

# VOLTS & VIEWS



## Co-op Appreciation Day

### Winners

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

**Gale Olson**  
*Roseau*

**\$100 Energy Bill Credit**

**John V. Anderson**  
*Northwest Angle*

**\$50 Energy Bill Credit**

**Martina Johnson**  
*Roseau*

**Glen O. Johnson**  
*Roseau*

**Jule Hanson**  
*Warroad*

**Don Melby**  
*Greenbush*

**Evelyn Castle**  
*Roseau*

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





# VOLTS & VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2021 – Vol. 66, 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 ..... Wes McFarlane  
Directors .. Roger Amundson, Brian Grafstrom  
Shawn Gust, 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.)

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



## Fall is giving way to winter

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

Fall is giving way to winter. While our crews have been taking advantage of the temperate weather, we know it's just a matter of weeks, if not days, before colder weather and snow puts an end to plowing and directional boring for the season.

We've hosted two events within the last thirty days — our first EV event and our Co-op Appreciation Month lunch. Both events were well attended and provided different opportunities to interface with our members.

The excitement of those presenting some of the newest electric vehicle technology was quite infectious. The doubts and concerns expressed by some of the attendees — such as vehicle driving range and cold-weather operations — were answered with good, current information on where the technology is now and where it is heading in the future. Range anxiety is a real thing.

An opportunity to join your

neighbor over lunch, register for some door prizes, and visit with your directors remains a very good reason to celebrate what it is to be a cooperative.

Coming next spring is an even better opportunity for members of Districts 2 and 5 to participate in the life cycle of your cooperative. Directors Amundson and McFarlane have announced that they will not be seeking reelection next spring. Please take time to read through the information on page 5. Note the townships included in the districts up for reelection. If you reside in one of the highlighted townships, have your name on a cooperative electric bill, and can commit yourself to the service opportunities explained, please consider filing a petition for election.

Veterans Day is up next. Please take time out to attend local services. And, later in the month, beyond the turkey and the stuffing, we have so much to be thankful for!

*Our offices will be closed*

**Thursday, Nov. 25,  
for Thanksgiving**

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



# Electricity prices remain stable as other energy costs rise

In Minnesota, the cost of energy matters. We use significantly more energy per capita than the average U.S. citizen with our cold winters and long-distance travel. The cost of heating and transportation fuels are on the rise, but Roseau Electric Cooperative forecasts stable pricing for electricity this winter season.

Member-consumers who participate in the off-peak electric heating program have seen rates remain flat in recent years, while fossil fuel prices fluctuate up and down consistently. In exchange for the discounted off-peak electric rate (about half the retail rate), consumers voluntarily allow electric heating systems and other interruptible loads to be temporarily turned off or switched to a backup fuel source (like propane) during periods of high demand for electricity across the region. By utilizing the off-peak program, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Roseau Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, avoids purchasing high-priced energy from other utilities or the energy market during peak demand periods.

The off-peak program proved extraordinarily valuable during the electric grid challenges experienced in February 2021, when widespread power outages and high market prices impacted Texas and other areas of the country. Minnkota and Roseau Electric Cooperative were able to strategically use the program to shield you from price volatility and other system issues.

As you plan for this winter season, we want to make sure our members know what to expect and are prepared for how increasing fuel costs have the potential to impact your home heating strategy.

## What can you expect this winter?

- **Higher propane, fuel oil and natural gas prices**

Expect to see the cost of home heating fuels much higher this winter compared to previous years. Propane prices are near double the cost compared to this time last year and are forecasted to remain high throughout the winter. Fortunately, the cost of electricity will stay stable this winter. For members that have off-peak electric heat, this is excellent news!

- **Stable electricity prices**

Natural gas price increases have contributed to wholesale electricity market prices being twice as high as they were last year. Your cooperative and Minnkota are able to avoid these issues because our power supply consists of coal, wind and hydro, which are not susceptible to fuel price spikes. The off-peak/load control programs can also be used to avoid the costly wholesale electricity market.

- **Potential for more off-peak load control hours**

With more wholesale electricity market volatility, members should expect the potential for more off-peak load control hours than in previous years. More than 200 hours of load control is possible during the winter season depending on wholesale power market prices and weather conditions.

## What can you do to prepare?

- **Switch to off-peak electric heating**

If you have a dual-fuel furnace, it is time to switch to off-peak elec-

tricity and use propane or fuel oil as a backup. This strategy will limit your usage of higher-priced heating fuels. Contact our energy experts today to find out more about how off-peak heating works and the incentives available for the installation of new off-peak electric heating equipment.

- **Fill your propane or fuel oil tank**

Be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank as soon as possible, and make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. If your propane tank gets low during extreme cold temperatures, it may not work properly. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season.

- **Check your furnace**

Make sure to change your furnace filter regularly. Contact a heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) professional to inspect/maintain your system as needed. Early attention to maintenance can help prevent failures in the heart of heating season.

Members will undoubtedly have to spend more on energy to heat their homes and for transportation this year, but the good news is that the price you pay for electricity is forecasted to remain flat. If you have questions about how to save on your winter heating bills or are having issues making payments, please contact our offices. We are here to help and can connect you with the right resources, no matter the situation.





# Roseau Electric celebrates Drive Electric Week

## Ride-and-drive event draws crowd to Roseau Electric Cooperative

Roseau Electric Cooperative marked a successful National Drive Electric Week (Sept. 25 – Oct. 3) with help from its power partners across the region. The co-op helped to plan and host *Northern Exposure: Driving Electric in Minnesota*, an electric vehicle (EV) awareness event. The ride-and-drive gathering was a hit, with curious attendees traveling from rural communities around northern Minnesota.

On Wednesday, Sept. 29, several entities – including Roseau Electric Cooperative, Minnkota Power

Cooperative, Northern Municipal Power Agency and the City of Roseau – teamed up for the community EV party, which drew a crowd of more than 150 people to the Roseau Electric Cooperative parking lot. Attendees signed up to drive one of three EVs, including the Mustang Mach-E available for purchase at the nearby Roseau County Ford. The waitlist filled up fast, and the EVs were leaving the lot as soon as they pulled in.

*Northern Exposure* also brought together charging expertise from

local co-ops and utilities, travel corridor information from the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the latest all-electric technology from the hometown Polaris. On top of the electric delights, the first 100 attendees were treated to free event t-shirts and a meal voucher for one of three on-site food trucks. Roseau mayor Dan Fabian also made an appearance, showing support for the afternoon of EV education.

To learn more about electric vehicles and our off-peak charging program, visit [EnergizeYourDrive.com](https://www.energizeyourdrive.com).



# 2022 director elections

**PETITION DEADLINE TUESDAY, FEB. 1, 2022**

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.

Three directors will be elected at the 2022 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 2 at the Roseau City Center. The directors whose terms expire in 2022 are: Wes McFarlane, District 2 (3-year term); Roger Amundson, District 5 (3-year term); and Shawn Gust, District 8 (3-year term).

## 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, 5 or 8 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 Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022.

**Petition for Nomination**

The following members wish to nominate *[insert name]* for the three-year term in Districts 2, 5 or 8 (insert "District 2, 5 or 8") director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the April 2, 2022, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 5, of the bylaws.

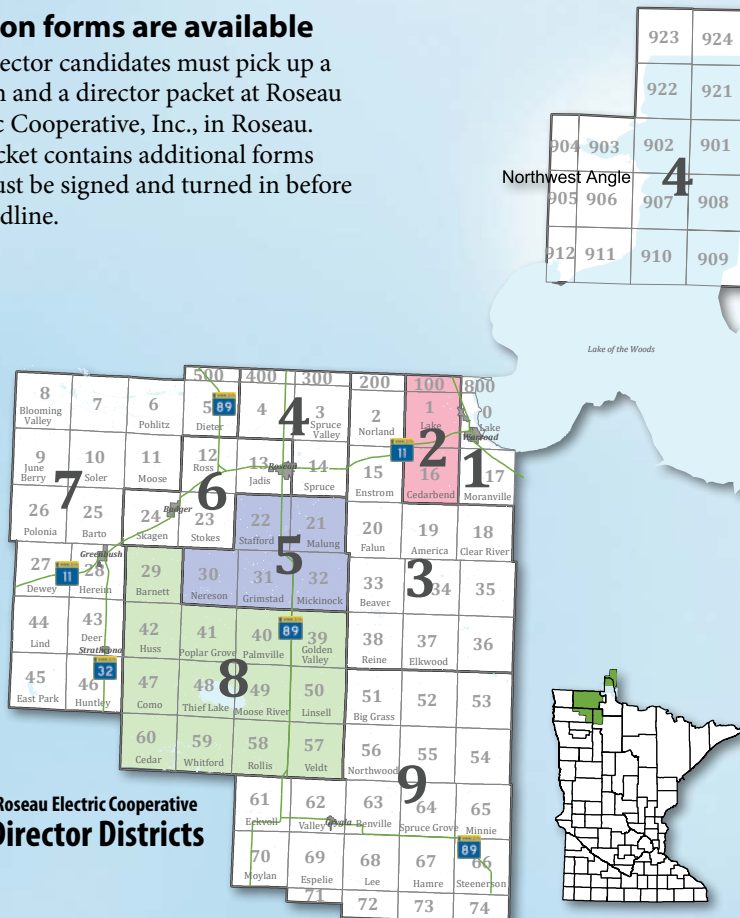
PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	CUSTOMER NO.
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20.		

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 2, 2022, elections will be held for each of Districts 2, 5 and 8 for a three-year term.

The directors whose terms expire in 2022 are as follows:

DISTRICT 2 3-year term Wes McFarlane	DISTRICT 5 3-year term Roger Amundson	DISTRICT 8 3-year term Shawn Gust
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Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 2, 5 or 8 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.



# So, you want to be a director

Three directors will be elected at the 2022 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 2. Directors whose terms expire in 2022 are District 2, Wes McFarlane; District 5, Roger Amundson; and District 8, Shawn Gust.

## 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



Anne Bertilrud, energy assistance director of Northwest Community Action, receives two checks totaling more than \$30,000 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" program.

"We have many families facing obstacles that make it difficult to maintain their obligations to their utility company," says Tim Anacabe, 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 \$30,000 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 2021 Federal poverty income guidelines.

Household Size	Income
1	\$17,388
2	\$23,517
3	\$29,646
4	\$35,775
5	\$41,904
6	\$48,033
<i>For each additional person, add \$6,129</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

# member connection

## ENERGY TIP

Winter is here! Cold temps, brisk winds and shorter days all equate to higher utility bills. Check all doors and windows to make sure they are closed securely and add plastic to windows containing air leaks.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### November 11

Veterans Day – Office is closed

### November 21

Electric bill is due

### November 25

Happy Thanksgiving! – Office is closed

### April 2

2022 Annual Meeting – Districts 2, 5 & 8 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)



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

# 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 2021.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to Roseau Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2021, 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  
P.O. Box 100 • Roseau, MN 56751

## OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2021	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2021
Members	6,564	6,612	6,564	6,612
kWh purchased	10,582,476	8,843,613	113,096,873	107,390,563
% change		-16.43%		-5.05%
Revenue	1,410,150	1,232,516	14,003,376	13,360,797
Cost of power	836,330	772,164	8,378,558	8,171,265
Other expenses	410,164	546,214	4,483,940	5,004,694
Operating margins	163,656	(85,862)	1,140,878	184,838
Nonoperating margins	13,734	8,052	129,574	130,093
Patronage dividends			25,260	179,055
Total margins	177,390	(77,810)	1,295,712	493,986

**+ ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR  
 CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSIONS  
 SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY**



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.

Tim Pull will instruct the classes, which are scheduled to be held in-person throughout the region. Attendees will be alerted by email if changing COVID-19 requirements impact course dates, times or venues.

This marks the 34<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. The classes will be held at the following locations:

**Tuesday, January 4**

Fargo Holiday Inn  
 3803 13th Ave South  
 Fargo, ND



**Wednesday, January 5**

Fargo Holiday Inn  
 3803 13th Ave South  
 Fargo, ND



**Tuesday, January 11**

Fergus Falls Eagles Club  
 120 S Peck Street  
 Fergus Falls, MN

**Tuesday, January 18**

Bemidji Eagles Club  
 1270 Neilson Ave SE  
 Bemidji, MN



**Tuesday, February 1**

Minnkota Power Cooperative  
 5301 32nd Ave South  
 Grand Forks, ND



**Wednesday, February 2**

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

The registration fee is **\$75 for eight code credits**. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. Registration can be done online at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com). Registration 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, call (701) 795-4292 or e-mail 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

**\$75 REGISTRATION FEE**