

VOLTS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2020



Official Notice of Annual Meeting

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Roseau High School Theater

Starting at 9 a.m. – Business Meeting 10 a.m.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held in the Roseau High School theater in the city of Roseau, Roseau County, Minnesota, on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., for the following purposes:

1. To pass upon reports of the previous fiscal year;
2. To elect three directors of the Cooperative from the following list of candidates:

District 3
(3-year term)
Open Seat

District 4
(3-year term)
Brian Grafstrom
Spruce Township

District 7
(3-year term)
Mike Wahl
Solar Township

3. To transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

Collin Jensen, Secretary-Treasurer
Dated: Feb. 18, 2020

Texas Connection ANNUAL MEETING ENTERTAINMENT



Left to right: Dave Hoglin, Thief River Falls; Harry Scramstad, Middle River; Tommy Olson, Karlstad; Dale Rogers, Gatzke; and Donovan Ruud, Middle River. Photo courtesy of Kari Sundberg/Grygla Eagle.

Mark your calendars!

*Plan to attend
your cooperative's
annual meeting!*

Grand Prize!
**65-inch
LG Smart TV**



*Drawings will be held
at the annual meeting*

Must be present to win!

*Each member attending
will receive a tote cooler
to be handed out at the
end of the day!*



VOLTS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2020 – Vol. 65, No. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1107 3rd Street N.E.

The Volts & Views (USPS-663420) is published monthly by Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751. Periodicals postage paid at Roseau, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751.

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
Mike Millner.....	Line Superintendent
Jeremy Lindemann.....	Member Services
Alex McMillin	Office Manager

Regular Business Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone (218) 463-1543

OUTAGE CALLS:

Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

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

Kittson and part of
Marshall and Polk Counties:
Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Northwest Angle, Pennington, Roseau
and parts of Beltrami and
Marshall Counties:
Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758

Lake of the Woods County:
Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

Inspector list is subject to change at any time.

The State of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family or business. Improper wiring can damage your home, your property and equipment, and injure or kill the people you love. Currently, the state does allow homeowners to do their own residential wiring; however, it is critical that the current electrical code is followed. 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.



From the manager

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

Returning \$845,000 in dividends to our members

Well, there went January! With the rush of year-end activities, sometimes I don't take the time to truly appreciate the first month of a new year, but there's no going back now.

We closed out 2019, recording an annual increase of 1.0% in energy sales to our members when compared to 2018. With that increase in sales paired with keeping our expenses below budget, your cooperative booked operating margins of \$1,085,652, which your board, at its January meeting, allocated back to the membership. At our current pace, you would see this \$1 million returned to you 19 years from now. You will see this new allocation, along with your total equity in your cooperative, on next month's billing statement.

As far as what you can expect for this year's dividend return, your board elected to pay back the remainder of 1998 and all of 1999 and 2000, totaling just over \$845,000 in dividends, which will be returned to active members as a bill credit on their March billing (generated early April), or by check for inactive members.

NorthStream Fiber

With our first FCC CAFII grant installment not arriving until the end of July 2019, we were not able to get rolling during the short construction season we have in northern Minnesota. This spring will mark the official start of construction to fulfill our CAFII requirements of serving 326 members with gigabit-capable fiber internet. Material is arriving and being warehoused in our newly completed building. Some of this material will be

installed by our line crews even before the frost goes out this spring. Letters have been mailed to those members in our expected construction area, with contributions being collected from those who want the product to their home. If you've received a letter, we need to hear from you! The cost of installing fiber to your house as we construct our fiber route will be substantially less than if we pass you by and have to return at a later date. Please take advantage of that low cost now. Call Stacy with any questions.

Before we construct, we are taking action to renew the easements necessary to bring a new product to our members on existing infrastructure. Please be aware there may have to be several possible communication contacts (written, phone and home visits) to get this important service.

Check out the new website at www.northstreamfiber.com, where you can see a map of our CAFII grant area shaded in blue. Our larger expected service territory in Roseau County is bounded in red. Plans continue to be developed to serve the unshaded areas, but with receipt of grant funds, the CAFII area will be our primary concern.

Annual meeting

Our next annual meeting is coming up soon. With a member information meeting in early December and more newsletter space dedicated to the issue of governance, we were actively seeking new directors to fill the seats of retiring directors Collin Jensen and Dale Moser. Monday, Feb. 3, was our petition deadline, and we've received petitions from sitting director Mike Wahl (district 7),



Roseau Electric to award Cooperative Knowledge scholarships again this year

and one prospective director for Collin Jensen's seat (district 4). Without someone filing a petition for our district 3 seat, it will fall to the board, following the annual meeting in April, to appoint someone to fill that seat, and stand for election the following year. Is that someone you?

If you don't know what district you reside in, please visit our website and look for the Board of Directors link to view a map.

Operation Round Up

Looking forward to May of this year, we'll hit our seven-year anniversary for Operation Round Up! The member-run board meets twice a year to review and approve grants, with our next grant deadline coming up Feb. 28, 2020, and next grant meeting later in March. Do you know of a nonprofit in our service territory that may benefit from some financial help on a community-oriented project? This board has favored "solid" items, like the construction of a community center, or associated projects like lighting or heating. You may not submit for what would be considered operating expenses.

Necessary forms can be found on our website or at the front desk. Thank you for being part of the 91% of the membership in this important program!



Grant Application Deadline Feb. 28, 2020

To be considered at the March 2020 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Feb. 28, 2020**. Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at www.roseaelectric.com.

Roseau Electric Cooperative will award five scholarships of \$500 each – one to each of the school districts in our service area. Just for taking the test and scoring more than 50%, you'll be entered into a \$50 cash award drawing. Most test answers will be included in the Cooperative Knowledge study material that Roseau Electric will provide for you.

In order to qualify:

- ▶ The parent or guardian must be a member of Roseau Electric Cooperative
- ▶ Student must be a 2020 graduate
- ▶ Student must be actively enrolled in a postsecondary school
- ▶ Candidates must take a short test about the cooperative that provides electricity to your home
- ▶ Scholarship will be awarded to the highest-scoring candidate of those students scoring 75% or better

Contact your high school guidance counselor to sign up!

ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEGISLATORS

Federal legislators

President Donald Trump

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith

720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.senate.gov
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar

425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Collin Peterson

2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterson.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

Governor Tim Walz

Capitol Building, Room 130
75 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
800-657-3717
gov.elect@state.mn.us

Senator Mark Johnson

2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

Representative Dan Fabian

287 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
rep.dan.fabian@house.mn

Representative Matt Grossell

227 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn



New energy efficiency incentives for 2020!

RESIDENTIAL INCENTIVES FOR ELECTRIC HEATING, HVAC AND WATER HEATERS

Equipment	Powerful Value	PowerSavers	Roseau Electric
ELECTRIC HEATING EQUIPMENT*			
Baseboard/cove heater, plenum heater, hanging unit heater, radiant underfloor heat	\$25/kW		\$25/kW
ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEATING*			
Electric boiler, brick storage room unit, brick storage electric furnace/boiler, slab storage - electric cable	\$45/kW		\$45/kW
HEAT PUMPS*			
Air-source heat pump (ASHP)*	\$150/ton	\$300/ton (<17SEER) \$500/ton (>17 SEER)	\$50/ton
Mini-split heat pump*	\$150/ton	\$500/unit	\$50/ton
Supplemental heating source ASHP*		\$200/ton (16.2 EER/open loop)	
Ground-source heat pump*	\$250/ton	\$400/ton (14.1 EER/closed loop)	\$50/ton
THERMOSTATS*			
Programmable thermostats*		50% of purchase price, up to \$25	
Energy Star® smart thermostats*		50% of purchase price, up to \$50	
HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) MEASURES*			
Tune-up for central A/C (not window units)		\$25/unit	
Tune-up for air-source/mini-split heat pump		\$25/unit	
WATER HEATERS*			
55 gallon or less	\$125/unit	\$125/unit	\$100/unit
80-99 gallon	\$200/unit	\$200/unit	\$300/unit
100 gallon or greater	\$300/unit	\$300/unit	\$300/unit
New construction	\$100/unit		FREE 80- or 100-gal.
Conversion from gas/propane	\$250/unit		\$250/unit

Incentives
can be combined
for greater
savings!

* Restrictions and requirements apply. Please contact Roseau Electric for more information.

RESIDENTIAL INCENTIVES FOR APPLIANCES, LIGHTING, INSULATION AND ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION

Equipment	Powerful Value	PowerSavers	Roseau Electric
APPLIANCES*			
Clothes Washer		\$25/unit	
Clothes Dryer		\$25/unit	
Refrigerator or Freezer		\$25/unit	
Recycle old Refrigerator or Freezer		\$50/unit	
LIGHTING*			
LED Screw-in Bulb (40-60W)		50% of purchase price up to \$2/bulb	
LED Screw-in Bulb (65W or greater)		50% of purchase price up to \$4/bulb	
LED Fixture		50% of purchase price up to \$4/bulb	
LED Outdoor Fixture (<i>dusk to dawn</i>)		50% of purchase price up to \$10/bulb	
INSULATION AND AIR SEALING*			
Air sealing only (<i>pre-inspection required</i>)	30% of cost, max \$300		
Wall insulation improvement	30% of cost, max \$500		
Attic insulation and air sealing improvement (<i>pre-inspection required</i>)	30% of cost, max \$500		
ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION REBATES*			
Level 2 or Level 3 charger (<i>EV, hybrid, forklifts, zambonis, delivery van/truck</i>)	\$50/kW		

* Restrictions and requirements apply. Please contact Roseau Electric for more information.

Building a New Home?

*Roseau Electric offers a
FREE electric water heater:*

- Large capacity: 80- or 100-gallon
- Must be on “off-peak” – under the daily cycled load group category
- Incentives are excluded from the free water heater program



Business incentives for retrofit and new construction:

- LED lighting and controls
- HVAC and geothermal
- Chillers and refrigeration
- Food service equipment
- VFD motors

All incentives, criteria and guidelines for residential and business members can be found at

www.roseauselectric.com or by calling 888-847-8840



**PROJECT
TUNDRA**



Recent cold snap reaffirms importance of Project Tundra

When temperatures across the region dropped to 30 below zero in mid-January, most of us hurried indoors, turned up the heat and flipped on our computers and TVs for entertainment. There likely wasn't a second thought as to where the electricity powering our region was coming from during those bitterly cold days.

As demand for electricity increased, there were stretches when almost all of the Upper Midwest's energy came from a combination of coal, natural gas and nuclear. This is not a new phenomenon. Routinely, subzero temperatures can limit the ability for wind and solar to produce energy for homes and businesses when they need it most.

For Minnkota Power Cooperative and its member cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwest Minne-

sota, coal was the primary reason the lights (and everything else) stayed on. Coal is a low-cost and reliable resource, but it is challenged in today's world as society focuses on making significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. That's why Minnkota is pursuing Project Tundra – a major initiative to build the world's largest carbon capture facility right here in North Dakota.

The project aims to transform our largest coal unit into a near-zero carbon emissions resource using state-of-the-art technology. The CO₂ removed by Project Tundra would be returned to the land it came from. Directly under the coal mine that provides fuel to the power plant, there is a deep geologic rock formation more than one mile below the surface to safely store the CO₂. If we're successful, we will remove an amount of

CO₂ equivalent to permanently taking 600,000 gasoline-fueled vehicles off the road. More importantly, Project Tundra could be used as a blueprint by utilities in the United States and countries around the world who plan to continue using coal as a resource. The project is currently in the advanced engineering and design phase, with a goal to begin construction within the next few years.

Our nation is striving toward a cleaner electric grid, but that doesn't mean we have to shut down all fossil fuel generators and depend solely on wind and solar facilities. In our region, that simply won't work. The stakes are too high. When it's 30 below zero, we need electricity so reliable that we don't have to think twice about it.

In North Dakota and Minnesota, we don't slow down when it's 30 below.

Our electricity has to be tough and dependable. Like us.

That's why we combine the diverse strengths of our region's renewable resources with our steadfast supply of lignite coal – to ensure reliable power even when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

No, we don't slow down when things freeze up.

Because we're all in on all-of-the-above energy.



ALL IN



ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY

Power Plant Tour

**Wednesday-Thursday
June 3-4, 2020**

Tour highlights this year:

- Minnkota's 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. 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. _____

member connection

ENERGY TIP

Got leftovers? Let them cool first to save energy. Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge. *Source: energy.gov.*

SAFETY TIP

Of utmost concern when using portable space heaters is SAFETY. You can easily overload circuits, causing overheating in the wiring. Each year, thousands of fires are attributed to space heaters, some resulting in death. Please be safe, keep flammables and fabrics away from heaters, and alert all family members if they are using them.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.”

— Robert Collier

DATES TO REMEMBER

Looking ahead

Saturday, April 4, 2020

80th Annual Meeting

Roseau High School Theater

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone 218-463-1543

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-free 1-888-847-8840
(main outage call center)

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!

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Yearly	
	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2019	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2019
Members	6,536	6,540	6,536	6,540
kWh purchased	16,298,757	17,110,276	158,902,858	160,728,026
% change		4.98%		1.15%
Revenue	1,855,895	1,931,775	19,211,005	19,385,333
Cost of power	1,119,616	1,151,035	11,683,428	11,755,505
Other expenses	587,883	491,808	7,004,590	6,544,177
Operating margins	148,396	288,932	522,987	1,085,651
Nonoperating margins	11,257	13,783	83,545	80,026
Patronage dividends	-	5,557	191,747	228,989
Total margins	159,653	308,272	798,279	1,394,666



Plug in and plow out

**Add an electric snow blower
to your winter tool kit**

Your new partner for fighting Minnesota winters is light, compact, quiet and low maintenance – but packs a punch after a snowfall.

Electric snow blowers are becoming a sought-after option for those who want to quickly and easily clear driveways and sidewalks without the need for hauling a gas can. With an all-electric corded or cordless blower, homeowners can avoid the common challenge of storing a gas-powered machine with the fuel still in the tank. Michael Emmons, store manager of Lowe's in Grand Forks, says his team frequently sees starting issues with gas-powered units as a result of improper storage.

"Electric snow blowers start with the push of a button and don't need as much maintenance as gas models. They're usually lighter and more compact," Emmons said.

Cordless blowers run on a powerful rechargeable battery and the corded

blowers are incredibly easy to store when garage space is limited. Their smaller size often gives them a lower available clearing width and intake height than their gas counterparts, but that doesn't mean they can't get the job done. Emmons says electric blowers can throw snow up to 30 feet.

"An electric snow blower will work well on a single-car garage driveway and does well on sidewalks," he said. "Electric blowers are also very handy for clearing snow from house and garage roofs."

There are many electric models on the market and Lowe's stocks several at their store with varying powers and price points. Emmons said one of his most popular models is the Kobalt 80-volt MAX cordless blower, which provides a 22-inch clearing width and costs \$399. However, he recommends doing some personal research or talking to a store associate to find the model that best fits your needs.

models are fitted with an extension cord that remains flexible in the bitter cold. Both options ring up a smaller "fuel" bill than a gas blower and don't require the same annual service maintenance.

Because of their efficient construction, electric

Popular models (courtesy of Lowe's)



Kobalt 80V MAX Cordless Snow Blower (\$399)

- 22-inch clearing path
- 30-foot snow discharge
- 2-speed auger for light/heavy snow



Snow Joe 40V iON Cordless Snow Blower (\$299)

- 18-inch clearing path
- Only 32 lbs.
- Moves 500 lbs. per minute



Greenworks 60V Cordless Snow Blower (\$149)

- 12-inch clearing path
- Clears up to 6-inch snowfalls
- 45 minutes of runtime