



NewsFlash

MAY 2023



Great Turnout Again for LREC's 2023 Annual Meeting!

We had a great 86th annual meeting on April 13th! Once again we had in-person meetings in Fergus Falls, Frazee, and Parkers Prairie, together with a livestream option. Nearly 1,200 people attended the event either in-person or via livestream – marking the second year in a row that attendance for LREC's annual meeting has been around 1,200. Providing several meeting attendance options has worked very well these past two years. LREC members who were unable to attend the live meetings are encouraged to watch the annual meeting video at www.lrec.coop/annualmeeting. I look forward to the annual meeting each year because it is such a great example of all of us working together at the grassroots level – member-owners coming together to elect their directors who make decisions on a local level that are in the best interests of the co-op's membership.

Before the meeting and during the meal catered by Betty's Pantry, Tim

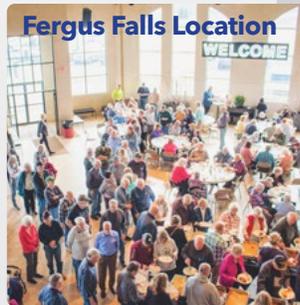


Tim Eggebraaten

known as the "Off Duty Chief," kept our members and attendees entertained by playing live music and interacting with the crowd.

LREC's Board Chair Tom Jennen opened the meeting and spoke about being grateful for his opportunity to serve on a board elected by our members. Jennen recognized the retirement of District 8 Director Sid Wisness and his 15 years serving the LREC membership. Jennen stated that the LREC

Board of Directors approved general service rate changes that will go into effect in September. Jennen highlighted the fact that member-owners of LREC are the reason for LREC's existence, and that LREC would not be in business if not for all of them. I could not agree more. Jennen thanked LREC's employees who are committed to serving all of you.



Fergus Falls Location

LREC had a successful year in 2022, including positive member feedback, rate stability, and LREC's continuing prioritization of reliability as shown by the recent upgrades made by LREC and Great River Energy (GRE) to transmission lines and substations. I greatly appreciate our board of directors and its focus on safety, reliability, and affordability. The board also supports investing in innovative technology like *Exacter* that is able to identify equipment in pre-fail conditions before outages occur, and *AiDash*, which provides us imagery of our service territory that we never had before. This allows us to specifically target and attack the areas where trees and other vegetation interfere with our system.

As mentioned in prior newsletters, at the January district meetings, and through social media, LREC had a cost-of-service study completed by an independent rate consultant last year. This study guided the board's decision to make rate changes that will go into effect in September. At the annual meeting, I explained the reasons for the LREC rate changes, most notably the increased wholesale cost

The Value of Electricity



Most of the time, it's easy to take electricity for granted. When you walk into a room, flip a switch, and the lights come on, you likely aren't thinking about the importance of electricity. In fact, it may be only when the lights don't immediately turn on that we realize how much we rely on electricity. Take a moment to consider all the necessities and conveniences you enjoy because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

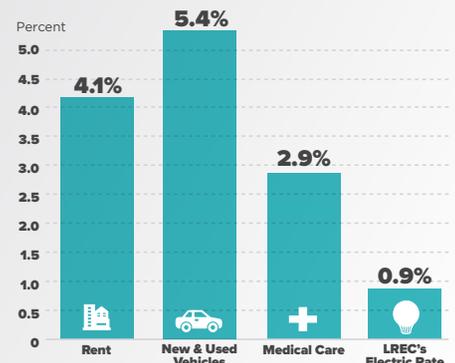
Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. How many mobile devices, televisions, tablets, computers, gaming consoles, and smart devices do you have in your home? Now look around your kitchen – life without modern appliances such as your coffee maker, toaster, and microwave would be difficult. Electricity runs all of them, and that's not even getting into common necessities such as your refrigerator, stove, heating and air conditioning, and hot water.



The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it remains a bargain. The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022
CPI for Midwest

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



Tim Thompson's CEO Column continued on the back →



LREC offices will be closed for **Memorial Day** on May 29th

of power and higher costs of materials. Another reason the changes will go into effect in September is so we have sufficient time to communicate and explain the changes to all of you. One great feature at the annual meeting this year was that we had a rate booth at each site that allowed members an opportunity to see exactly what their bills will look like after the new rate changes go into effect. Financially, LREC is in a strong position and a record amount of \$1,859,794 of capital credits was paid to members in 2022.

Special guest Zac Ruzycki, director of resource planning for Great River Energy (GRE), presented on GRE's generation resources, including key reliability assets such as GRE's gas peaking generation. Ruzycki discussed the Carbon Free Standard law passed in Minnesota earlier this year and indicated that GRE is well positioned to be in compliance with the law with minimal action because of decisions GRE and its members have made since 2010 in anticipation of a carbon constrained policy landscape. Ruzycki concluded his presentation by sharing that GRE is (1) *competitively positioned for compliance with new governmental policies*; (2) *early actions and decisions in past years have yielded long-term rewards*; and (3) *that GRE has a diverse resource mix that addresses energy and reliability needs*.



LREC welcomes one new director, Jim Gronbeck, who was elected by acclamation in District 8. Incumbent director Cecil "Bud" Hensel of District 2 was elected by acclamation, and incumbent director Patrick Meyers of District 5 was elected by acclamation. Gronbeck will fill the open seat left by Sid Wisness, who retired after serving as District 8 Director for 15 years.

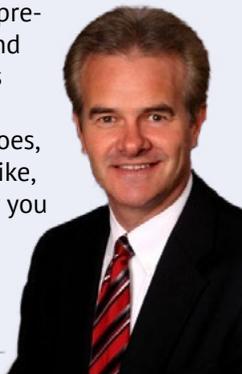
You are all invited to our upcoming LREC events!

Energy Forum // May 18th

I invite you to attend an energy forum hosted by LREC at Thumper Pond in Ottertail City on May 18th. The event will start at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 11:30 a.m. A light breakfast will be provided during the energy forum. LREC will host the event, Jeff Haase of GRE will serve as moderator, and panelists from the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), GRE, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and Mining Minnesota will share their expertise and engage with those of you who can attend. I am excited that LREC can be a part of this event!

LREC Member Appreciation Day // June 8th

I also invite you to come visit us on June 8th at Glendalough State Park, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. We will be celebrating all of you during our LREC Member Appreciation Day. LREC will be providing food and you will have free entry to the park. LREC's electric vehicle will be available for test drives, and we will have electric bikes, canoes, paddle boards, kayaks, row boats, a hydrobike, and an assortment of 30 other bicycles for you to enjoy during the event. The purpose of this event is to get together, engage, and enjoy one of the many beautiful parts of our service territory!



Tim Thompson

LREC Awards \$36,300 in Funding to Local Organizations

Lake Region Electric Cooperative's (LREC) voluntary charitable fundraising program Operation Round Up (ORU) hosted its quarterly meeting on April 10th. During the meeting, the ORU Board of Trustees awarded a total of \$36,300 to 16 local organizations and programs across LREC's service territory. Since ORU began in 2007, LREC has awarded \$596,120 and has made an enormous impact on the members and communities LREC serves. Organizations receiving funds this quarter are:



- ◆ **\$5,000** to the *Frazee Community Development Corp/Wannigan Park Project*
- ◆ **\$3,000** to *BIO Girls*
- ◆ **\$2,500** to the *Barnesville Area Community Fund*
- ◆ **\$2,000** to *Building A Legacy Education Foundation*
- ◆ **\$1,400** to *Otter Cove Children's Museum*
- ◆ **\$1,000** to *Moccasin Valley*
- ◆ **\$1,000** to the *Clay County Fair & Agricultural Association*
- ◆ **\$400** to the *Pelican Rapids Living At Home Block Nurse Program*
- ◆ **\$5,000** to *Tyler Wohler's Trail*
- ◆ **\$2,500** to the *Minnesota Firefighter Initiative*
- ◆ **\$1,000** to the *Pine to Prairie Antique Tractor and Gas Engine Association*
- ◆ **\$1,500** to *Women United of Otter Tail County*
- ◆ **\$3,500** to *Friends-of-Friends Fighting Hunger*
- ◆ **\$2,500** to the *Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center*
- ◆ **\$3,000** to *Faith Haven Camp, Inc.*
- ◆ **\$1,000** to *Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Church Quilters*

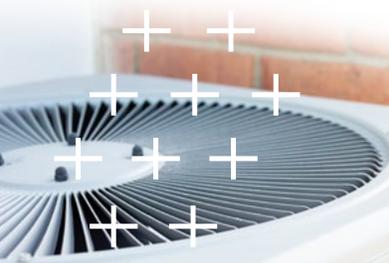
To learn more about the organizations that received funding, please follow our Facebook page ([@LakeRegionElectricCoop](#)) as we connect with and spotlight recipients. If you have a community project that needs funding, please complete the online *Operation Round Up Request for Funding* form found at [www.lrec.coop/oru](#) and submit it with supporting documentation for consideration. Applications for the next round of funding will be accepted until **June 15th, 2023**.

As an LREC member, you can participate in ORU by donating the extra change on your electric bill when rounding up to the next dollar (\$0.01-\$0.99 each month). To sign up, members can visit the LREC website, log into SmartHub, email billing@lrec.coop, or call (800) 552-7658.



The Operation Round Up Board of Trustees is smiling ear to ear after voting to award \$36,300 to 16 ORU recipients on April 10th.

Front (left to right): Ruth Vetter, Karen Hart, Patty Johnson, Kristie Partain, and Denise Laymon. **Back (left to right):** Nick Murdock, Tex Larson, and Don Davenport.



REBATES UP TO \$1,300 FOR AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate	Note: rebates are available through June 30 th , 2023.
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$600	
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$1,300	

By switching to air source heat pumps, you can reduce your energy bills as you'll be using the outside air for your heating and cooling needs. **Act now and receive a super-sized, limited-time rebate!**

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. Unit must be paid for and installed by June 30th in order to qualify.

Member Appreciation Event

at Glendalough State Park

THURSDAY
JUNE 8TH
3 PM to 7 PM

LREC members are invited to enjoy a wonderful evening at Glendalough State Park with **free park admittance** on June 8th. We will be **grilling hotdogs and brats** with all the fixings from 3 p.m.-7 p.m. We've partnered with *Galloping Goose Rentals*, to provide a **variety of equipment free of charge**: bikes (adult, kid, and child carriers), kayaks, canoes, rowboats, hydro bike, and paddle boards. Additionally, at the top of every hour, LREC line-men will conduct a **safety demonstration** with our safety trailer.



We are looking forward to a great summer evening with our membership! Please register for the event by filling out the form at www.lrec.coop/memberevent



Glendalough State Park
24869 Whitetail Lane
Battle Lake, MN 56515



Free Park Admittance • Free Dinner • Free Galloping Goose Equipment Rentals

ENERGY FORUM

A Cooperative Conversation



Join Lake Region Electric Cooperative at our upcoming Energy Forum! There will be a diverse panel of presenters from the *Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA)*, *Great River Energy (GRE)*, *National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)*, and *Mining Minnesota*. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn, engage, and interact. A light breakfast is included.



If you are interested in attending this *free* event, please register at www.lrec.coop/2023energyforum

MAY 18th
8:30AM-11:30AM
Thumper Pond in Ottertail City