

# VOLTS & VIEWS



## *Co-op Appreciation Day*

### **WINNERS**

**Grand Prize Winner of  
\$250 Energy Bill Credit**

**Lloyd Dunham**  
*Roseau*

**\$100 Energy Bill Credit**

**Helen Kompelien**  
*Roseau*

**\$50 Energy Bill Credit**

**Jan Klatt**  
*Roseau*

**DaLonna Ellefson**  
*Roseau*

**Gerald Graff**  
*Greenbush*

**Jacob Menlove**  
*Roseau*

**Aliza Olson**  
*Roseau*

*Thanks to all who attended  
and made the day a success!*



# VOLTS & VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2022 – Vol. 67, No. 11

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

**Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

1107 3rd Street N.E.

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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman . . . . . Mark Sax  
Vice Chairman . . . . . Jim Hallan  
Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Mike Wahl  
Directors . . Jim Christianson, Brian Grafstrom  
Shawn Gust, Dale Moser,  
Joe Tesarek, 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.)

*Northwest Angle, Kittson, Marshall,  
Pennington and Roseau counties  
and parts of Beltrami County:*

**Ronald Ditsch – 651-368-2195**

*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](http://dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

**Gopher State One Call**  
1-800-252-1166 or 811  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://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.*

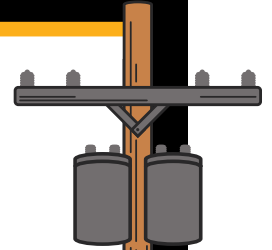
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

Keeping yourself and others safe while hunting this fall by staying clear of power lines and other electrical equipment.

**Here are some safety tips to keep in mind while hunting:**

- Stay clear of all utility equipment.
- Never shoot at or near power lines.
- Be vigilant and know where power lines are before you begin hunting.
- Never place a decoy on or near electrical equipment.
- Never place a deer stand on a utility pole.



# OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

**Thursday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving**

If you experience an outage, please call our  
outage number at 1-888-847-8840.

# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

# Roseau Electric Cooperative and Minnkota Power Cooperative?

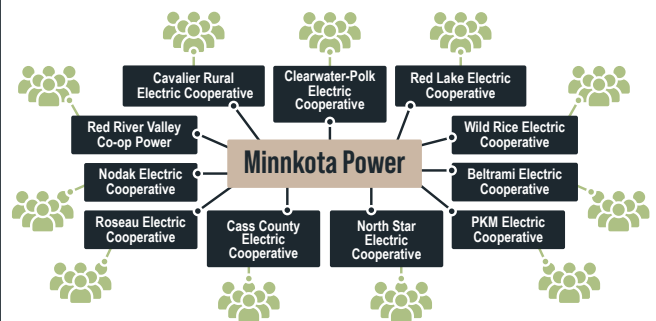
You often hear us talk about Minnkota Power Cooperative in the pages of this newsletter, so we wanted to take a moment to explain what makes us partners and what sets us apart.

Roseau Electric Cooperative is one of 11 rural electric cooperatives that purchase electricity generated and delivered to local substations by Minnkota. From the substations, Roseau Electric Cooperative distributes the electricity to the homes, farms and businesses in our service territory.

So, what are the differences between Minnkota and YOUR co-op?

## Ownership

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota is owned by the member cooperatives it serves, like Roseau Electric Cooperative.
- **Roseau Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op is owned by YOU, along with all of the other local members to whom we distribute power.



## Mission

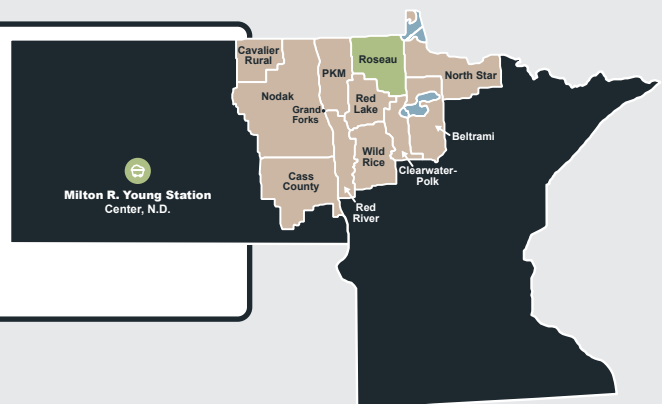
- **Minnkota** – Minnkota's main mission is to generate safe, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity (through coal, wind and hydro sources) and transmit that electricity to its member cooperatives, like Roseau Electric Cooperative.
- **Roseau Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op's main mission is to deliver electricity to its member consumers reliably and affordably, no matter the season.

## Board

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota's board of directors is composed of representatives from the boards of its member cooperatives.
- **Roseau Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op's board of directors is composed of member-consumers like you, voted onto the board by you.

## Location

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota is headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D., with its main generation plant (Milton R. Young Station) located in Center, N.D.
- **Roseau Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op is headquartered in Roseau, Minn.



Learn more about our wholesale electricity supplier at [Minnkota.com](http://Minnkota.com).

# Electrical contractor continuing education sessions scheduled

## January / February 2023

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Roseau Electric Cooperative and its partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.



**Instructor Tim Pull will be covering the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC) changes and other important NEC rules. The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses. The classes will be held at the following locations:**

### Wednesday, January 11

Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Fargo, ND



### Thursday, January 12

Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Fargo, ND



### Thursday, January 19

Bemidji Eagles Club  
1270 Neilson Ave SE  
Bemidji, MN

### Thursday, January 26

Bigwood Event Center  
925 Western Ave  
Fergus Falls, MN



### Wednesday, February 1

Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave South  
Grand Forks, ND



### Thursday, February 2

Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave South  
Grand Forks, ND

This marks the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. The registration fee is \$80 for eight code credits. Registration can be done online at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com) and must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar.

For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

For more information about the program, please call **(701) 795-4292** or e-mail any questions to [contractortraining@minnkota.com](mailto:contractortraining@minnkota.com).

## CLASS SCHEDULE:

+ 7:15 - 8 a.m.  
Sign-in

+ 8 a.m. - noon  
Workshop

+ Noon - 1 p.m.  
Lunch provided

+ 1 - 5 p.m.  
Workshop continues

# 2023 director elections

**PETITION DEADLINE MONDAY, JAN. 30, 2023**

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is organized as a cooperative and is owned by its members. The membership elects a board of directors to represent them in the operation of the cooperative.

Four directors will be elected at the 2023 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 1 at the Roseau City Center. The directors whose terms expire in 2023 are: Jim Christianson, District 2 (2-year term); Dale Moser, District 3 (3-year term); Brian Grafstrom, District 4 (3-year term); and Mike Wahl, District 7 (3-year term). **Dale Moser has decided not to run for reelection.**

## Nomination by petition

No nominating committee will be used. All nominations will be done by petition, including the incumbents.

Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 2, 3, 4 or 7 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.

## Petition forms are available

Director candidates must pick up a petition and a director packet at Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Roseau. The packet contains additional forms that must be signed and turned in before the deadline.

## Petition deadline

**The cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023.**

**Petition for Nomination**

The following members wish to nominate (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ for (insert Districts 2, 3, 4 or 7) \_\_\_\_\_ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the April 1, 2023 election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 5 of the bylaws.

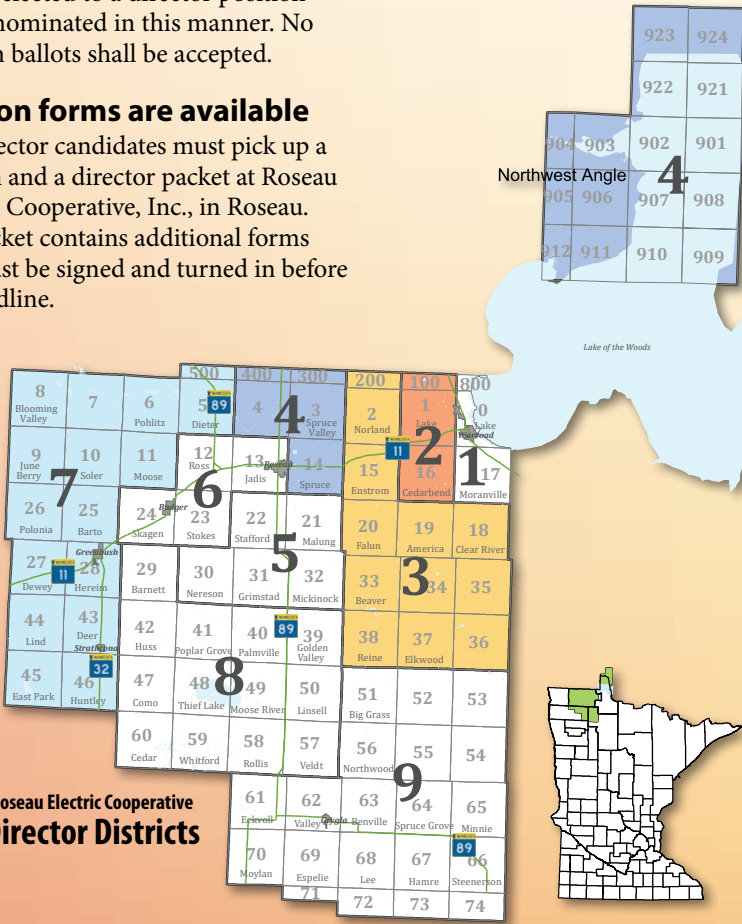
PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	CUSTOMER NO.
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The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business Monday, January 30, 2023. At the Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday April 1, 2023, elections will be held for one director in District 2, one director in District 3, one director in District 4, and one director in District 7.

The directors whose terms expire in 2023 are as follows:

DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 7
2-year Term	3-year Term	3-year Term	3-year Term
Jim Christianson	Dale Moser (Open Seat)	Brian Grafstrom	Mike Wahl

Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 2, 3, 4 or 7 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of joint membership, only the signature of one joint member shall be acceptable.



**Roseau Electric Cooperative Director Districts**

# So, you want to be a director

Four directors will be elected at the 2023 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 1. Directors whose terms expire in 2023 are: Jim Christianson, District 2 (2-year term); Dale Moser, District 3 (3-year term); Brian Grafstrom, District 4 (3-year term); and Mike Wahl, District 7 (3-year term).

## Objectives:

- To establish relationships between the board, the membership and the manager
- Define principles and practices
- Delegate authority
- Analyze operations

## Meeting attendance requirements:

- **Monthly board meetings:** Board meetings are held 12 times per year, usually the fourth Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Other meetings:

Roseau Electric annual meeting; Minnkota annual meeting; MREA district meetings; other meetings to learn policies and procedures of the electric industry. Expect 5 - 12 extra days per year.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Report to the membership.
- Hire and delegate authority to the manager.
- Maintain legal entity and practices.
- Review and update Bylaws.
- Require a continuous member and public relations program.
- Keep informed and grow in skills of the program.
- See that members are informed of operations.
- See that accurate minutes are prepared and maintained.
- Consider and adopt plans for objectives and goals.
- Review and update policies.
- Examine and approve annual budget and cash flow.
- Review and approve a sound financial plan.
- Establish policies and programs for good employee relationships.
- Assist in planning meetings.
- Establish special or standing committees.
- Review responsibilities of board and manager.
- Approve the selection of consultants and attorney.
- Establish measures and controls to determine effectiveness of management.
- Authorize and review annual financial audit.
- Implementation and enforcement of this position description is the responsibility of the board of directors.

# Reach out for Warmth

Roseau Electric donates to  
Northwest Community Action



Sharon Millner, executive director of Northwest Community Action, receives two checks totaling more than \$27,000 from Alex McMillin, office manager, on behalf of Roseau Electric Cooperative and CoBank.

Once again, Northwest Community Action is grateful for the support of Roseau Electric and CoBank toward the Reach Out for Warmth (ROFW) program.

"We have many families facing obstacles that make it difficult to maintain their obligations to their utility company," says Sharon Millner, executive director. "The ROFW program is a blessing to many who may 'fall through the cracks' due to income, medical issues and other circumstances. These donations allow our agency to come alongside our northwestern neighbors in a time of need. We all know how critical our utilities are in maintaining our homes. We are thankful for our partners like Roseau Electric and their generosity."

CoBank and Roseau combined to make a donation of more than \$27,000 to Northwest Community Action. The CoBank money comes from its Sharing Success program.

A national nonprofit cooperative bank, CoBank matches contributions made by customers to the charitable organizations of their choice, with a maximum of \$10,000.

## Annual Notice of Federal Lifeline Program and Telephone Assistance Plan

You may be eligible for assistance on your telephone or internet bill if you receive benefits from certain low-income assistance programs. There are two programs:

**The Federal Lifeline Program** offers a monthly discount of \$5.25 on some landline and wireless telephone service plans. Lifeline also offers discounts of \$9.25 on some broadband internet service plans. You may receive the Lifeline discount on one service per household. The definition of a "household" is anyone living at an address including children, relatives, people not related to you, etc., who share income(s) and household expenses.

**Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP)** offers a monthly credit of \$10.00 on your landline telephone service plan. You may receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

**Qualifications** – The telephone or broadband service must be in your name. You must show proof that you or a member of your household participates in at least one of the following programs or is income eligible:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

If you do not participate in any of the programs listed above, you may qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the 2022 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

Household Size	Income
1	\$18,347
2	\$24,719
3	\$31,091
4	\$37,463
5	\$43,835
6	\$50,207
<i>For each additional person, add \$6,372</i>	

### How to apply

Contact Roseau Electric or download an application at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc). One application may be used to apply for both the Lifeline Program and TAP. Return the application and proof of eligibility to our office. It can take up to two months for discounts to appear on your bill. Discounts cannot be applied to past-due bills. You must pay the phone bill until that time.

## PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

**Energy assistance may be available!**

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

### Northwest Community Action

PO Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329  
[nwcaa.org](http://nwcaa.org)

### Bi-County Cap, Inc.

6603 Bemidji Ave. N  
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669  
(218) 751-4631

# Celebrate with Savings

## LED Lighting Rebate

Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations

### How to Apply:



1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2022.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to your utility or cooperative by Dec. 31, 2022, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **(Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

**MAIL TO:** Roseau Electric Cooperative • 1107 3rd Street NE • Roseau, MN 56751

## member connection

### ENERGY TIP

Cooler temps are here! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 11**  
Veterans Day;  
office is closed

**November 21**  
Electric bill is due

**November 24**  
Happy Thanksgiving;  
office is closed

**April 1**  
2023 Annual Meeting;  
Districts 2, 3, 4, & 7 are up  
for director elections

### 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://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

### WEBSITE

[www.roseauelectric.com](http://www.roseauelectric.com)

## OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	September 2021	September 2022	September 2021	September 2022
Members	6,612	6,644	6,612	6,644
kWh purchased	8,843,613	10,326,290	107,390,563	115,392,523
% change		16.77%		7.45%
Revenue	1,232,516	1,440,551	13,360,797	14,191,826
Cost of power	772,164	836,415	8,171,265	8,580,837
Other expenses	546,214	531,946	5,004,694	5,034,008
Operating margins	(85,862)	72,190	184,838	576,981
Nonoperating margins	8,052	18,068	130,093	69,799
Patronage dividends	-	28,904	179,055	198,651
Total margins	(77,810)	119,162	493,986	845,431



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

# BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS

We plan for birthdays, holidays and vacations. We plan our meals, our outfits and our weekends. We don't always remember to plan for power outages that may occur during winter. Whether it is a heavy snow, ice, cold temperatures or storms, it's important to be prepared in case your power is out for an extended period of time this winter season.

When preparing for an outage, here are five things you should remember:

**1** Retain indoor heat as long as possible. Do not open exterior doors unless absolutely necessary, and keep all blinds and curtains closed to preserve heat. Shield windows with additional coverings at night, like tacking a lightweight blanket to block cold air.

**2** Heavy snow and ice can damage transmission lines that supply power to homes in your community. If you see a downed power line after a storm, assume the line is energized and do not approach. Lines do not need to be sparking to be energized. If you see a down or sagging power line, contact Roseau Electric Cooperative.

**3** Having an emergency cold weather kit could make all the difference while crews are working to get your power back on. Your kit should include enough supplies to last every member of your household for at least three days.

**4** When using an alternate heating source (like a fireplace or woodstove), make sure you are following the operating instructions. Make sure you are taking precautions to avoid starting a fire and use the proper ventilation. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors.

**5** To help prevent your pipes from freezing, keep the faucets slightly on to allow a drip. In case a pipe does burst during a cold weather outage, learn how to turn the water on and off in your home or business.

## List of items you should keep in your Winter Emergency Kit:

- Battery-powered radio or TV
- Battery-powered flashlight with a fresh supply of batteries
- A three-day supply of nonperishable food. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options.
- Blankets
- Water
- Additional clothing layers
- Optional alternative heating source