

VOLTS & VIEWS

APRIL 2023



Capital Credits – A Benefit of Membership

Your co-op returns \$650,000 back to members

Roseau Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative. In keeping with its principles, your cooperative is returning just over **\$650,000**, paying out 100% of remaining dividends to those members who received service from 2005-2008, as well as 22% of 2009.

Active members receiving dividends will see their capital credit amount as a credit on their April statement under Bill Summary. Inactive members will receive a check by mail. With this year's payout, your cooperative has returned over **\$15 million** in dividends.

Billing Summary

Previous Balance	\$427.00
Payment Received - Thank You!	-\$427.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00

Service Summary

Capital Credit Refund	-\$153.79
Electric Service	\$312.79
Internet Charges	\$45.00
Current Charges	\$204.00
Total Charges Due by 04/21/2023	\$204.00

Capital Credits 101



REC tracks the amount of electricity you use and pay for throughout the year.



At the end of the year, REC determines if there is excess revenue, called margins.



REC allocates the margins as "capital credits" to you, based on how much electricity you've used.



When REC's financial condition permits, the board of directors decides to pay, or retire, the capital credits.

VOLTS & VIEWS

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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 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

Faithful service

Dale Moser was elected to the Roseau Electric Cooperative board of directors in April 1978. For 45 years, Director Moser has faithfully served this electric cooperative, retiring as of our April 1, 2023 Annual Meeting. Oh, the cooperative-related stories he could tell! He's outlasted many directors – there watching over cooperative financials as the economy ebbed and flowed; there at the first mention of global warming; there for the board decisions bringing this cooperative's members services like C-band (large dish) television, DirecTV, stable off-peak heating rates, and finally fiber internet. Thank you, Dale, for setting an example of what it is to be a director!

Service to the membership is what we strive for here at Roseau Electric Cooperative. And, with

great appreciation, I can echo the sentiments found elsewhere in this newsletter – from Mr. Millner's column to the nice layout on page 4 with 10 things you may not know about lineworkers – we appreciate our linemen! What a job they do, from Grygla to the Northwest Angle, summer and winter, day and night, keeping the power on. Thank you, linemen!

Various and sundry

As spring approaches (yes, I know it officially started in March, but it was hard to appreciate that), we continue the process of securing FEMA funds related to the Lake of the Woods flooding. We are hopeful, as all the T's get crossed and I's dotted, that most of our summer 2023 construction effort in replacing damaged conductors, transformers, and other equipment on and around the Northwest Angle will be covered.

What fun to honor one of our extended cooperative family – congratulations, Brooke! (see page 5)

We publish the monthly financials in this newsletter. It hasn't been a good comparative start – down over 10% from last year this month. Hopefully, after reading last month's newsletter and attending your Annual Meeting, you're well aware of the reason for the \$2/month increase in the Facilities Charge affecting your April energy billing. If not, use it as a reason to establish or reestablish communications with your cooperative!



DALE MOSER
DIRECTOR

From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



With the first day of spring just behind us, hopefully Old Man Winter will rest until next fall. I am very pleased at the progress that we made over the winter. We were able to complete the LED light conversion project and serviced around 200 oil circuit reclosers. We also were able to clear quite a few trouble spots of trees and brush under our power lines. I believe that the maintenance of our electrical system has definitely paid for itself over the years and we have been blessed with very minimal power interruptions.

April is Lineworker Appreciation Month and April 10th is Lineworker

Appreciation Day. I know myself that I appreciate all the hard work and dedication that these guys display every day to keep your lights on. Looking back to my years on the line, some of my most memorable moments were restoring power and seeing the smile on the member's face when their lights came back on. We also received lots of help from our members during and after some of these storms. Everything from pulling us through muddy fields, to giving us a hot cheeseburger off the grill, and even one time we were given dry clothes to wear. What a great time to be alive and be a part of an electric cooperative. My hope

for the future is that our members won't forget what a blessing it is to be part of an electric cooperative. I will be really honest, I would get all excited when a major storm would roll in. Let the teamwork begin!

I have some quotes to share with you before I leave. "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall," were words from Nelson Mandela. Oprah Winfrey said, "If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." May your hooks stay sharp and your boat never sink! Mike



REC crew mowing brush in the power line right of way



REC crew cutting trees out of power lines

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.



You can also apply online:

<https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us/>

Northwest Community Action

PO Box 67

Badger, MN 56714-0067

218-528-3258 or 800-568-5329

nwcaa.org

Bi-County Cap, Inc.

6603 Bemidji Ave. N

Bemidji, MN 56601-8669

218-751-4631

NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 10, 2023 | #ThankALineworker

10 things you may not know about lineworkers

There is a lot to be thankful for during spring. Warmer weather, blooming flowers and the celebration of **National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 10**. To applaud the resiliency and dedication of our lineworkers, we are sharing 10 things you may not know about this important profession! **#ThankALineworker**

#1

Linework began in the 1840s with the invention of the telegraph. Strings were hung on trees, and later poles, to increase long-distance communication.

#2

Lineworkers climb electrical poles that range in height from 35 to 120 feet tall. They can carry around 50 pounds of protective gear with them up the pole.

#3

Lineworker duties include installing, repairing and maintaining distribution and transmission lines. They often encounter utility poles and transmission lines damaged by wildlife.

#4

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks lineworker as one of the most dangerous jobs in the country.

#5

Lineworkers often travel for work. On top of traveling throughout Roseau Electric Cooperative's entire service area, they can also provide additional support to surrounding electric cooperatives in need.

#6

Lineworkers start their careers with an apprenticeship program. After about 6,000-8,000 hours, they graduate to journeyman lineworker status. Roseau Electric Cooperative has employed lineworkers since it first started operation in 1940.

#7

While on the job, lineworkers wear special clothing that is fire-resistant/arc flash protective. They have specialized rubber gloves/sleeves when working around energized lines and wear boots with spikes or gaffs strapped to the sides to help make climbing safer and more efficient.

#8

Lineworkers use equipment belts around their waists to carry any tools or pieces of equipment they may need when repairing a pole. A few tools you can almost always find in a lineworker tool belt include hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, crimping tools, wire stripping tools, bolt cutters, and so much more!

#9

Lineworkers work in some of the harshest conditions Mother Nature has to offer. Snow, rain or shine, lineworkers do their best to keep the lights on all year long. Lineworkers are also some of the first to respond after major storms.

#10

REC wouldn't be able to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members without dedicated lineworkers!



BADGER FARM LASS WINS STATEWIDE AG PAGEANT

BY JEFF OLSEN, ROSEAU TIMES-REGION



Jandi and Jedd with Brooke after the pageant in Fairbault. Jedd is a lineman for Roseau Electric Cooperative.

Brooke VonEnde, 18, recently was crowned the 2023 Minnesota Miss United States Agriculture pageant winner in Fairbault.

It was an initial surprise to her parents last May when Brooke announced that she had completed all the paperwork to enter the Roseau County pageant.

She is a perfect fit for it – a spunky lass with a love of agriculture and riding high in the saddle – okay, the tractor seat, according to her mom, Jandi.

"She does everything from helping with the field work, driving the tractors, stringing bales, throwing bales, and doing the paperwork side of keeping our records," she said.

Is she a good deer hunter?

"Yes, she got a really nice nine-pointer this year. If she would have been in any of the local big buck contests this year, she would have won them."

Literally, she brings home the venison.

Plus, Brooke is a role model for the young kids in the Badger School.

She has been meeting with the Badger second graders to inform them about farming as a future career in this mostly rural community.

The VonEndes raise Texas Longhorns as well as a cross breed of female Texas Longhorns and full breed Angus, the offspring of which are called F-Ones.

They also raise small grains to feed their 60 head of cattle.

Brooke is game for whatever the weather conditions are and what needs to be taken care of, according to Jandi.

Go ahead and ask Jedd about his daughter and her role on their farm located six miles northeast of Badger.

"She is absolutely amazing, she runs all the equipment, and I don't have to ask her to do a damn thing."

Add dependability to her résumé.

And there's much more about the Minnesota Miss United States Agriculture winner.

Jedd remarked that she frequently fixes most of the equipment break downs.

"She's pretty handy with most things and figures it out before I have to get there."

Last Sunday evening, Brooke was finally tracked down and asked about the state pageant.

"In July, I got the Roseau County Miss Minnesota United States Agriculture title."

And then she advanced to Fairbault on December 3 to compete for the Minnesota title.

Was there a swimsuit competition?

She giggled

"No, there wasn't. There was a photogenic part where you entered photos of yourself. Next, there was an interview portion that included what you would do in a given situation and how you would advocate for agriculture."

This is a farm girl who doesn't mind cow manure on her cowboy boots.

The young lady, all of five-foot-one

and tipping the scales at 105 pounds, gets right in there with the Longhorns.

"I feed 'em, bed 'em, help with calving, and make sure the calves are doing good."

Then, she was asked if she got nervous during the competition in Fairbault.

"A little bit, yeah."

But it couldn't be any tougher than shoving aside a big Texas Longhorn.

"Next, we had the on stage introductions, and then we had the formal wear."

For the on-stage fun fashion, she wore a blue jumpsuit with the Polaris logo on it.

"My plans are to attend county fairs, 4-H shows, and a lot of other events," she said.

At the state competition, she also won the Minnesota People's Choice Miss United States Agriculture title.

"So, I have another crown and sash for that," she said, adding that she attends Northland Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks and is majoring in Farm Operations and Management.

When told that whoever catches her fancy someday should be a farm boy with a big farm, she giggled.

At the least, he better know how to shake off the manure on his boots before taking her out dancing.

She is the Minnesota Miss United States Agriculture pageant winner from Badger, Minnesota.

It's a deserving honor.

"And she informs them about where their food comes from and how farmers make a difference," said Jandi.



Kara Pasma, Mrs. Minnesota Earth USA; Crystal Chappuis, USA's Ms. Minnesota 2023; Brooke VonEnde, 2023 Minnesota Miss U.S. Agriculture; and Monica Joubert



Brooke is a straight shooter – her buck this November weighed 226 pounds and its horns scored 140 inches

April is National Safe Digging Month

If you are planning an outdoor project, don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**



That's right. Digging safety is so vitally important that there is an entire month dedicated to it. Your yard may be hiding underground utility pipes, cables and wires, so if you're planning a spring project that involves a shovel or excavator, it's critical to call 8-1-1 before you start. A quick call can keep your project on schedule, your family safe and your neighbors connected to the utilities they need.

Calling is critical

Installing a mailbox?
CALL 8-1-1.



Planting a garden?
CALL 8-1-1.



Building a deck?
CALL 8-1-1.



The process is easy

1 NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or submit a request online two to three days before you begin. The utilities affected by your digging will be notified of your project.



2 WAIT

It may take two to three days for utilities to send a locator to mark any underground lines.



3 CONFIRM

Compare the marks on your yard to the list of utilities contacted by 8-1-1. Confirm that all entities have responded to the request.



4 RESPECT

Protect and follow the utility markers – the flags and/or paint will remain important guides throughout your project.



5 DIG CAREFULLY

Be sure to avoid digging within two feet of the markers on all sides. If you can't, you'll need to consider moving your project.



Scan the code with your phone to submit a request online, or visit call811.com.

Happy
EASTER

Our offices will be closed Friday,
April 7, in observance of Good Friday

If you experience an outage,
call 1-888-847-8840.

**member
connection**

ENERGY TIP

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

Lifeline & 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:

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP)

Offers a monthly credit of \$10 on your landline telephone service plan. You may receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

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.

Fill out the applications found at northstreamfiber.com/lifeline-telephone-assistance-plan.

If applying for the TAP or Federal Lifeline Program discount, mail the application to the address below:

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. | P.O. Box 100 | Roseau, MN 56751-0100

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 7
Good Friday;
office is closed

April 9
Happy Easter!

April 21
Electric bill due

Looking ahead
July 12-13 – Bus Tour

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

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	February 2022	February 2023	February 2022	February 2023
Members	6,629	6,662	6,629	6,662
kWh purchased	17,370,156	15,883,606	36,809,452	33,073,261
% change		-8.56%		-10.15%
Revenue	1,894,948	1,809,110	4,020,029	3,741,379
Cost of power	1,170,422	1,097,791	2,425,470	2,246,173
Other expenses	545,753	533,789	1,141,259	1,141,234
Operating margins	178,773	177,530	453,300	353,972
Non-operating margins	13,004	27,504	38,539	55,634
Patronage dividends	-	-	-	-
Total margins	191,777	205,034	491,839	409,606



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

What's that in my yard?

If you're a homeowner, you likely have at least one form of utility electrical equipment somewhere in your yard. You should know how to care for the areas around equipment to ensure it remains reliable, safe and easily accessible.

Electric meter

What it does: An electric meter calculates your home's electricity consumption in kilowatt-hours. They are typically found on the side or back of a home. Although many modern electric meters take automated readings, it's still important to keep the equipment accessible to crews and first responders.

What you can do: Make sure shrubs and plants are trimmed (or removed) to allow a 3-foot access radius around the meter. Ensure that locked fences or animals don't obstruct emergency access.

Power pole

What it does: These tall poles are the infrastructure that keep overhead power lines safely out of reach. You will more likely have a power pole on your property if you are a rural member, but poles can be found within the city as well.

What you can do: Never attach anything to a power pole with nails, staples or even tape. Unauthorized attachments to poles could injure co-op employees or damage the pole's ground wire.

Pole transformer

What it does: These high-mounted transformers convert the overhead line's higher-voltage power to a usable lower voltage. Pole transformers are usually found near rural homes.

What you can do: Simply stay away from it! Avoid using extended tools or aerial equipment like drones around ANY power pole.

Utility pedestal

What it does: The utility pedestal may look like a pad-mounted transformer, but much smaller. This piece of equipment is seen more regularly in neighborhood yards, serving as a junction point to send the transformer's stepped down electricity to each home.

What you can do: Keep 3 feet of clearance on every side of the pedestal.

Pad-mounted transformer

What it does: This is a distribution transformer housed in safe metal cabinet, usually 4 feet by 4 feet and sitting on a small concrete slab. They are connected to underground lines and step down high-voltage power to supply residences. One transformer can serve many homes.

What you can do: Be sure you have 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (where the lock is), as well as 3 feet on all other sides. This means no plants, fences or other obstructions within that area.

