainen@gmail.com</a>	

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

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**Lake Country Power Service Centers:**  
Grand Rapids • Kettle River • Mountain Iron  
800-421-9959 • [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop)  
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — June 2017

	2017	2016
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 45,113,593	\$ 43,638,352
Cost of Purchased Power	24,206,801	23,139,029
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	5,833,173	5,286,442
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	2,128,339	1,996,818
Administrative and General Expense	3,134,103	3,097,206
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	7,492,908	7,459,450
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>42,795,324</b>	<b>40,978,945</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,318,269	2,659,407
Non-Operating Margins	1,199,334	1,006,852
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>3,517,603</b>	<b>3,666,258</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(198,210)	(246,534)
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 3,319,393</b>	<b>\$ 3,419,724</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>317,926,026</b>	<b>321,105,618</b>

**Editor's Note:** These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://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.