# **OCTOBER 2023** VOLTS VIEWS





## OUR SEVEN (OOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

October is National Cooperative Month and Roseau Electric Cooperative is proud to be the local electric cooperative for your region! As a cooperative, we operate a little differently than other electric utilities. Since we are memberowned and operated, we are rooted in seven key cooperative principles that guide us in always putting our members' needs first.

DEMOCRATIC

MEMBER

Members actively shape policies

and choices for our cooperative.

Directors are elected from within

our membership and held

accountable by our members.

All members also have

equal voting rights.

OPEN AND



### COOPERATION AMONG (OOPERATIVES

By cooperatives working together through local, national, regional and international structures, we can improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



### VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone who would reasonably use our services and embraces membership responsibilities, regardless of their background.



### AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous organizations controlled by their members! If the cooperative enters into an agreement with an organization or raises capital from an external source, it does so on terms that ensure democratic control for the membership.



As a cooperative, we are devoted to the sustainable development of our communities shaped by our membersupported policies.



Members invest fairly and control the cooperative's capital. Part of the capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Any surpluses are allocated by the members to serve goals like growth, reserve funds and approved ventures - and some even comes back to members in the form of capital credits!



### EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education empowers growth for the members, representatives and staff of Roseau Electric Cooperative. Spreading cooperative awareness enhances understanding of the cooperative and the cooperative way to the community and beyond.



Thank you to our members for your trust and stewardship throughout Roseau Electric Cooperative's years of providing affordable, reliable and safe energy to the region.

## **VOLTS & VIEWS**

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### 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

### **Cold Weather Rule**

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (CWR) is a state law offering some protection from having your electricity shut off between Oct. 1 and April 30. To qualify for that protection, you must be a residential (not a business) service, and you must establish, and follow through on, a reasonable payment plan.

Up until Oct. 1, we've been performing the difficult task of getting members "caught up" on past due billings so they don't roll into the winter season already behind on their billing.

Overnight we had 12 of our over 5,700 residential members shut off. We have information ready to refer you to aid agencies, but much of their winter budget does not get funded until well into Oct., making it very unlikely that there will be funding to help with what was billed through the summer months.

Personally, I've seen what seems to work and not work when working with our members through the anxiety of having a past due bill and no electricity, so each of these 12 situations may and often do result in a different set of arrangements and outcome. Professionally, your Board of Directors tasks me with protecting the rest of the paying membership from the cost of past due bills that lead to disconnect and eventually to write-offs.

With the high-inflation environment we live in, members are letting us know that they're at the point of choices of where the dollar gets spent—food, or electricity. That's why I believe Ruby's Pantry is a good match for your cooperative to partner with as a host distribution site. That's why Operation Round Up® evaluates and honors applications from local food shelves. Concern for community is intentionally ingrained in your cooperative.

As we cross the line into another CWR season, please help us help you. Communication with our office is key. Accepting our referrals to aid agencies, and following through on additional application work, is critical to getting you the assistance you need.

### **Operation Round Up**

Your Operation Round Up Board of Directors met on Monday, Sept. 18, to review the biannually submitted grant

applications. This is a group of individuals recommended and appointed by district, by their corresponding Roseau Electric Cooperative directors, to volunteer their time – meeting in March and September each year to process through grant applications received by our deadline dates of Feb. 28 and Aug. 31.

Operation Round Up, created by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in 1989, serves as a good template for cooperatives to give back to their communities, a program that has been adopted by more than 200 electric cooperatives nationwide.

The proceeds awarded towards approved grants come from rounding up your electric bill each month. From its introduction to the membership at our 2013 Annual Meeting, we've conducted this as an all-in, opt-out program for our members. To date over 90% of our members are part of this program, donating just over \$28,000 annually, with just over \$14,000 available for each biannual round of grants. Over the last 10 years, \$292,000 has been awarded to projects within our service territory.

That's a fair amount of history and introductory material to remind you how the program works! This latest round of grants served as a good reflection of how the program has matured within your cooperative, with many organizations knowing to submit each grant round, or choosing to submit only once a year. Most organizations reapplying know to always submit a complete application with proof of nonprofit status and a budget!

We have a few grant applications, each round, that are denied because the money would clearly be spent outside of our service territory. The most difficult duty of the board is to choose which organizations will be awarded a total of \$14,000 when, like in this round, we received requests totaling close to \$80,000.

While the board could elect to award around \$0.17 for each \$1 asked for, they choose to instead see where the best, most meaningful impact can be made. Projects whose total request could be paid for with a grant, and larger projects, where significant fundraising has already been done, are favored over projects where the ask is so large that our "small" grant would not seem to make a difference.



### From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent

Hard goods, for example in this round - computers, 800 MHz radios. heat pumps, and windows - are favored over program expenses or instances where it appears we're just giving the money to an organization that will then just give the money as scholarships or other grants. And the board, when the applications allow, tries to spread the funds from one end of the service territory to the other, north to south, east to west.

Do you know of a nonprofit operating within our service territory that could use funding? The Operation Round Up Board stands ready to keep making the tough decisions as to where the money should be spent. Keep those applications coming! Our next deadline is Feb. 28, 2024.

can't believe it is October already! Where has this summer gone? Looking back, we sure had a successful construction season. We basically didn't have one rain day to shut down progress and our summer storms were very minimal with very little repair work. I would like to take my hat off to all my guys for the long hours spent at the Northwest Angle working on flood damage repairs and also to the guys here at home keeping everything running smoothly. Thank you for working safely and keeping your mind in the game.

I'm going to have two crews out mowing and clearing right of ways soon and hopefully have them going most of the winter. We are testing several thousand poles now and will be replacing rejects or rebuilding complete lines where needed, mostly in the Grygla area and east.

I know we have been in harvest mode for a while now without any major mishaps with our power lines. Let's keep it that way - there are still quite a few acres left to harvest.

This is just a friendly reminder that Co-op Day is Tuesday, Oct. 17. Stop by for a great meal. It is also the perfect time for you to stop by my office to share any comments or concerns. Remember, my office is always open.

To be totally honest, I just love this time of year with pheasant, ruffed grouse and deer hunting going on. It was very sad for me to put my boat away, though! I believe all of these events are so special and memorable because of the friends and family that I share these activities with. I am excited to share more of these activities with my grandson, Cole. He is 2 ½ and spent a week with us again this summer. The first evening out fishing he caught three walleyes while sitting on Grandma's lap, then he enjoyed sitting on my lap driving Grandpa's boat. What great memories! I know Grandma Sharon has been waiting patiently for our little boy to come home with his parents to hunt some deer! Maybe he will want to shoot some ruffed grouse with his new shotgun Grandpa got him - LOL! My oldest son Cody married his wonderful bride, Helen, this September. We love her dearly and hope for many grandchildren

There have been many people that have crossed my path in my life and were so talented, but never used it to their full extent. They were just afraid to take a chance. Life is short and it might be scary at times, but it is worth taking that chance! I hope that I leave you with a smile or maybe a little optimism with these quotes: "In the end, it's not the years of your life that count. It's the life in your years," Abraham Lincoln said. "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking," said Steve Jobs. My daughter sent this last John Wooden quote to me quite a few years ago, and that is probably why I fish so much: "Do not let making a living prevent you from making a life." May your lights stay on and your arrows fly straight. Until we meet again...Mike

### **Operation Round Up®** grants total \$14,241

The Operation Round Up® (ORU) board met recently and a total of 11 grants totaling \$14,241 were awarded.

At the discretion of the ORU board, grants may be denied for a number of reasons. The top two reasons for most denials are funds would be spent outside of our service territory and/or funds would be spent for disposable or supply-type items.

Do you know of a worthy nonprofit organization in Roseau Electric's service territory that is raising money for a project? Please print an Operation Round Up® Grant Application and Guidelines form from our website and get it to the organization. The next application deadline is Feb. 28, 2024, with the decisions made and grant awards paid out by the end of March 2024. Thank you for your part in Operation Round Up<sup>®</sup>.

The ORU board of directors is as follows: Phil Kazmierczak, chair (District 6); Robert Bentow, vice chair (District 5); Laurie Polansky, secretary-treasurer (District 8); Marilyn Grafstrom (District 4); Allison Harder (District 7); Arvid Janson (District 2); Beth Karol (District 3); Kandy Sundberg (District 9) and Ron Tveit (District 1).



### The following organizations have been awarded Operation Round Up® grants

Benwood Community Center Heat Pump/Mini-split	\$500
<b>Grygla Celebration Committee</b> <i>Horseshoe Pits</i>	\$500
Grygla Fire Department Relief Association $800\ MHz\ Radio$	\$3,000
<b>Grygla Junior Community Club</b> <i>Brian W Olson Arena Improvements</i>	\$1,000
Malung Community Center Gym Lighting	\$1,000
North Region Pregnancy Care Center Laptop and Printer	\$1,150
Roseau County Historical Society Media Presentation Equipment	\$1,000
Roseau Eagles Auxiliary 3883 Fair-time Bingo Stand Upgrades	\$391
<b>Roseau Fire Department Relief Association</b> <i>Telescopic Ram</i>	\$3,000
Roseau Pioneer Farm and Village Nannestad Hall Restoration	\$1,500
<b>Roseau Youth Hockey</b> Fair Stand Electrical Upgrades	\$1,200
Total	\$14,241

## 2023 UNCASHED DIVIDEND CHECKS

We need your help. The individuals listed below were mailed a dividend check in early 2023. These funds remain unclaimed because either the individuals did not cash their check or because the U.S. Postal Service returned the letter with no forwarding address. If you know these individuals, please have them contact our office. Dividends will be distributed again in Spring 2024.

ABRAHAMSON, TRACEY, WANNASKA, MN ADAMS, JASON, AURORA, MN ALBERG, CHAD, WARROAD, MN ALBIN, ANDREW J., WARROAD, MN ALLIFEL COMMUNICATIONS, LITTLE ROCK, AR AMERICAN FAMILY MTG/ADVANCED FAMILY, FARGO, ND AMSBAUGH, DENNIS, WILLISTON, ND ANDERSON, CARL, WARROAD, MN ANDERSON, CAROLINE M., BADGER, MN ANDERSON, JASON, WARROAD, MN ANDERSON, JOSEPH H., WILLIAMS, MN ANDERSON, LANCE, ROGERS, MN ANDERSON, MARILOU, GRYGLA, MN ANDERSON, PEARL, GREENBUSH, MN ANDERSON, ROBERT R., HALLOCK, MN ANDERSON, RUTH E., LONG PRAIRIE, MN ANTONE, PHYLLIS, SCOTTSDALE, AZ ARCHER, LUKE D., WARROAD, MN AUSTAD, BRANDON, BAGLEY, MN AUSTAD, GARRETT, SALOL, MN AYALA, ANGIE M., KENNEDY, MN BACCAM, PHAYBOUN, BUTTERFIELD, MN BACH, SARA L., GRYGLA, MN BACHMANN, FRANCES M., DETROIT LAKES, MN BAKKEN, DAYLON, WARROAD, MN BAKKEN, TORRIS, MAPLE GROVE, MN BANK OF AMERICA, LOUISVILLE, KY BARRY, DANIELLE, WARROAD, MN BARTZ, STEVE, TWO HARBORS, MN BASSETT, BERTIE L., STRATHCONA, MN BAUMGARTNER, SCOTT, ANGLE INLET, MN BEAUDRY, JEROME, GREENBUSH, MN BECKLIN, DALE, MADISONVILLE, LA BEITO, EVELYN, GREENBUSH, MN BENGTSON, LEANNA, NEWFOLDEN, MN BENNETT, LAURIE, WARROAD, MN BERGER, GILMER A., DETROIT LAKES, MN BERGERON, JACE E., MOORHEAD, MN BERNSTEIN, MATHILDA F., GATZKE, MN BEYER, ALEXIS L., WARROAD, MN BIBLE C. WILDERNESS, GRYGLA, MN BISHOP, CONNIE, DETROIT LAKES, MN BISKUP, GERALD W., COLUMBUS, GA BITEMAN, MARIANN, SWEET HOME, OR BJORNSON, LINDA, MOUNTAIN, ND BLOCK, CLIFFORD W., WOODSTOCK, IL BLUMMER, TIM M., GREENBUSH, MN BOAST, KELLY, AUBURN, NY BORDER STATE BANK, BADGER, MN BORDER STATE BANK, ROSEAU, MN BOUNEVONGXAY, PHOM, WINFIELD, KS BOUTAIN, WAYNE, SALOL, MN BREEDEN, HOWARD, WARROAD, MN BREILAND, DENNIS, INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN BRENHAUG, PHYLLIS, ROSEAU, MN BREUER, BRADLEY R., THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN BROTHERSTON, TAMMY R., GREENBUSH, MN BULEY, KEVIN R., ROSEAU, MN BURGESS, VEALEY, ONSTED, MI CAMPBELL, GEORGE R., WARROAD, MN CARLSON, ALLAN, ROSEAU, MN CARLSON, CLARENCE D., HIBBING, MN CARLSON, LOIS I., BADGER, MN CARLSON, OSCAR W., BADGER, MN CASTLE, ANGIE A., THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN CENLAR FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK, EWING, NJ CHANTHALA, PHAENGDARA, MANDAN, ND CHANTHALANGSY, VIVONE, WARROAD, MN CHARTIER, LANCE, WARROAD, MN CHIODO, GLENN, PARK RAPIDS, MN CHITMANY, SAENGCHANH, WARROAD, MN CLARK, QUINTIN, ROCHESTER, MN CLOSED MOLDED COMPOSITES, INC, GRYGLA, MN CLOSED MOLDED, INC, FERTILE, MN COLE, COURTNEY, ROSEAU, MN COUNTRY SIDE CAR WASH, WARROAD, MN CRIPPEN, TODD, CASS LAKE, MN DAHL, TONY, ROSEAU, MN DALLMAN, DANIEL J., CODY, WY DAVENPORT, RUSSELL, MARQUETTE, MI DE MARS, DONALD L., RED WING, MN DELL, TERRI N., BARNETT, MO DICKSON, MARC J., SALOL, MN DIETER, MYRON, PIERRE, SD DIETZLER, GARY E., FERGUS FALLS, MN DONATELL, JOSHUA M., WANNASKA, MN DRAUGHN, PATRICIA, WAUKESHA, WI

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HOLTER, TRACY, WARROAD, MN

## STAY A STEP AHEAD

## **During Cybersecurity Awareness Month**

As we get smarter about all of the ways cybercriminals can target our personal information, the cybercriminals are getting smarter, too. They only remain effective by staying one step ahead of their victims. More advanced cybercrime techniques have taken hold in 2023, and Roseau Electric Cooperative wants to make sure our members are aware and taking steps to protect themselves.

> They are using artificial intelligence (AI) for smoother infiltration.

Al can serve as a sneaky tool to help scammers trick you in more than one way. Al can help them clone voices that you may recognize or write in a style that you trust. In addition to using AI tools to fool you, you must also remember that any personal information you type into an Al generation platform (like ChatGPT) could be accessed and used by a cybercriminal. Be careful!

They know you are more mobile, and they're taking advantage of it.

The company you work for likely has many cybersecurity protections in place on its systems. However, when you are working remotely or using your smartphone to do business, your information may be more vulnerable. Talk with your information technology (IT) representative about integrating multi-factor authentication and/or a secure VPN to make sure vou are protected on the go.

They are getting better at hiding phishing schemes.

Scammers know that you no longer trust a strange-looking URL in your email, so they're hiding malicious links behind Google Translate links. Hover over a link to see if it contains https://translate.google.com. If it does, do not click on it.

Criminals may also use image attachments in emails to get around security that focuses on email body text. If you're unsure about a link or callback information in an attached image, do not click or call.

They are using many channels to scam you – often all at once.

Email used to be the main platform scammers would use to get you to hand over your personal information. However, since spam/junk filters have improved, they are targeting other platforms like social media. text messaging, and even collaboration tools like Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Be vigilant when using any technology platform - scammers have found ways to use them all.

### **NEED HELP 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

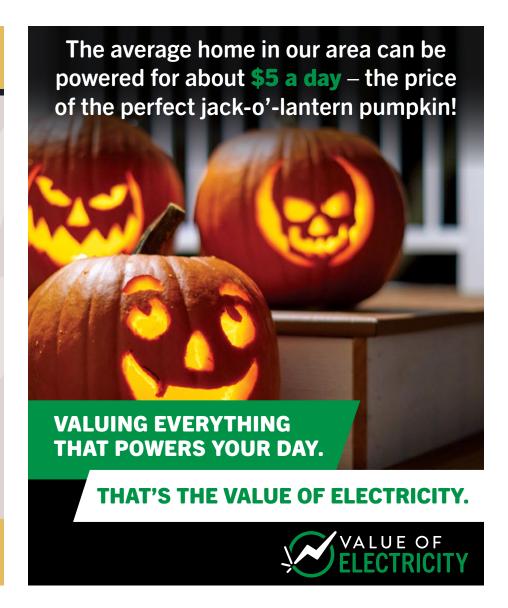
### BI-COUNTY CAP, INC.

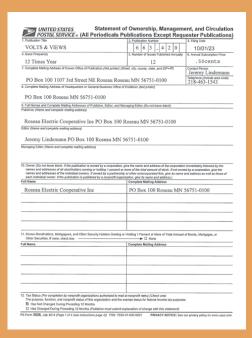
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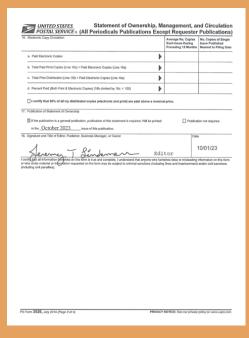
You can also apply online:

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





Newslet	ture	& VIEWS	Septemb	er 2023	
Newslet		of Circulation		September 2023	
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g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))			10	10	
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Percent Paid (15c divided	by 1	6/ times 100)	99	99	
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## **CO-OP APPRECIATION DAY** Tuesday, October 17

### **Serving lunch from** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please join us for turkey on a bun, beans, chips & cookies. Sign up for prizes and enjoy visiting with your co-op friends and neighbors!

### STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations/policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal/retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA; not all bases apply to all programs; remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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### **OPERATING STATISTICS**

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	August 2022	August 2023	August 2022	August 2023
Members	6,644	6,682	6,644	6,682
kWh purchased	10,509,182	10,732,238	105,066,233	101,386,630
% change		2.12%		-3.50%
Revenue	1,419,059	1,481,244	12,751,275	12,685,537
Cost of power	84,231	862,832	7,744,423	7,613,578
Other expenses	1,299,084	476,021	4,502,061	4,386,172
Operating margins	35,744	142,391	504,791	685,787
Non-operating margins	10,673	47,812	51,731	95,509
Patronage dividends	-	-	169,747	26,767
Total margins	46,417	190,203	726,269	808,063

# member connection

### **ENERGY TIP**

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use. For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: energy.gov

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

October 17 Co-op Day

October 21

Electric bill due

November 5

Daylight saving time ends; "fall back" one hour

November 10

Office closed in observance of Veterans Day

> November 11 Veterans Day

### **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

roseauelectric.coop





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