

# Connections

February 2019

For the member-owners of Brown County REA



Volume 23, Issue 2

## Former Federated

**members:** Call 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520; ask for Angie or e-mail [ziemer@federatedrea.coop](mailto:ziemer@federatedrea.coop).

21st Century Wireless	Edina
Abrahamson, David G.	Sherburn
Ahrens, Gary W.	Windom
Albrecht, G.C.	Fairmont
Alencar, Carlos & Zilda	Round Lake
Anderson, John O.	Burnsville
Askew, David	Scandia, KS
Aumer, Bill	Milford, IA
Bell, Rae	Welcome
Berg, Shawn	Sherburn
Berhow, Kim L.	Fairmont
Berhow, Kyle	Fairmont
Blanchard, Brian	Minneapolis
Block, Calvin	Canton, MS
Bodovinitz, David	St. James
Bone, Randall	Eufaula, AL
Bossert, Michael J., c/o Brenda Krumm,	Worthington
Brassfield, Jessica	Dundee
Bredberg, Velma	Sherburn
Bremer, Donald J.	Fairmont
Breuer, Jerry	Worthington
Brunsting, Ken	Hull, IA
Buckentin, Matt	Bingham Lake
Campbell, Cindy	Lexington, OH
Carroll, Paul	Fairmont
Celander, Jeanne, c/o Mable Johnson Estate,	Fairmont
Chapa, Manuel, c/o Amber Lee Morales,	Heron Lake
Dirks, Barb	Welcome
Dirks, Daniel	Heron Lake
Ditsworth, Alan	Spirit Lake, IA


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## Help us find these missing co-op members in LIFE who moved away

In the board game of LIFE you spin the wheel to move along with your career. You hope to land on more rewarding spots than hard luck times. Along the way, there's often a moving van or two as you follow a new job or new house.

So it is for our cooperative member-owners too. As they have moved off the cooperative's power lines, we no longer have their current address. Yet, they are still owed capital credits or their share of a profitable year.

Help us locate these missing members found on Pages 1-3. Their capital credits check was returned this year — address unknown. If you know the current location for any of these members, call or e-mail the appropriate cooperative with their new address and/or phone number. Otherwise, have this missing member contact us directly. We can then mail their capital credits check to them. In addition, BCREA's list also includes older, uncashed accounts payable checks.


If we do not receive new addresses on these missing members, their unclaimed capital credits checks are donated to a tax-exempt organization. Brown County Rural Electrical Association and Federated Rural Electric donate unclaimed capital credits to their Operation Round Up program. Brown County REA's Round Up Trust Board donates to programs that benefit their rural residents and local communities. Federated's Round Up Trust Board awards nine high school scholarships. 

## At A Glance



Brown County  
Rural Electrical  
Association

**Teens: TWO  
opportunities  
for you inside!**

There is still time to enter the Youth Tour contest! Local students can win a trip to Washington, D.C. June 15-20. See Page 3 for details on how to enter. High school seniors can also apply for one of six \$200 Operation Round Up scholarships! 

This publication focuses on cooperative savings, programs and events. As this is the official member publication, member's story ideas, letters-to-the-editor and comments are welcomed.

Andrea Christoffer, CCC, Editor  
 "Owned by those it serves"

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## Help locate these Federated former members

— Continued from Page 1

Doeden, Jackie Windom  
 Donaldson, Mary Ann Fargo, ND  
 Drahota, Dean Jackson  
 Drayfahl III, Larry Welcome  
 Dulaney, Linda Jackson  
 Ebeling, Bryan Fairmont  
 Eggimann, William South Hadley, MA  
 Eilers, Jason Worthington  
 Erickson, Geraldine Fairmont  
 Faulkner, Arthur Round Lake  
 Ferguson, Mike Windom  
 Finley, Troy Welcome  
 Fowler, Craig Fairmont  
 Frank, Justin Heron Lake  
 Grabill, Gary Round Lake  
 Grim, Rhonda, c/o Jeff Svoboda, Lakefield  
 Guenther, Mark Lakefield  
 Guge, George Estherville, IA  
 Guidry, Brandon Heron Lake  
 Gunderson, Mike Bemidji  
 Hall, Horace Lakefield  
 Hamann, Donald H. Lake Park, IA  
 Hanson, Lee & Treider Fairmont  
 Harpster, David Hudson, SD  
 Hausladen, Brittany Northrop  
 Hesseltine, Chris Sherburn  
 Hiller, Betty Fairmont  
 Hirschman, William Spirit Lake, IA  
 Hooge, Duane Windom  
 Huber, Glen Mapleton  
 Isebrand, Dakota Sherburn  
 Johannig, Roger Avoca  
 Johnson, Duwayne Benson, AZ  
 Johnson, James Windom  
 Johnson, Leland Fairmont  
 Johnson, Marcia Hardwick  
 Jones, Dylan Fairmont  
 Jones, Sara Lakefield  
 Jones, Sharon, c/o Dan Jones, Windom  
 Just, John Heron Lake  
 Kassahn, Robert Heron Lake  
 Krier, Mrs. Gene Sheldon, IA  
 Kraayenhof, Kyle Truman  
 Lambert, Thad Round Lake  
 Landin, Warren, c/o Blain Landin, Granada  
 Laniel, Christianna Welcome



Lev, Ethel Jackson  
 Lev, Richard Jackson  
 Leverenz, Adam Windom  
 Lund, Terry Olympia, WA  
 Luther, Chris Jackson  
 M&H Larson Brothers Farm,  
 c/o Merv Larson, Eden Prairie  
 Mann, Carmen Heron Lake  
 Mann, Dale Windom  
 Manzano, Wilfredo Del Heron Lake  
 Matias, Ben Worthington  
 McCormick, Lisa,  
 c/o Joan McCormick, Sioux Falls, SD  
 McDonald, LeAnne Fairmont  
 McLaren, Alan & Gaye Sherburn  
 Meier, Karen Jackson  
 Meier, Karen Princeton  
 Metz, G.E. Owatonna  
 Meyer, Dale Rapid City, SD  
 Miller, Paul L. V. Vernon Center  
 MN Affordable, c/o Ann McGregor, Mankato  
 Moe, Cindy Lake Lillian  
 Myers, Alexis Fairmont  
 Nasby Brothers Jackson  
 Naveumxay, Lam Fairmont  
 Nelson, Curt Heron Lake  
 Nelson, Paul & Sheri Moutain Lake  
 Nicholas, Ruby Fairmont  
 Niehaus, Wayne Winnebago  
 Nobles Broadcasting Fond Du Lac, WI  
 Nylund, Chad Welcome  
 Olson, Larry J. Sherburn  
 Olson, Thomas Welcome  
 Osmundsen, Ronda Fairmont  
 Paine, Curt Spencer, IA  
 Paulson, Keith C. Granada  
 Pasch, Jessica Rochester  
 Pegors, Mrs. Allen Truman  
 Pinz, Gary Spirit Lake, IA  
 Poppe, Gilbert Sioux Falls, SD  
 Prafke, Don Kiester  
 Quastad, Murray Enoch, UT  
 Randall, Marvis Winnebago  
 Reder, Lynden Woodbury  
 Rice, Joyce Waseca  
 Risk, Larae & Tracy Granada  
 Robinson, Thomas Sherburn



Rochefort, Shelia Granada  
 Roslansky, Viola Lakefield  
 Sankey, Carrie Windom  
 Schmidt, Chris Marshall  
 Schoenecker, Mitchell Windom  
 Schueler, Brad Watford City, ND  
 Schultz, Donovan Welcome  
 Schultze, Richard & Julaine, Kansas City, MO  
 Schwager, Gordon Charlotte, NC  
 Sharp, Stacey Sherburn  
 Sipe, Adam & Edith Heron Lake  
 Slettedahl, Beth Wood Lake  
 Smith, Eugene E. Lakefield  
 Smith, Sandra Ceylon  
 Smith, Tony Fairmont  
 Sommerland, Mike & Holly Spring Hill, TN  
 Spangler, Cassandra Cherokee, IA  
 Spaulding, Scott Lynd  
 Spidel, Harry Mission, TX  
 Srnsky, Richard Zimmerman  
 Stegenga, Ron & Wendy Lakefield  
 Stennes, Kevin Sherburn  
 Stoeser, Tara Jackson  
 Strehlo, Deloris Winnebago  
 Sukalski, Jacob  
 c/o Peter Sukalski Ceylon  
 Sullivan, Mike Chanhassen  
 Swanson, Lois Jackson  
 Swenson, Travis Eden Prairie  
 Tammeus, Dr. James Allison, IA  
 Tanquist, Roger  
 c/o Irene Spear Est. Ocean Park, WA  
 Thackrey, Bonnie Ceylon  
 Theobald, Mike Janesville  
 Thompson, Luke Winnebago  
 Thompson, Thomas Fairmont  
 Thurmer, Harry Jackson  
 Tunglund, Shaun Fairmont  
 Urban, Jamie E. Sherburn  
 Vogl, Randy Jackson  
 Weber, Russell Granada  
 Whitman, Rebecca Bloomington  
 Wielenga, Janet Orange City, IA  
 Wiener, John Windom  
 Willard, Steve Spirit Lake, IA  
 Wrege, Jim Owatonna  
 Young, Gary & Gloria Webster City, IA

# Help us find these former BCREA members

## Former Brown County members:

Call and ask for Dorine at 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368. Otherwise, e-mail [bcrea@bcrea.coop](mailto:bcrea@bcrea.coop).

Abbas, Phyllis M. Mankato  
 Akin, Chad R. Frankfort, SD  
 Anderson, Gerald Springfield  
 Anderson, Jennifer New Ulm  
 Bauer, Lois Darwin  
 Baumann, Doran Michael St. Peter  
 Becken Family Farms Hanska  
 Betsch, Leigh T. Estelline, SD  
 Black, Rick Winthrop  
 Braam, Jerry L. Fairfax  
 Cano, Juan R., c/o Oscar Surita, Crystal City, TX  
 Carey, John W. Fairfax  
 Cruz, Ruben Laredo, TX  
 Dale, Duane Nashwauk  
 Delite Outdoor Inc. St. Paul  
 Engelby, Roy A. Glenwood  
 Flygare, Charles L. New Ulm  
 Forstner, Evelyn New Ulm  
 Frederick, Thomas Mankato  
 Gieseke, Carol Montgomery  
 Gonzales, Jesus Hanska  
 Gonzalez, Janpalach Elgin, TX  
 Hancock, Heather New Ulm  
 Hanson, Jerome A. Bellevue, NE  
 Harris, Douglas B. New Ulm  
 Hatle, Michael P. Mankato  
 Hazelton, Robert Ogema  
 Jensen, Judy New Ulm  
 Jones, David Grant Sleepy Eye  
 Kathman, Taylor A. Hanska  
 Kautzman, Rebecca Hutchinson  
 Kenefick, Thomas L. Lena WI  
 Kiecker, Allan B. New Ulm  
 Knoll, LeRoy A. New Ulm  
 Kruse, Wayne W. Bigfork  
 Kuehl, Daniel J. Watertown, WI  
 Lade, Terrance Silver Lake  
 Lamere, Anthony R. Champlin  
 Lebens, Christine Chaska  
 Lee, Martin & Candace Webster  
 Lenzen, Dennis J. New Ulm  
 Lodes, Roy J. Bellevue, NE  
 Lothert, Dale E. New Ulm  
 Marquardt, Danny & Mary Morgan  
 Marstone, Duane C. New Ulm



Matthew, Mark R. Omaha, NE  
 Means, Daniel Sleepy Eye  
 Meyer, Karyl Mankato  
 Miller, Leland L. New Ulm  
 Montanye, Harry R. Chaska  
 Neid, Lynn Mankato  
 Neisen, Elizabeth Cambridge  
 Nelson, Gertie A., c/o Keith Nelson, North Mankato  
 Nelson, Robert P. Little Falls  
 Norby, Judy K. St. James  
 Olson, Allen E. New Ulm  
 Olson, Diane M. Chanhassen  
 Olson, Lucille New Ulm  
 Parsons, Lonnie D. International Falls  
 Paschka, Joel & Tara Alexandria  
 Pilot, Joan M. New Ulm  
 Porter, Allen E. Cannon Falls  
 Ramirez, Herbert Madelia  
 Ramirez, Viviana Sleepy Eye  
 Rasmussen, Christine J. New Ulm  
 Rathman, Chris St. James  
 Reihs, Robert Madelia  
 Reim, Dan North Mankato  
 Rice, Michael P. Grand Rapids  
 Rodriguez, Jose L. Sleepy Eye  
 Roesler, Daniel D. Waseca  
 Sadler, DeWayne Winthrop  
 Sanchez, Orlando Sleepy Eye



Schiller, Harold H. Springfield  
 Schroeder, Duane R. New Ulm  
 Schroepfer, Rosella Lake Crystal  
 Schueler, Dakota Comfrey  
 Sirovy, Thomas R. Backus  
 Smith, Robert L. Lakeville  
 Spectators Bar & Grill, c/o B. Pfeiffer & J. Fruhwirth, New Ulm  
 Spicer, Debbie L. New Ulm  
 Spoor, Craig New Ulm  
 Sprenger, Anton B. New Ulm  
 Stark, Jamie & Robyn New Ulm  
 Stolt, Gerald Plymouth  
 Streich, Quinten L. Statesville, NC  
 Svoboda, Larry M. Martin, ND  
 Thomas, James L. & Diane P. New Ulm  
 Tina Jero, Araceli Y. New Ulm  
 Torres, Nancy Sleepy Eye  
 Triax Midwest Ass., L.P. Denver, CO  
 Trullinger, Justin New Ulm  
 Twenty 1st Century Wireless Edina  
 U S West Communications Denver, CO  
 Warnke, Donald J. Plainwell, MI  
 Wenzel, John Lenexa, KS  
 Werner, Kenneth A. New Ulm  
 Wieseler, Roxanna New Ulm  
 Woodward, Laurie Eugene, OR  
 Worden, Jerry L. Linwood, NE

**Thanks for helping us locate these former members to reunite them with their unclaimed capital credits check!**



# Brown County Briefs

Let us be part of your DER discussions



If you're considering adding a Distributed Energy Resource (ie: wind, solar) at your home or business located in Brown County REA's service territory, please include the co-op in the discussion from the start.

Cooperative staff would like to help members make informed decisions, go over annual usage reports to help size the system to your electric load, explain any service upgrades and associated costs and provide you with the paperwork required to interconnect to our system. Brown County REA is in the process of transitioning to updated Interconnection standards and application process and forms.

Please contact BCREA at 800-658-2368 or 507-794-3331. Brown County REA has been providing safe, reliable electricity to you, our members, for more than 80 years and plans to continue to do so well into the future.

## Member Advisory Council

April 22 will be the first meeting of the new Member Advisory Council. New members are still being sought. Contact your district director or the REA office if interested.

## Operation Round Up

The Brown County Rural Electric Trust Board will meet on February 19 at 5:30 p.m. to review applications for funding. ☎

## War of the Currents visits local school



Students and staff at St. Anthony Elementary School, New Ulm, demonstrate the efficiency of Alternating Current (AC) vs. Direct Current (DC) as part of the "War of the Currents" presentation by the Bakken Museum, Minneapolis. The program was sponsored by BCREA and its wholesale power supplier Great River Energy. ☎

## Operation Round Up offering six \$200 scholarships

Brown County REA, through its Operation Round Up program, is offering scholarships to high school seniors planning to attend college after graduation.

Due to the excellent response in 2018, the trust board has increased to six \$200 scholarships, which will be offered to graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are members and live in Brown County REA's service area.

Funds for the scholarships come from members who choose to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. The difference is placed in a trust, which is administered by a nine-member board; they meet four times each year to distribute funds to charitable causes, individuals and families in crisis and scholarships.

Scholarship guidelines and applications are available from high school counselors and can be found on the REA website at [www.browncountyrea.coop](http://www.browncountyrea.coop).

The deadline for submission is April 1. Winners will be announced at the Brown County REA Annual Meeting April 11. A copy of the student's high school transcript and one letter of recommendation are required. Scholarship funds will be awarded after successful completion of the first semester of college. ☎

## Trip to D.C. available to one lucky student



BCREA is looking for one exceptional student to represent the cooperative on an all-expense paid trip Washington, D.C. June 15-20. Youth Tour is more than a sightseeing trip.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss important issues. Students return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader and can put those skills to use in their local community. They also learn about the cooperative business model, visit numerous museums and memorials and gain a new appreciation of our nation's history. In the process many new friendships are created as they spend the week with young people from electric cooperatives throughout Minnesota.

The application and selection procedures are available from high school counselors and social studies teachers and on the BCREA website.

The application deadline is March 1. The top three candidates will be interviewed and one selected to travel to Washington, D.C. in June. A \$150 prize will be awarded for second place and \$100 to the third-place finisher. ☎

# Last call for Director nominees



Brown County REA Directors are cooperative members just like you. They represent you on the co-op board, while responsibly overseeing the business of the co-op and determining strategic direction.

The cooperative model depends on its members to provide leadership and guidance. Each year Brown County REA holds a director election in three of its nine districts. The election process ensures that every member has a voice in the operation of the cooperative and that any member in good standing may seek election to the Board of Directors.

Nominations are now open for director candidates in BCREA's Districts 1, 4, and 5 for 2019. Elections will take place at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting to be held the evening of April 11 at the Sleepy Eye Event Center.

District 1 is made up of Stately, Bashaw, Burnstown and portions of North Star Townships, the city of Comfrey in Brown County, a portion of Brookville Township in Redwood County and part of Delton Township in Cottonwood County. District 4 covers Sigel and Cottonwood Townships in Brown County and part of Cambria Township in Blue Earth County.

District 5 consists of Stark and Leavenworth Townships in Brown County.

Nominated for director positions to date: James Hanson, District 1; William Berg and Joel S. Fischer, District 4; and James Mickelson, District 5.

A director candidate application can be found on the BCREA website [www.browncountyrea.coop](http://www.browncountyrea.coop), click on *About Us* and then the *Employees & Directors* tab. If interested in being a candidate, please complete and return the application to the REA office or contact a nominating committee member. Nomination forms must be completed and posted by March 6.

Nominating committees District 1: Paul & Amy Therkilsen, Wayne & Janet Redman and Cherry Taylor; District 4: Brad Domeier, Rich Griebel and Pat Hillesheim; District 5: Mike W. Hoffmann, Rob Goblirsch and Chad Mathiowetz.

In addition, any 10 or more members residing in the district may submit a nomination for a director in their district through a signed petition, which must be submitted to Board Secretary James Hanson by Friday, March 15. Nominations may also be made at the Annual Meeting for a member residing in the district by another residing member of the district. (U)

## BCREA 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting



**When:** April 11  
**Location:** Sleepy Eye Event Center  
110 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
**Registration:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Meal:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Meeting:** Immediately following meal.  
Directors will be elected for Districts 1, 4 & 5.

## Health Day

**Saturday, March 23**  
**Sleepy Eye Public School**  
**6:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.**

### Make an appointment today!

- \$40 Blood analysis: includes cholesterol, LDL/HDL, calcium, glucose, etc. Requires a 12- hour fast for best results.
- \$30 Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) screening
- Free blood pressure screenings.

For appointments call 800-658-2368 or 507-794-3331, Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Walk-ins will be accepted after 7:30 a.m. the day of the event. Community Health Day is a joint effort of Brown County REA, Brown County Public Health, Sleepy Eye Medical Center and Sleepy Eye Community Education. All are welcome. (U)

# Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



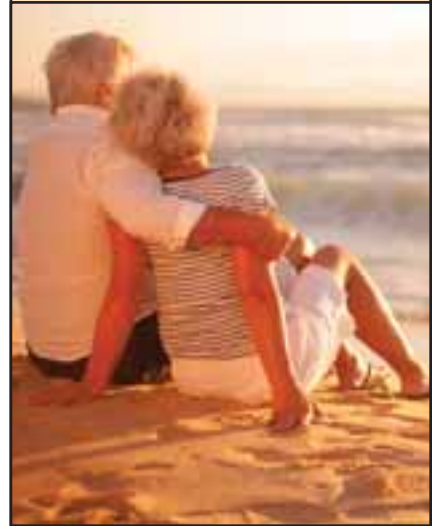
If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Courtesy ESFI.org

**We protect you  
from everything  
under the sun**



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worry about your  
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Frozen pipes • Medical alert

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**heartlandss.com**

*A subsidiary  
of your local electric co-op*

## Shake off the winter chills with a new tasty chili recipe to try

Winter can be so chilly making it a great time to enjoy chili! Share your chili recipes with us, whether it is white chili, super hot, uses exotic meat or the family favorite chili recipe. Send to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by January 28. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! ☺

### Blueberry French Toast by Soneva Goering, Jackson

12 slices day-old bread or 8 English Muffins    12 eggs  
 2 - 8 oz. pkgs. cream cheese    2 c. milk  
 1 c. fresh or frozen blueberries    1/3 c. maple syrup

Cut bread into 1" cubes. Place half of the bread cubes in a greased 9x13" pan. Cut the cream cheese into small cubes and place on top of the bread. Top with blueberries and remaining bread cubes. Mix eggs, milk and syrup together and pour over the bread mixture. Cover and chill at least eight hours or overnight. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Cover and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake another 25-30 minutes until golden brown and the center is set.

Sauce:            1 c. sugar                    1 c. blueberries  
 1 c. water        2 T. cornstarch        1 T. butter

Combine sugar, cornstarch and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and stir in 1 c. blueberries and simmer 8-10 minutes until the blueberries burst. Stir in 1 tablespoon butter. Serve warm over squares of the French toast. ☺

### Blueberry Almond Streusel Coffee Cake

by Aurelia 'Sis' Kral, New Ulm

Topping: 1/2 c. slivered almonds, toasted    2 tsp. cinnamon  
 1/2 c. sugar                    5 T. flour                    1/4 c. butter

In a small bowl combine the sugar, flour and cinnamon. Cut in the butter until crumbly. Stir in toasted almonds and set aside.

Cake: 2 1/2 c. flour            1/2 tsp. salt            3 eggs                    2 c. fresh blueberries  
 2 tsp. baking powder    3/4 c. butter            1 c. sour cream  
 1 tsp. soda                    1 1/4 c. sugar            1 tsp. almond extract

Grease and flour a 9x13" pan. Cream the butter, sugar and add eggs. Sift the dry ingredients. Alternating, add the dry ingredients and sour cream. Add the almond extract. Pour half of the batter into the pan and cover with half of the blueberries. Spoon the rest of the dough on top and spread. Top with the rest of the blueberries. Sprinkle the topping over cake dough. Bake at 350° for 40 to 45 minutes. Drizzle the glaze over the cake.

Glaze: 1/2 c. powdered sugar                    1/2 tsp. vanilla                    1 T. milk ☺

### Blueberry Bars by Joan Clobes, Lafayette

2 c. flour                    1 1/2 tsp. grated lemon or orange peel, optional  
 1 c. sugar                    1/2 c. butter, softened    1 tsp. vanilla  
 2 tsp. baking powder    1 c. milk                    2 c. blueberries\* (or use  
 1 tsp. salt                    2 eggs, slightly beaten    peaches or cherries)

Grease 9x13" pan. Combine flour, sugar, powder, salt and peel. Cut butter in with pastry cutter until consistency of coarse meal. Add milk, eggs and vanilla until well blended. Pour three-fourths of batter in the pan. Add blueberries. Pour remaining batter on top. Bake at 350° for 35-45 minutes. Cool 30 minutes.

Icing: 1 c. powdered sugar    3-5 tsp. milk            1/4 tsp. almond extract

Mix and drizzle on bars.

\* Note: I use 1 c. blueberries. Can use fresh sliced peaches or 3 c. pitted/halved bing cherries. ☺

**Call Gopher State  
 One Call before  
 digging!**

**1-800-252-1166**



Call Gopher State One Call before doing any digging more than 12" deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register at [www.gopherstate-onecall.org](http://www.gopherstate-onecall.org) or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. ☺

**Never take your hot  
 water for granted!**



**Call your electric  
 co-op for your next  
 water heater**



## Brown County Rural Electrical Association

Brown County Rural Electrical Assn.  
24386 State Hwy 4, PO Box 529  
Sleepy Eye MN 56085

E-mail address: [bcrea@bcrea.coop](mailto:bcrea@bcrea.coop)  
Website: [www.browncountyrea.coop](http://www.browncountyrea.coop)  
Phone: 507-794-3331 or 800-658-2368  
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Mike Heidemann, Chief Executive Officer

### Board of Directors

James Mickelson, President — 794-6298  
William Berg, Vice President — 766-1497  
James D. Hanson, Sec.-Treasurer — 829-6756  
Brad Sprenger — 877-2633  
Allen Hanson — 276-0691  
Thomas Hayes — 228-8954  
Reuben Kokesch — 359-2112  
Greg Mages — 794-3540  
Joel Christensen — 828-4550  
The Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of each month.



**Marcia Solie**  
Member Services  
Manager

# Staff Notes

## 2019 rebate program

Is 2019 the year you replace your old air conditioner with an energy efficient air source heat pump? Maybe you are thinking about updating your refrigerator or freezer with a new Energy Star unit. Not only can you save money by going to more energy-efficient models, you may also qualify for rebates through Brown County REA.

### Look for Energy Star label to qualify

• You can qualify for a \$75 rebate when you purchase an Energy Star full-size refrigerator or freezer and recycle the replaced unit. One appliance rebate per member per year. Not valid on dorm-size appliances. Submit proof of purchase, Energy Star certification (found in the bottom right hand corner of the yellow energy guide) and proof of recycling to receive the rebate. Purchase a new Energy Star clothes dryer or dehumidifier and receive a \$25 rebate. You may submit BCREA's appliance rebate form, found under the *Rebates* section of the website [www.browncountyrea.coop](http://www.browncountyrea.coop), along with supporting documents.

• Purchase an Energy Star or DLC certified LED yard light fixture, 50 to 100 watt, and qualify for a \$30 rebate. Limit one per member.

*All rebates for less than \$100 will be paid as a credit on the applicant's electric bill.*

### Rebates are also available for high efficiency air source heat pumps when installed and placed on the co-op's load control program:

- Air Source Heat Pump (14.5 SEER): \$580
- Air Source Heat Pump (15 SEER): \$680
- Air Source Heat Pump (16 SEER & higher): \$730

In addition to the rebates, figure up to 300 percent efficiency to make the decision to install a heat pump an easy one.

Installing a new Geothermal Heat Pump qualifies for a \$2,000 rebate. Place it on load control with whole house storage or non-electric backup heat and receive an additional \$50 rebate. A replacement Geothermal unit qualifies for a \$1,000 rebate.

No ductwork in your home? Install a ductless mini-split heat pump, which heats and cools your home. If electricity is your home's primary heat source, you qualify for a \$500 rebate; pair with delivered fuel heating system to earn a \$300 rebate. Members who install or upgrade existing HVAC systems equipped with an Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) can receive a \$25 rebate. Receive a \$25 rebate for the purchase of a WiFi-enabled thermostat. Please submit invoice, AHRI certificate and BCREA HVAC rebate form, available on the co-op websites.

Energy-efficient retrofit lighting projects, electric forklifts, robotic milking systems, heating ventilation and cooling, compressed air efficiency evaluation, and other custom electrical applications may qualify for commercial rebates as well. Please call or stop by to learn more. ☎

# Board meeting highlights

The BCREA Board of Directors held its monthly board meeting January 31, at the BCREA headquarters in Sleepy Eye. Discussion and/or action were taken on the following agenda items:

- Reviewed and approved the December 2018 board meeting minutes, new member applications and member cancellations.
- Reviewed and approved December 2018 payroll and November 2018 financial statements.

• Informed that the audit of the 2018 financials was conducted by Eide Bailly.

• Reviewed the 2018 PURPA Qualifying Facility report and discussed upcoming changes in the interconnection standards and application forms.

• Discussed potential issues of a long-term federal government shutdown on Rural Utilities Services (RUS) funding.

• Reviewed BCREA Neutral Isolator Policy.

• Reviewed the 2018 OSHA 300 summary of work-related injuries.

• Discussed and approved the Rider for Standby Service Policy.

The Board will meet again February 28, at the BCREA headquarters in Sleepy Eye. ☎