

# VOLTS & VIEWS

 **Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**NORTHSTREAM**  
FIBER  
Powered by Roseau Electric Cooperative



## *Co-op Appreciation Day*

### WINNERS

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

**Gayle Rice**  
*Roseau*

**\$100 Energy Bill Credit**

**Marvel Monkman**  
*Salol*

**\$50 Energy Bill Credit**

**Tyrone Abrahamson**  
*Wannaska*

**Laverne Voll**  
*Salol*

**Shirley Kupper**  
*Roseau*

**Raygene Moser**  
*Salol*

**JoAnn Hedlund Bell**  
*Roseau*

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

# VOLTS & VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2023 – Vol. 68, No. 11

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

**Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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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, Kermit Jensen,  
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.*

## Electric co-ops give thanks



This Thanksgiving season, your team at Roseau Electric Cooperative is bursting with gratitude. As we reflect on all of the things that make us the best electric co-op we can be, it's difficult to pare down that endless list of thanks to a top five. But we think we did it, and we want to share that appreciation with you!

Roseau Electric Cooperative is thankful for...

- Our local communities
- New technology
- our employees
- Resource diversity and responsibility
- YOU

Happy Thanksgiving from Roseau Electric Cooperative!

**Our offices will be closed**

**Thursday, Nov. 23, for Thanksgiving**

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



# From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



What a busy fall! I don't like to wish time away, but I'm relieved that the ground is getting hard and construction will slow down a bit. We are busy now with some line rebuilds and will also be doing some aggressive right-of-way mowing. I'm hoping we do not end up with too much snow this winter – that would definitely hinder mowing. We did have a bout with some heavy wet snow a few weeks back that caused numerous outages. We had around 800 customers out of power in a 12-hour span. I know we were all ready to go home after the final customers were restored.

We had a very successful Co-op Day in October. I had a chance to visit with several people and really enjoyed the conversations.

Rifle deer season is in full swing. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable season. I'm looking forward to having the kids home again. My daughter and grandson are flying into Thief River Falls, and I know grandma can't wait to see her little boy, Cole!

I have a few fun quotes to share with you before I go. "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot," said Michael Altshuler. Amy Clooney said, "Be courageous. Challenge orthodoxy. Stand up for what you believe in. When you are in your rocking chair talking to your grandchildren many years from now, be sure you have a good story to tell."

I ran across something that I found interesting the other day. It was a 1957 Harvard study by Dr. Kurt Richter. He placed rats in a pool to see how long they could

tread water. On average, due to exhaustion, they would sink and drown after 15 minutes. However, right before they gave up due to exhaustion, the researchers would pluck them out, dry them off, let them rest for a few minutes and then put them back in for round two. You are not going to believe

how long they would tread water before giving up. They would swim on average 60 hours before giving up. What could belief in yourself do? Push yourself. Keep swimming and never quit!

May your lights stay on and your arrows fly straight. Until we meet again...Mike



Linemen preparing a basement for a transformer to be set for a new service



Linemen using the vacuum trailer to locate underground wires



Line crew assisting NorthStream Fiber in installing fiber-optic cable near Warroad

# ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

## CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

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 northwestern Minnesota.

# JANUARY 2024

Instructor Tim Pull will cover the 2024 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 10, 2024**

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



**Thursday,  
January 11, 2024**

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



**Thursday,  
January 18, 2024**

*Bemidji Eagles Club*  
1270 Neilson Avenue SE  
Bemidji, MN



**Tuesday,  
January 23, 2024**

*Bigwood Event Center*  
921 Western Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN



**Tuesday,  
January 30, 2024**

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



**Wednesday,  
January 31, 2024**

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



This marks the 36<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 email 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

# 2024 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

**PETITION DEADLINE TUESDAY, FEB. 6, 2024**

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 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 6 at the Roseau School Theater. The directors whose terms expire in 2024 are: Jim Hallan, District 1 (3-year term); Ed Walsh, District 6 (3-year term); and Mark Sax, District 9 (3-year term).

## NOMINATION BY PETITION

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

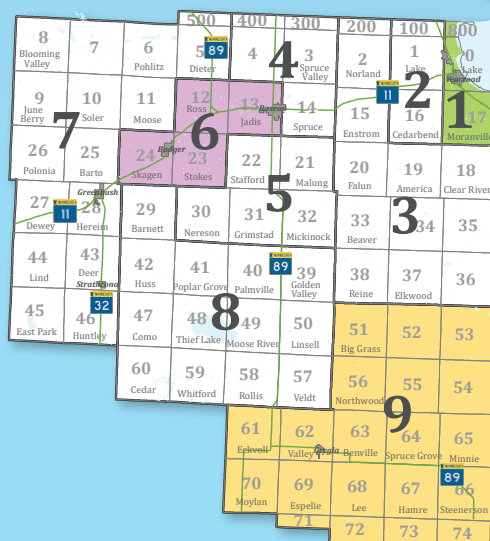
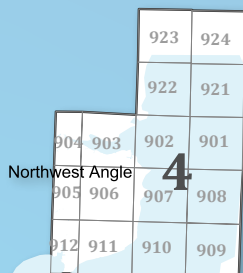
Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 1, 6 or 9 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.

## PETITION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE

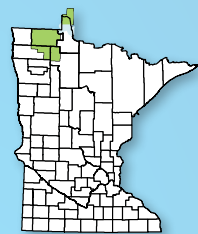
Director candidates must pick up a petition and a director packet at Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Roseau. The packet contains additional forms that must be signed and turned in before the deadline.

## PETITION DEADLINE

The cooperative must receive the completed petition **no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.**



Roseau Electric Cooperative  
**Director Districts**



# SO, YOU WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR

Three directors will be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 6. Directors whose terms expire in 2024 are: Jim Hallan, District 1; Ed Walsh, District 6; and Mark Sax, District 9.

## 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 \$32,000 from Jeremy Lindemann, member service director, 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 \$32,000 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.

## 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.**  
6603 Bemidji Ave. N  
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669  
218-751-4631



You can also apply online:

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

## 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 2023 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

### How to apply

Contact Roseau Electric or download an application at [mn.gov/puc](https://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.

Household Size	Income (48 contiguous states, D.C., and territories)
1	\$19,683
2	\$26,622
3	\$33,561
4	\$40,500
5	\$47,439
6	\$54,378
7	\$61,317
8	\$68,256

*For each additional person, add \$6,939*

# member connection

## ENERGY TIP

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen! When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy. When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Department of Energy

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### November 10

Office closed in observance of Veterans Day

### November 11

Veterans Day

### November 21

Electric bill due

### November 23

Happy Thanksgiving; office is closed

### April 6

2024 Annual Meeting;  
Districts 1, 6, & 9 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

[roseauelectric.coop](https://roseauelectric.coop)



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

# Celebrate with Savings

## \* LED Lighting Rebate \*

\* Buy energy-efficient holiday lights and decorations \*

### How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED holiday plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2023.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to your utility or cooperative by Dec. 31, 2023, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Lights on String	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

## OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	September 2022	September 2023	September 2022	September 2023
Members	6,644	6,699	6,644	6,699
kWh purchased	10,326,290	9,873,337	115,392,523	111,259,967
% change		-4.39%		-3.58%
Revenue	1,440,551	1,395,839	14,191,826	14,081,377
Cost of power	836,415	825,325	8,580,837	8,438,904
Other expenses	531,946	501,393	5,034,008	4,887,565
Operating margins	72,190	69,121	576,981	754,908
Non-operating margins	18,068	37,371	69,799	132,879
Patronage dividends	28,904	26,592	198,651	53,359
Total margins	119,162	133,084	845,431	941,146

# FIVE ELECTRIC *Ways to Warm*

The cold has finally slipped into the region, so you've likely had a chance to try out your heating system for the season. Now is a good opportunity to ask yourself these questions:

- Am I warm enough?
- Am I worried about volatile propane/fuel oil prices?
- Are there ways I can save money on heating?
- Could I be more energy efficient?
- Is it time for smarter technology?



*If you wavered for a moment on any of these questions, it may be time to start researching off-peak electric heating options. Roseau Electric Cooperative has put together a list of our most popular electric heating options to make that search a little easier. Visit [ValueOfElectricity.com](http://ValueOfElectricity.com) to learn more!*

ELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY	HOW IT WORKS	SAVINGS INCENTIVES
<b>Air-source heat pump</b>	Unlike a furnace, an air-source heat pump (ASHP) doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It simply uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. A standard ASHP is a self-contained system that uses existing ductwork. The system is composed of an outdoor compressor unit and an indoor air handling unit.	Rebate of <b>\$150/ton</b> (or more) Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Mini-split heat pump</b>	Similar to an ASHP, a mini-split heat pump is run by a compressor unit placed outside of your home – but it doesn't need ductwork. The unit is connected to an indoor unit by small cables and a refrigerant line. The indoor unit is typically mounted in the room that is being heated.	Rebate of <b>\$150/ton</b> (or more) Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Thermal storage heater</b>	Electric thermal storage heaters convert off-peak electricity to heat and store this low-cost heat to keep a home comfortable all day. The system contains electric heating elements that lie within specially designed, high-density ceramic bricks. When the room thermostat calls for heat, it is extracted from the unit's storage core and distributed evenly in the home.	Rebate of <b>\$45/kW</b> (or more) Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Underfloor storage heating</b>	Underfloor heating has quickly become a favorite for those seeking ease and comfort on chilly days. The system can be installed at construction or during renovation. Warmth rises from the floor and spreads evenly through a room, garage or shop building.	Rebate of <b>\$25-45/kW*</b> (or more) <i>*dependent on radiant or slab</i> Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Electric plenum heater</b>	Easily adapted to an existing fuel oil or gas/propane forced-air system, a plenum heater uses your existing furnace fan to move air across the plenum heater elements to heat your home. Both your fossil fuel furnace and the electric plenum heater use the same thermostat and ductwork. In most cases, a plenum heater can be installed in conjunction with an air-source heat pump.	Rebate of <b>\$25/kW</b> (or more) Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>