

September 2020

# Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS September 29 ■ October 27



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Environmental Regulations  
EV Fast-Charging Developments  
#WhoPowersYou Contest  
Co-op Connections®



## Remembering George Harvey

A MEMBER OF THE CO-OP FAMILY

Lake Country Power board director, George Harvey, passed away after ongoing health concerns. He was 72 years old.

George passed on Saturday, July 11. He was the district three director who served on the LCP board of directors for more than 18 years, representing rural members on the Iron Range from Nashwauk to Virginia.

At the time of George's passing he was the LCP board secretary and president of the Lake Country Power Holdings, Inc., which oversees the operation of the cooperative's two for-profit subsidiaries, Lake States Tree Service and Lake States Construction. In his earlier years as a director, he also served on the Great River Energy board (LCP's wholesale power supplier)

and was vice president of the LCP board.

George was a strong leader for Lake Country Power and its subsidiaries. At home, he was a beloved family man, husband and father – always jolly with a contagious smile and friendly demeanor.

As a director, George was keenly aware of his responsibilities as a co-op director and he understood his role well.

"George was an asset to the Lake Country Power board," said LCP President Craig Olson, District 7. "He was very dedicated and always responded to members' calls in a timely fashion and was passionate for the Lake Country Power employees. He will be missed."

"Even though I only knew George for a little over

three years, I saw from the first meeting that he was dedicated to the cause and position at Lake Country Power," said Dan Kingsley, LCP Holding President and District 6 Director. "Then when he was elected to the position of Holding Company President, he showed a commitment that we all could use as an example to do our best every day. He gave it his all."

"George cared about the cooperative, the subsidiaries and worked hard on behalf



of all member interests," said General Manager Greg Randa. "He will be missed, but his legacy will remain." ■

### District 3 Election Set for 2021

George Harvey was elected for another three years on the LCP board, June 26, 2020. With his sudden passing, the Lake Country Power board has decided to wait and fill his vacant board seat in district three during the 2021 director elections, which will fill the remaining term until spring 2023. The annual meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2021, in Cohasset, Minn.



# Checking on the power that keeps you checking in

## How the energy you receive complies with all environmental regulations

How does your power get to you? And who verifies that infrastructure conforms with environmental requirements? Who ensures reliable electricity continues to flow on both the coldest and hottest days of the year?



Great River Energy, Lake Country Power's wholesale electric provider, works with many local, state and federal agencies so that the power you receive from us complies with environmental and utility regulations.

"Utilities generate and transmit electricity in such a way that their operations affect society – and the environment – as a whole, and not just the members or customers they serve," said Greg Archer, Great River Energy's manager, environmental services. "For that reason, companies like Great River Energy are compelled to do more than simply meet environmental requirements. We continually assess compliance to improve our environmental practices. We go above and beyond at Great River Energy by participating in the ISO 14001 auditing process where there is now greater emphasis on leadership, stakeholder engagement and actual environmental improvements."

### The Key Regulators

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) and others regulate utilities so

that the power delivered to you is reliable and safe.

**FERC** is a government agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity and other utilities. It provides standards for utilities so that they operate in the best interest of the national grid.

**NERC** is responsible for the reliability of the bulk electric system in North America. It creates reliability standards for utilities like Great River Energy to follow and conducts audits to confirm each utility is following them. By performing these audits, the MRO assists NERC in maintaining reliability in the Midwest.

The Environmental Protection Agency, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provide environmental guidelines and standards for utilities. All of these agencies have a role to play in environmental standards and requirements.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission works

with utilities, including Great River Energy, to set processes to approve power line and new generation projects and evaluate environmental impacts of those projects. Great River Energy also submits its integrated resource plan to the PUC for review.

Though all these agencies work in various functions to ensure a reliable, affordable electric system, no one has a larger stake in keeping rates

affordable and the lights on than Great River Energy's 28 member-owner cooperatives, including Lake Country Power.

Like all cooperatives, Great River Energy is governed by a board made up of its member-owners. The board helps Great River Energy operate under its cooperative principles and duties to the electric cooperatives it serves. ■

## Report Your Outages



### Information is useful

Although the new Aclara meters have built-in outage detection capabilities that Lake Country Power is beginning to take advantage of, it is still best that members contact the co-op when they have an outage.

Sometimes members provide useful information that helps our crews address the outage more efficiently. If it's a tree on the line or a vehicle crashed into a pole, the details you're able to provide will help our crews know what additional equipment they might need to repair the outage. It also helps the crews know what type of situation they might be walking into.

### The two best ways to report an outage include:

- **Use SmartHub for the fastest and most efficient way to report outages. Sign up for a free account at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop).**
- **Call 800-421-9959 and press "1"**

Again, any details you can provide about the outage is always useful information and appreciated.

As a friendly reminder, please refrain from reporting outages on LCP's Facebook page or through private Facebook messages. Facebook is not monitored for outage reporting.



# Build out of EV fast-charging network continues across Minnesota,

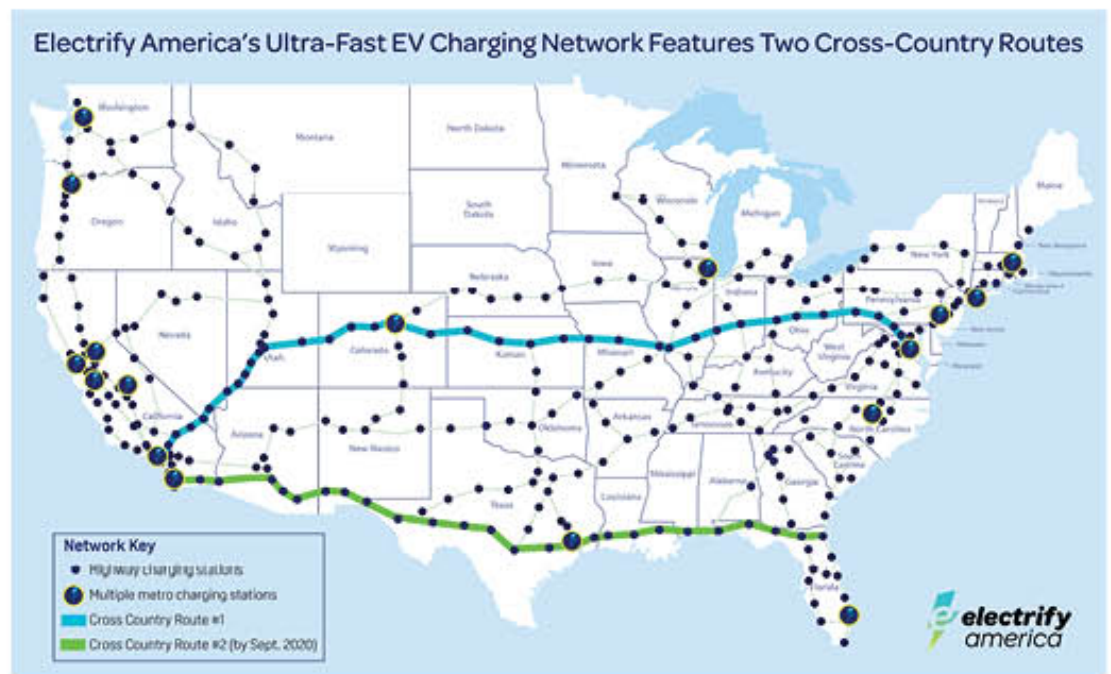
A cross-country route that allows electric vehicle (EV) drivers to travel from coast to coast using the largest open DC fast-charging network in the United States is now complete.

The route is part of Electrify America's \$2 billion investment into charging infrastructure, education and access. It travels along Interstates 15 and 70, spanning 11 states and more than 2,700 miles to take drivers from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C. High-powered chargers can be found, on average, about 70 miles apart in metro areas and near highway routes located near shopping and dining amenities.

"Electrify America's primary goal has always been to advance electric vehicle adoption in the U.S., and that starts by instilling feelings of confidence and freedom in consumers when it comes to EV ownership," said Anthony Lambkin, director of operations at Electrify America. "The completion of our first cross-country route is a significant step toward that goal – by making long-distance travel in an EV a reality, we hope to encourage more consumers to make the switch to electric."

Minnesota, which currently has about 30 DC fast chargers available, has also set its sights on building out more EV infrastructure with part of its share of the Volkswagen settlement funds. The state is leading by example by spending the maximum amount allowed under terms of the settlement (15%) on zero-emission vehicle infrastructure.

As part of Phase I of the



► This map shows a recently completed EV fast-charging network that goes from coast to coast.

project, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) awarded ZEF Energy \$1.7 million to install 22 DC fast-charging stations and several level 2 chargers at sites along major highways outside of the Twin Cities metro area. The fast-charging stations will be installed over the next two years in cities such as Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Detroit Lakes, St. Cloud, Willmar, Marshall, Rochester, Mankato and Albert Lea.

For Phase II, which is underway now through 2023, the state has allocated \$3.525 million to go toward charging infrastructure. The MPCA plans to award a grant to build out 43 additional DC fast chargers that will significantly increase the number of highway routes with access to DC fast charging.

A fast-charger highway corridor from the Twin Cities to the North Shore is already in place for EV drivers.

To date, Electrify America



► This map shows the current and future charging infrastructure plans for Minnesota.

has more than 435 operational charging stations with over 1,900 DC fast chargers, and another 100-plus sites in development. By the end of 2021, Electrify America plans to install or have under development

approximately 800 total charging stations with about 3,500 DC fast chargers.

To locate a charger near you or map out a trip, visit [plugshare.com](https://plugshare.com). ■



# Save money on electric vehicle home charging

If you are thinking about buying an EV, put it on a program

Whether you are close to buying an electric vehicle, or just kicking the tires at this point, it is good to know you can save money charging it with the Energy Wise® programs available from Lake Country Power.

Because residential EV charging is convenient and cost-effective, most plug-in EV owners do more than 80 percent of their charging at home.

Charging at home, usually in a garage, allows drivers to take advantage of low, stable residential energy rates. The cost to operate an EV over the course of a year can be less than running an air conditioner.

If you currently own an EV or soon plan to, contact LCP to discuss your charging patterns to know which program works best for you – the interruptible charging program or the off-peak charging program. Either way, both programs will help you save on charging costs.

The programs encourage members to charge their EV during times when there is less demand on the electric grid. In exchange, members receive the lower energy rate to charge – helping them save on their overall transportation costs. Some dealerships or manufacturers may be able to program a delayed charging time within your EV, which can help you manage your charging needs.

Rebates are available for electric vehicle chargers this year. Visit lakecountrypower.



coop or [energywisemnstore.com](http://energywisemnstore.com) for more information. Contact a member service representative to discuss the program details at 800-421-9959, press "6."

## IT ALL ADDS UP:

Investing in a reliable electric system

How much does overhead wire cost per foot?

- A. 90¢ per foot
- B. 58¢ per foot
- C. 7¢ per foot
- D. 22¢ per foot



LCP has 29,124,983 feet of primary overhead wire on its system.

Answer: D



Inspired by a member of your co-op community?

Your nominee could win up to \$5,000

Bob Bardwell, Stewartville, Minn.

<https://bobbardwell.squarespace.com/about>



## #WhoPowersYou contest Seeking entries of local heroes

Lake Country Power, along with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, is pleased to announce the fifth annual #WhoPowersYou Contest celebrating local heroes. It's a chance for co-op members and employees to nominate someone making a difference in the community and an opportunity to celebrate the power of human connections. In addition to being nationally recognized, nominees can win up to \$5,000 for the cause they champion.

To nominate a local hero in northern Minnesota, LCP members and employees can go to [whopowersyou.com](http://whopowersyou.com) and submit their nominee's name, photo and a brief description of how they make a difference locally. Nominations open on September 8, 2020, and must be submitted by midnight on October 9, 2020.

An independent panel of judges will select winning entries based upon the positive community impact and creativity of the entry. The winners will be announced in October.

Prize money totaling \$9,000 will be awarded as follows:

- Grand Prize: \$5,000
- Second Place: \$2,000
- Third Place: \$1,500
- Honorable Mention: \$500

Only members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including LCP members, are eligible to participate. This is a national contest.

## Vote for your favorite photos

Lake Country Power's 2021 co-op calendar contest opens this month for voting on the co-op's Facebook page. Hundreds of photo entries have been narrowed. Help determine the 12 winning photos by casting your vote with a "like" for the photo(s) you'd like to see in the calendar.

Voting begins at 9:30 a.m., September 23, on Lake Country Power's Facebook page when four albums will be posted and categorized by season. The deadline to vote is 12:00 p.m., Monday, October 5. Any "likes" after



this time and date will not count toward final photo selections.

Any variations from the contest guidelines or ties will be determined by a contest judging committee. Winners will be notified if their photo was selected as one of the winning entries. Visit [www.facebook.com/lakecountrypower](http://www.facebook.com/lakecountrypower) to cast your votes with "likes".



## 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.

## ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

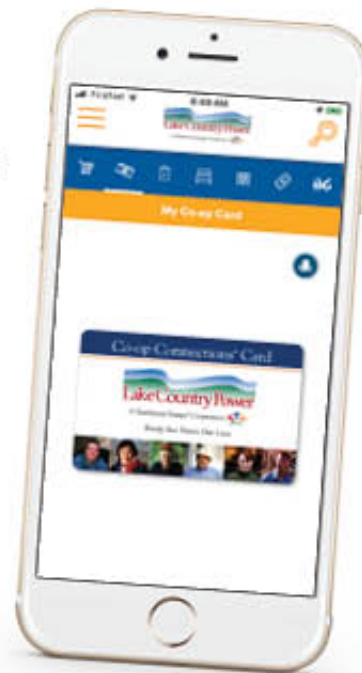
<b>AEOA:</b> .....	1-800-662-5711
Virginia.....	1-218-735-6839
Duluth.....	1-218-623-3011
<b>Aitkin County Social Services:</b> .....	1-800-328-3744
<b>Bi County CAP:</b> .....	1-800-332-7161
<b>Bois Forte Tribal:</b> .....	1-800-221-8129
<b>Carlton County Social Services:</b> .....	1-800-642-9082
<b>Cass 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

## Save money with Co-op Connections®

You work hard, so let The One Card That Does It All® work hard for you. Bring your Co-op Connections® Card to save money at the participating local businesses in northern Minnesota. If you don't have the card or lost your card, don't worry. You can download the App by searching "Co-op Connections" in the App Store on your Apple or Android device.

Categories in the local business list include: automotive, entertainment, financial services, fitness, florist, garden center, golf, health and beauty, healthcare, homecare, lodging, photography, real estate, recreation, remodeling, restaurants, retail, service, technology and a few others.

For a full listing of business participants or assistance to download the App, visit [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) (My Cooperative > Community > Co-op Connections Card – <https://www.lakecountrypower.coop/co-op-connections-card>).



## RECIPE CORNER SUPER EASY LIGHT CHEESECAKE

From the Kitchen of:  
**Judy Zollner**  
Cohasset

### INGREDIENTS

- 11 ounces cream cheese
- 8 ounces cool whip
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 graham cracker crust
- 1 can pie filling

### DIRECTIONS

Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until well mixed. Fold in whipped topping. Put on top of crust. Serve with your choice of pie filling.



### We need more recipes!

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset MN 55012 or email [laurel@lcp.coop](mailto:laurel@lcp.coop). If your entry is printed in Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account.



## Condensed Board Minutes

### June 30, 2020 • Regular Monthly Meeting

#### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson stated he met with General Manager Randa to review agendas for LCP meetings in June.

LCP Holding Board President Harvey reported about the subsidiaries. He noted that operations during the first quarter for Lake States Construction was slow due to COVID-19, however Lake States Tree Service had work throughout that timeframe. He also reported on employee count, sales, etc.

General Manager Randa reported that LCP is adhering to the co-op's pandemic plan. LCP established a task force to develop plans on how and when to reopen the offices, and actions and items needed to make sure everyone stays safe. Other staff reports were reviewed and discussed. Randa also presented a Board Leadership Certificate to Board President Craig Olson, which is the second part of the director education program through the National

Rural Electric Cooperative Association that focuses in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues.

#### THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved the 2021 annual membership meeting date, time and location for April 15, 2021 at the Cohasset Service Center with the business meeting to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Approved Policy 419 for custom tree work.

Approved to accept General Manager Greg Randa's letter stating his plans to retire from Lake Country Power on January 8, 2021. ■

**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 September. Andrene Myrum of Hibbing took this photo of a barred owl looking for prey near Hibbing.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

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

## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – June 2020

	2020	2019
Electric Operating Revenue	\$46,125,528	\$46,971,126
Cost of Purchased Power	22,662,721	23,826,041
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	6,618,452	6,410,460
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,972,612	2,266,732
Administrative and General Expense	3,336,264	3,351,332
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	8,483,894	8,403,781
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>43,073,943</b>	<b>44,258,346</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	3,051,586	2,712,780
Non-Operating Margins	536,458	674,926
<b>TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES</b>	<b>3,588,044</b>	<b>3,387,706</b>
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	177,782	189,760
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$3,765,826</b>	<b>\$3,577,466</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>313,291,639</b>	<b>332,914,656</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.

## Co-op Contacts

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**Michael Forsman,** 218-365-5789  
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**Vacant (To be filled spring 2021),**  
District 3

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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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