

VOLTS & VIEWS



Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MAY 2018



Junieve Lundgren is all smiles after her name is drawn as the grand prize winner of the 55-inch SmartTV. Congratulations, Junieve and Eugene!



Mark Sax, District 9 director and chair of the REC board, addresses the assembly group at the start of the annual meeting.

2018 annual meeting

Roseau Electric appreciates the participation of about 450 people who attended Roseau Electric Cooperative's 78th annual meeting and noon meal at the Roseau School Commons and Theater on Saturday, April 7. The Nite Ryders band provided music in the theater, which was enjoyed by the membership.

During the business meeting, members heard reports from Manager Tracey Stoll and board Chair Mark Sax, as well as the financial report by Office Manager Stephanie Johnson. Additionally, Minnkota Power Cooperative President and CEO Mac McLennan was the featured speaker.

Directors elected included:

James Hallan, incumbent from District 1; Ed Walsh, elected in District 6; and Mark Sax, incumbent from District 9. Next year, Districts 2, 5 and 8 will be up for election. At the organizational meeting, the board of

continued on page 4



Manager Stoll and the board of directors relax during their reorganizational meeting after the annual meeting. From left to right, front row: Manager Tracey Stoll, from District 3 Dale Moser; District 5 and Square Butte director Roger Amundson; District 1 and Vice-Chair James Hallan. Back row, l-r District 7 Mike Wahl; District 2 Wes McFarlane; District 9 and Chair Mark Sax; new District 6 director Ed Walsh; District 8 Shawn Gust; and District 4 and Secretary/Treasurer Collin Jensen.

VOLTS & VIEWS

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman.....	Mark Sax
Vice Chairman	Jim Hallan
Secretary-Treasurer	Collin Jensen
Directors	Roger Amundson, Shawn Gust, Wes McFarlane, Dale Moser, Mike Wahl, Ed Walsh
Tracey Stoll.....	General Manager
Ryan Severson	Assistant Manager
Jeremy Lindemann.....	Member Services
Mike Millner.....	Line Superintendent
Stephanie Johnson	Office Manager
Regular Business Hours:	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone (218) 463-1543	
OUTAGE CALLS:	463-1544;
Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840	

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Kitson, Northwest Angle, Polk
and part of Marshall Counties:

Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Pennington, Roseau and part of
Marshall Counties:

Bryan Holmes – 218-686-1413

Lake of the Woods County:

Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

Beltrami County:

Davis Smid – 507-227-2772

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
www.gopherstateonecall.org



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

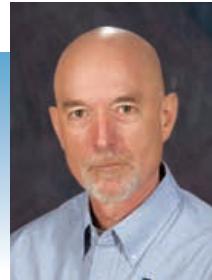
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Thanks for the memories

Stan Weston, retired Line Crew Foreman



Meredith Haslerud was manager of Roseau Electric when Forrest Amerman, line superintendent, hired me on Aug. 13, 1984. I was the last employee to be hired by Forrest prior to his retirement.

I was working at the Salol Elevator when my neighbor, Don Brunell, told me about a position for warehouseman that might soon be open, and he suggested that I submit an application. Thanks, Donnie. As it turned out, Fayde Gunderson remained in the warehouse and Harold Halverson moved into member services. I was called to replace Harold out on the line and was placed on Torris Bakken's crew. Thus, began my training by two legendary linemen: Torris and Rodney "Sonny" Paulson. Rodney wanted to put me in the hole many times, I'm sure.

Forrest sent me to hotline school in Wadena. It was there I learned of an apprentice program that would teach the necessary skills to become a lineman. I approached Meredith regarding the merchant lineman program. He saw it as a win-win situation. The cooperative paid for Roger Welin and me to complete the four-year correspondence course. The Co-op continues to send its new line workers through a system like this with the exception that the new license is now only good in the state of Minnesota.

I remember my first trouble call early in my career when we were out on a Saturday during the lunch hour. Don B. pulled up to Bolin's Cafe and said the Co-op was buying dinner. WOW!! I recall another time with Don when we were on a line break by Arnold Stanley's farm north of Grygla. He yelled down for me to throw him a "dead sparrow." The outside temperature seemed to be about minus 40 degrees, so I figured there must be one around somewhere. He came down and grabbed a "dead end wrap,"

laughing the whole time. Ignorance is bliss.

The day I got my hooks (climbers), Don sent me up the wrong side of a leaning pole. Again, laughing at each of my futile attempts, I would get 6 to 8 feet up the pole and gaff out. Torris, on the other hand, sent me climbing up a new pole, and then he climbed up past me and got that pole just swinging side to side. He kept telling me to let go of the \$@#&! Through it all, I came to love climbing.

Staying up at Flag Island with Bob Evenson and Baylen Hagen for a week at a time was an education in itself. Uffda!

One day Torris pulled the truck into the yard of what was then Kenneth and Agnes Stoe's place. A hand with a cup was seen swinging in the open door. Torris looked over at me and said, "Looks like we're going to have coffee." Not only did we have coffee, but Agnes had a cup of homemade soup waiting for us as well. That seldom happens anymore. Maybe everyone has gotten too busy.

The equipment has changed over the years. The industry has tried to take as many hazards out of the job as possible. Fortunately for the line crews, the buckets, diggers and hand tools are superior to what they were in the '70s and '80s.

I would like to thank the men who paved the way for me and made Roseau Electric such a great place to work. They are the ones who built the lines, set the poles (many by hand) and strung the wires that I helped repair, replace and maintain. Over the past 33-plus years at Roseau Electric, I have had the pleasure to work with three managers, four line superintendents and numerous linemen and office personnel, as well as directors.

Thanks so much for the privilege of being a small part of this great enterprise. Electricity...where would we be without it?

Stan

From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



Spring weather has a hard time coming again this year. I woke up to a few inches of snow on the ground. The cool weather in April shouldn't surprise us. We have definitely seen this before. With our annual meeting behind us, my thoughts go back to our annual meeting on April 5, 1997 and the ice storm that followed. It can always be worse. This past winter wasn't really that bad. We missed most of the storms and with the cooler winter, your cooperative sold about 12 percent more electric heat than the past year.

I'm looking forward to our construction season that is just around the corner. We have quite a few larger projects planned. It should be another busy and challenging summer.

I'm sure most of you have noticed the project on Minnkota's 69-kV transmission line. The project starts at the Thief River Falls Highway 1 substation and comes north into our service area, with a total of 109 miles of transmission line. MPC has contracted Moorhead Electric to do the work on this blink mitigation project. They are installing raptor protection, pole changeouts, lightning arrestors, ground rods and flashing around the poles. The flashing

will keep mammals from climbing the poles and making contact. All these upgrades will help minimize the blinks that we see in our homes and businesses.

Thanks, Stan

I'm sure Stan Weston is wondering where did all the time go? Stan retired after 33-plus years, serving your Cooperative. I have many fond memories working with Stan. We worked many storms together and worked an ice storm in North Dakota together during deer season many years ago. I enjoyed every minute working with Stan; he was never a quitter. We will miss Stan here at this Cooperative, but we wish him a

long and healthy retirement.

Now, leaving you with something to think about. Live every day like it is your last. Show compassion for your fellow man, even if they are quite different than you. I am still working on the last one. Until our paths cross. Mike



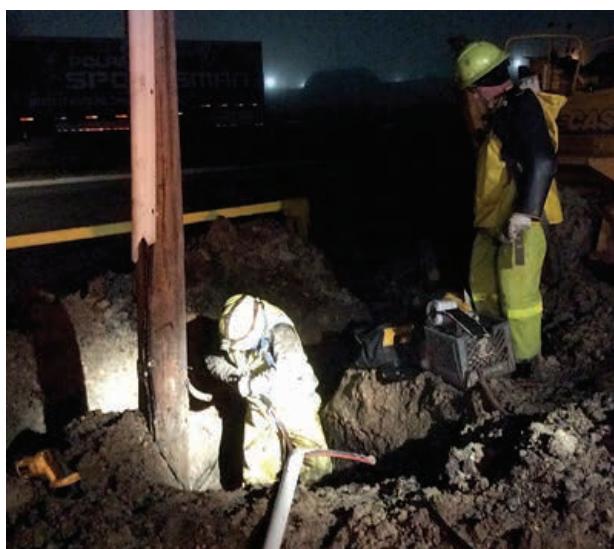
Stan Weston and Chad Gregerson plowing cable.



Ross Nelson and Chad Johnson assist in a pole changeout with Moorhead Electric.



Moorhead Electric installs lightning arrestors and raptor protection.



Stan Weston and Chad Gregerson perform an early-morning line cutover.



Stan Weston gets certified in poletop rescue.

2018 annual meeting

continued from page 1

directors re-elected the following officers: Mark Sax, chair; Jim Hallan, vice-chair; Collin Jensen, secretary/treasurer.

Door prizes were drawn throughout the meeting, and members could pick up their free

Annual meeting prize winners

Grand prize – 55" TV

Eugene & Junieve Lundgren,
Badger

\$100 credits

Glenn Holm, Roseau
Jeff Przekwas, Roseau

\$50 credits

Rodney Bergstrom, Roseau
Kevin & Delores Carlson,
Wannaska
Marlyn & Gloria Sistad, Grygla
Roger Stoll, Warroad
Dennis & Nancy Andol, Roseau
Peter Kujava, Warroad
Dale Warne, Roseau
James Glennen, Roseau
Ray & Susan Aune, Gatzke
Lyle Roseen, Roseau

Other prize winners

DSG Duffel bag – Roger & Pauline Ignaszewski, Wannaska
DSG Packable chair – Udell Lunde, Badger
DSG Duffel bag – Edward & Becky Dunham, Wannaska
BSE Hoodie – Richard Wahlstrom, Salol, MN
BSE Hoodie – Eunice Schulz, Grygla
BSE Hoodie – James Larson, Badger/Fargo
Wesco Hand Blender – Robert Dignan, Warroad
Wesco LED Work Light – Harold Klamar, Gatzke
Utility Insp. Services booster pack – Bev Bialke, Wannaska
Resco \$50 Visa - Bethesda Church, Wannaska
Irby \$50 Cabela's card – Jim Bernat, Roseau
Galy & Sheila Solberg - Wannaska

gift, a “campfire” stone mug, just for attending. A noon lunch was prepared by Gene’s in Roseau and served by the board members.

Once again, the Royal Rangers and Boy Scout Troop helped during the event. Thank you to them, the Roseau School and to the groups and individuals who provided their assistance and service throughout the day.



This group enjoys a nice visit along with coffee and doughnuts during registration for the annual meeting.



Rebecca Lundgren, left, along with other REC employees Deaun Solom and PeggySue Bergstrom greet members of Roseau Electric at the registration tables prior to the 78th annual meeting.

Donovan Ruud stages some “antics” during the Nite Ryders band’s participation in this year’s annual meeting. The band always entertains and performs great songs with their wonderful musical abilities.



This newly organized group of high school musicians, the “Lucky Chaps,” and perform their version of the National Anthem prior to the start of the annual meeting. They were warmly received and appreciated along with the Royal Rangers and Boy Scout Troop #56 who advanced the colors in the flag presentation. Band members are left to right: Teagon Morrison, Zachary Fevold, Talen Senum, Wyatt Cameron, Jonah Provance, Gabe Grazca and Ayla Gross.



Stan Weston officially retired from his 33-year career as a lineman at Roseau Electric on April 1, but his energy and enthusiasm will continue far into the future. We wish Stanley and his lovely wife, Priscilla, all the best and wish to express appreciation on his dedication and work for the membership and for the community.



Operation Round Up® grants total \$13,515

The Roseau Electric Cooperative (REC) Trust board met on Monday, March 19. Twenty-three applications were reviewed and 14 grants were awarded to area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$16,543. More than \$35,000 was asked for in the 23 applications.

Operation Round Up board members include Rosie Rygh (chair), Phil Kazmierczak (vice chair), Laurie Polansky (secretary-treasurer), Robert Bentow, Marilyn Grafstrom, Allison Harder, Beth Karol, Kandy Sundberg and Ron Tveit.

The REC Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by Roseau Electric

Cooperative. The program began in May 2013 where members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

The REC Trust board of directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Grant applications are available at the Roseau Electric Cooperative office or by visiting our website at www.roseauselectric.com. To be considered at the September 2018 meeting, all applications must be received by our next deadline – Aug. 31, 2018.



Operation Round Up Recipients

Badger Area Community Fund	\$2,000
<i>Mosaic heritage wall gazebo</i>	
Boy Scout Troop 151	\$ 300
<i>Tents</i>	
Four Seasons Senior Center	\$2,500
<i>Roof shingling</i>	
Grygla-Gatzke Food Shelf	\$1,000
<i>Food supplies</i>	
Malung Community Center	\$1,000
<i>Outdoor picnic shelter furniture</i>	
North Region Pregnancy Care Center	\$1,000
<i>Office furniture</i>	
Northland Range & Gun Club	\$ 350
<i>Rebuild trap houses</i>	
Northland Threshing Bee	\$ 780
<i>Electric repair in demonstration building</i>	
Roseau American Legion Post 24	\$1,000
<i>LED lighting</i>	
Roseau County 4-H LEGO Robotics	\$2,500
<i>Computer</i>	
Roseau County Historical Society	\$2,063
<i>Security cameras</i>	
Roseau Eagles Auxiliary	\$ 500
<i>Gas cards for cancer</i>	
Roseau Pioneer Farm	\$1,300
<i>Nannestad hall restoration</i>	
Violence Intervention Project	\$ 250
<i>Gift cards for clients in urgent need</i>	

Tree planting safety

When landscaping property, remember that trees can grow into electric lines and cause power interruptions. The best way to prevent problems is to plant the right tree in the proper location. Before planting, consider the mature size, height and crown characteristics of trees. For example, a 4-foot-tall, 2-foot-wide tree could grow to 60 feet tall and 30 feet across at maturity. Knowing this information before you plant can help you choose the best location for your tree.

Important: Do not allow trees, bushes or plants of any size to grow directly under electric lines. This foliage could interfere with REC crews performing maintenance or repair.

Planting near pad-mounted transformers

In areas with underground electric service, do not plant shrubs or other foliage around pad-mounted

transformers. This foliage will make repair or maintenance work difficult for REC crews. Dense growth around these transformers can also provide a home for undesirable wildlife and insects.

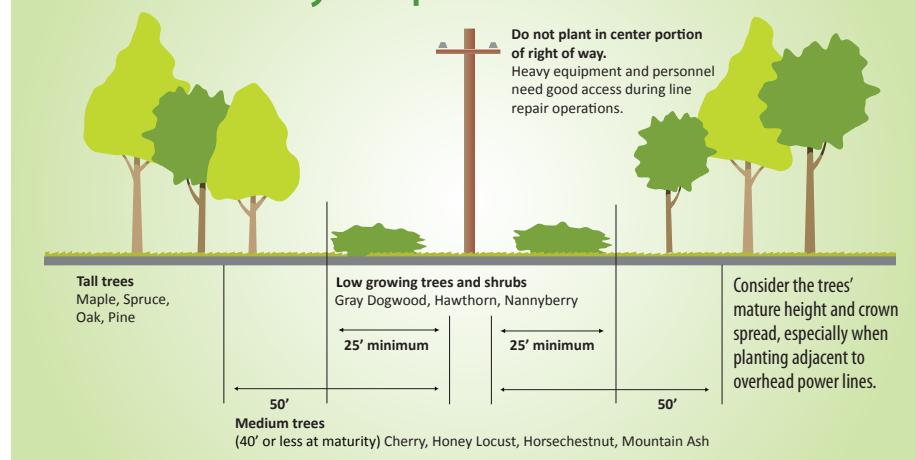
Ten feet of clearance is needed in front of equipment so crews can safely open it. Some larger pad-mounted

switchgear will require 10 feet of clearance in the front and back.

Wise tree choices

Plant trees that will grow up to 25 feet tall at least 10 feet from power lines. Trees up to 40 feet tall should be planted 20 feet from lines. Those over 50 feet tall should be planted 50 feet away.

Plan before you plant



Electrical safety tips

In honor of electrical safety month, Roseau Electric reminds members to keep the following safety tips in mind:

- ▶ Understand your home's electrical system. Make a map showing which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light or outlet.
- ▶ Consider purchasing surge protectors with cable and phone jacks to provide protection to your phone, computer modem and television.
- ▶ Check ceiling fans regularly for wobble, which will wear out the motor over time. To fix the wobble, turn off power to the ceiling fan and tighten the screws.
- ▶ Use correct bulb wattage in fixtures. Light bulbs with wattages that are too high for the light fixture can overheat the fixture and start a fire.
- ▶ Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- ▶ Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated.
- ▶ If working in damp locations, inspect electric cords and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition and free of defects, and use a ground fault circuit interrupter.
- ▶ Recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses can signify a serious electrical problem. Contact a licensed electrician.
- ▶ When working outside, use a wooden or fiberglass ladder. Keep the ladder at least 10 feet away from power lines. Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. Power lines may be live; stay a safe distance away.
- ▶ If you find yourself near a downed power line, the proper way to move away from it is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Association.

Power Plant Tour

Tuesday-Wednesday
June 5-6, 2018

Last
Chance!



Tour highlights this year:

- Minnkota's new Grand Forks headquarters
- Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D.
- BNI Coal mine
- Driving tour of wind farms
- Lodging in the Mandan/Bismarck area
- Meals and transportation included

Use the form below and send with your payment
of \$70 per person or \$110 per couple.

Please print names of participants the way you would like them to appear on your name tags. Your deposit will be refunded if the tour is canceled or if you should find that you cannot make the trip. We will send further details prior to departure. Return with check for \$70 per person or \$110 per couple to:

Roseau Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751

Name _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone No. _____ Customer No. _____

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Yearly	
	March 2017	March 2018	March 2017	March 2018
Members	6,419	6,466	6,419	6,466
kWh purchased	15,669,379	14,798,840	48,432,104	51,172,208
% change	8.06%	(5.56%)	(2.71%)	5.66%
Revenue	1,709,982	1,671,789	5,264,928	5,624,354
Cost of power	1,072,546	1,042,134	3,281,843	3,440,049
Other expenses	620,235	758,364	1,712,099	2,002,760
Operating margins	17,201	(128,709)	270,986	181,545
Nonoperating margins	(11,200)	9,956	18,527	68,610
Patronage dividends	150,841	169,464	150,841	172,529
Total margins	156,842	50,711	440,354	422,684

member connection

ENERGY TIP

Laundry tip: Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time. Source: energy.gov.

SAFETY TIP

Spring thaw means electrical hazards when using extension cords, electric tools, etc. Remember that water and electricity DON'T MIX! May is National Electrical Safety month.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

- Phil Jackson

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 10 | - GreenTouch event at Hayes Lake State Park |
| May 13 | - Mother's Day |
| May 19 | - Armed Forces Day |
| May 28 | - Memorial Day
Office is closed |

July 15-20 – Roseau County Fair
Make fair week vacation week!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-free 1-888-847-8840
1-218-463-1544

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
1-800-252-1166 or 811

PAY BY PHONE
1-877-999-3412

SMARTHUB

<https://roseaelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE
www.roseaelectric.com



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP-TO-DATE!



Join us for Project GreenTouch at Hayes Lake State Park

Thursday, May 10
5 to 8 p.m.

- PICNIC TO FOLLOW -

**To volunteer, call Member Services
at 463-1543 or 888-847-8840**

Volunteers will not need park passes during the event.

Bring your rakes!

Project GreenTouch is a collaborative effort between Minnesota's Touchstone Energy cooperatives and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to help spruce up their local state parks.



Our offices
will be closed
Monday, May 28
in observance of
Memorial Day

If you experience
an outage,
call 1-888-847-8840
or 218-463-1544.