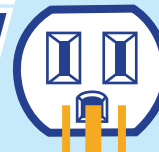


Connections

February 2020



Volume 24, Issue 2

For the member-owners of Brown County REA

Use your Sherlock Holmes sleuthing skills & help us find missing co-op members



We'll provide the clues; here's their names and last known addresses. You can help us solve the mystery of the missing members! No, they are not culprits of a crime! These former cooperative members moved and 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, 2 and 6. Their capital credits check was returned last 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'll then mail their capital credits check. 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 donates to charitable organizations, individuals and families in crisis and scholarships in the co-op service area. Federated's Round Up Trust Board awards nine high school scholarships.

Thanks for your help! Case closed! ☺

Former Federated

members: Call 847-3520 or 1-800-321-3520; ask for Angie or e-mail ziemer@federatedrea.coop.

Aakre, Mrs. Harold	Fairmont
Ackermann, Charles	Westbrook
Adams, Florence	Carson City, NV
Albrecht, G.C.	Fairmont
American & European Aircraft	Coral Springs, FL
Anderson, Margaret	Jackson
Baker, Kathy	Jackson
Batdorf, Richard	Blue Earth
Blount, Howard Sr.	Estherville, IA
Boardman, Steve	Darlington, IN
Breiholz, Robert	Sleepy Eye
Brodin, Sue	Algona, IA
Buchmeier, Kenneth	Sherburn
Carey, Larry	Fairmont
Carroll, Jenny	Sherburn
Dahlke, Marie	Fairmont
Deleeuw, Edgar	Ellsworth
Edinger, Robert	Tipton, IN
Ehlers, Ben	Lakefield
Erickson, Steffen	Winona
Fleury, Harold E.	Tyler
Fretty, Jake	Fairmont
Froderman, Neil	Brewster
Goodman, Heather	Dunnell
Grotjohn, Richard	Jackson
Hall, Micah	Graettinger, IA
Hansel, Tammy (Markey)	Ceylon
Hansen, Mark W.	Cumming, GA
Hatfield, Barb	Fairmont
Hazelhoff, Darrell	Buffalo Center, IA
Henry, Lois	Fairmont
Hillmer, Mrs. Ralph	Fairmont

— Continued on Page 2

At A Glance



**Brown County
Rural Electrical
Association**

Mark your calendars

Brown County REA's 83rd Annual Meeting is Thursday, April 2, at the Sleepy Eye Event Center (110 12th Avenue N.E.). Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Meal at 5:30 p.m., followed by the business meeting. Directors will be elected in District 2, 3 & 8. ☺

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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Give us a clue on the members' new addresses

— Continued from Page 1

Hummell, Amy & Ysker Windom
 Iorga, Mike Spencer, TN
 Isder, Jim Round Lake
 Jenkins, Larry-Donna, c/o Human Services
 Fairmont
 Johannig, Roger Avoca
 Johnson, Mark Fairmont
 Johnson, Neal Spirit Lake, IA
 Keovongsa, Nouneta Mountain Lake
 Klein, Kelly, C/O Ken & Judy Klein
 Wheatland, WY
 Krueger, Scott Belle Plaine
 Lee, Michael Columbus, NE
 Leebens, Teresa Lake Park, IA
 Maquez, Robert Sherburn
 Mausling, Pam Fairmont
 Mayne, Timothy C. Cloquet
 McIlravy, Kevin Maddock, ND
 Meyers, Chris & Christine Silver Lake
 Murphy, James C. Winnebago
 Northwest Mortgage Inc. Des Moines, IA
 Olson, Michael Fairmont
 Origer, John Estherville, IA
 Pankow, Todd Windom
 Parker, Clay Jackson
 Pattinson, Jacquelyn Brewster
 Peterson, Anna Vernon Center
 Pleasant, Steve Greenville, KY
 Pribyl, Patrick Dunnell
 Racine, Jean Brewster
 Rank, Lisa Rochester
 Reason, Gary Milford, IA
 Reinesch, Thomas & Terry Cylinder, IA
 Reutzel, Roger Fairmont
 Riordan, Elaine Fairmont
 Rojas, George Welcome
 Roman, Nick New Ulm
 Roos, Gary Sun City West, AZ
 Rosenstiel, Bill Mentone, IN
 Scholl, James Trimont
 Schweers, Heinrich Brainerd
 Sharping, Nathan, C/O Dale Sharping
 Brewster
 Shiets, Judy Fairmont
 Sinn, Ron A. Jackson

Smith, Al Mission, TX
 Thackrey, Kim Fairmont
 Thomsen, Roger Yankton, SD
 Torbenson, Sara Truman
 Villasenor, Elaine Jackson
 Vortherms, Robert Round Lake
 Wagner, Mark Worthington
 Wendel, Gretchen Lakefield
 Widlund, John Jackson
 Wiltgen, Tony Fairmont
 Zender, Joe Elk River
 Zevenbergen, Art Sioux Center, IA

Former Brown County members: Call 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368. Otherwise, e-mail bcra@bcra.coop.

Abbas, Phyllis M. Mankato
 Achman, Eileen B. New Ulm
 Akin, Chad R. Frankfort, SD
 Aldondale Farms, c/o Gloria Platz Fm. Mgr.
 Springfield
 Anderson, Brian New Ulm
 Anderson, Jennifer New Ulm
 Bauer, Lois Darwin
 Baumann, Doran Michael St. Peter
 Bergeman, Jared St. James
 Bertrand, Thomas J. New Ulm
 Betsch, Leigh T. Estelline, SD
 Black, Rick Winthrop
 Bouton, Leah Kronenwetter, WI
 Braam, Jerry L. Fairfax
 Buck, Drew & Sharon Fort Mill, SC
 Cano, Juan R., C/O Oscar Surita
 Crystal City, TX
 Carson, Larry Fairfax
 Christensen, Ardis Springfield
 Cochran, Lloyd C. Deforest, WI
 Cruz, Ruben Laredo, TX
 D & M Custom Cycle New Ulm
 Dagner, Mary New Ulm
 Delite Outdoor Inc. St. Paul
 Drexler, Delmar J. New Ulm

Elbert, Jesse Eagle Bend
 Fehlman, Roman New Ulm
 Frederick, Thomas Mankato
 Gieseke, Mildred New Ulm
 Gonzales, Jesus Hanska
 Gonzalez, Janpalach Elgin, TX
 Graves, Richard Roseville
 Griebel, Joseph F. Sleepy Eye
 Hall, Joshua Forest Lake
 Hanson, Jerome A. Bellevue, NE
 Harris, Douglas B. New Ulm
 Hazelton, Robert Ogema
 Honl, David C. Winthrop
 Hovland, Marilyn Battle Lake
 Hunstad, Jonathan Spicer
 Ibberson, Robert J. Sleepy Eye
 Irlbeck, Daniel C. Wabasso
 Isenberg, Carol Lafayette
 Isenberg, Gilbert Lafayette
 Johnson, Lowell Springfield
 Jones, David Grant Sleepy Eye
 Karstens, Kevin A. Lafayette
 Kathman, Taylor A. Hanska
 Kautzman, Rebecca Hutchinson
 Kenefick, Thomas L. Lena, WI
 Kiecker, Allan B. New Ulm
 Kizer Sr., Mrs. Robert L. Winthrop
 Klingler, Jerome J. New Ulm
 Knudson, Stella Fairmont
 Kopitzke, Gary R. Sleepy Eye
 Kral, Hilarius J. New Ulm
 Kruse, Wayne W. Bigfork
 Kuehl, Daniel J. Watertown, WI
 Lamere, Anthony R. Champlin
 Lang, Wilbert O. Springfield
 Larson, Kurt C. Los Angeles, CA
 Lebens, Christine Chaska
 Lee, Martin & Candace Webster
 Lenzen, Dennis J. New Ulm
 Lothert, Dale E. New Ulm
 Means, Daniel Sleepy Eye
 Meyer, Karyl Mankato
 Miller, Dean Redwood Falls
 Montanye, Harry R. Chaska
 Morales, Joseph Logan, UT

— Continued on Page 6

Create your own movie theater anywhere you go

If you need a way to entertain your kids, turning any room into a movie theater could be the way to do it. The CineMood Portable Movie Theater creates up to a 12-foot projection in a dark environment. No connection is needed to a computer or wall outlet.

The CineMood allows you to stream Amazon Prime, Netflix, YouTube and more. You can download videos directly to enjoy at anytime without WiFi. You can also upload and play personal videos and slideshow content with 8GB of storage space. Plus, you can use iOS screen mirroring functionality.

A large library (120 hours) of kid-friendly content is included with the projector. Watch the 40 digital books, 25 safety videos and short cartoons featuring characters from *Frozen*, *Toy Story*, *Lion King*, *Beloved Whisker Haven Tales*, *The Lion King Wild* and *the Science of Imagineering*; many more are already included on your CINEMOOD.


The CineMood has a five-hour



The CineMood is an alternative to costly projectors and works great for giving kids a movie theater experience wherever they go.

rechargeable battery so it can be used on car rides, airplane trips, camping, backyard get togethers and outdoor summer movie nights. It is controlled via a mobile app. The CineMood is 1080p high-definition supported with an 800x840 output. In addition, it

features built in 2.5V speakers, but it can also connect to headphones and speakers. It weighs only half a pound and is three inches square.

The CineMood has a one-year warranty. It is available on Amazon.com for approximately \$350. 

Safety

Perform check up on your home's electrical system

During the winter, we are spending more time indoors and all those outdoor projects are put on hold. Now is a good time to do a check up on your home's electrical panel.

- Fuses and circuit breakers are safety devices that help prevent overloading of your home's wiring and prevent fires. They stop the electrical current if it exceeds the safe level for some portion of your home's electrical system.

Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses? Frequent blown fuses or tripped circuits can signify a serious electrical problem. Contact a licensed electrician immediately.

- The wrong size fuse or circuit breaker can cause the wiring to overheat, creating a fire hazard.

Are fuses or circuit breakers the correct size for the circuit? Have a licensed electrician determine the correct



sizes and install them.

- AFCIs (arc fault circuit interrupters) are advanced circuit breakers that provide greater electrical fire protection.

Do you have AFCIs in your home? If not, consider having a licensed electrician replace the standard circuit breakers with AFCIs.

- AFCIs can stop working without showing signs of failure. Regular testing is necessary to ensure they are working properly

If AFCIs are installed, do you test them every month? Test AFCIs monthly using the "test" button on the AFCI. Have a licensed local electrician replace defective AFCIs.

This quick and simple check up can help ensure your home's electrical panel

is in proper working order. 

— Information courtesy of esfi.org

Brown County Briefs

2020 calendars available

Pick up your 2020 large farm pocket calendars (one per member please) at the office while supplies last.

Operation Round Up



The Brown County Rural Electric Trust Board will meet February 18 at 5:30

p.m. for its first quarterly meeting of 2020. Charitable organizations wishing to be considered for funding at this meeting should submit application available at www.browncountyrea.coop under the *Operation Round Up* tab in *Programs & Services*.

Let us be part of your Distributed Energy Resource 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.

Co-op 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. BCREA has transitioned to the Cooperative Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection Process (C-MIP). Updated processes and application materials are available at www.browncountyrea.coop.

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

It pays to be a co-op member



Cooperative membership has its privileges, including the return of patronage capital for helping to build, sustain and grow your electric cooperative. BCREA Board Secretary James Hanson (center) and CEO Mike Heidemann (right) visited Farmward Cooperative to present its 2019 capital credit check to CEO Dave Stuk. (C)

Operation Round Up scholarships

BCREA, through its Operation Round Up program, is offering six \$250 scholarships to high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members and live in BCREA's service area and plan to further their education after graduation.

Scholarship guidelines and applications are available from area high school counselors and can also be found at www.browncountyrea.coop.

The deadline for submission is March 30. Winners will be announced at the Brown County REA Annual Meeting April 2. 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. (C)

Teens: win a free trip to Washington, D.C.

The trip of a lifetime awaits one lucky high school sophomore or junior whose parents or guardians are BCREA members. Eligible youth can win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 20-25. Application are available from high school counselors and social studies teachers and at www.browncountyrea.coop.

The application deadline is March 2. We will then interview the top three candidates and select one to travel to Washington, D.C. in June. A \$150 prize will be awarded for 2nd place and \$100 to the 3rd place finisher. (C)

Make an appointment for Community Health Day!

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at the Sleepy Eye Public School Cafeteria

- Time: 6:30 - 9:30 a.m. (last appointment time 9:15).
- \$50 Blood analysis: cholesterol, LDL/HDL, calcium, glucose, etc. Requires a 12-hour fast for best results.
- \$35 Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) screening
- Free blood pressure screenings.



For appointments call 800-658-2368 or 507-794-3331, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Walk-ins accepted after 7:30 a.m. 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. (C)

What does my monthly service charge cover?



What does it take for your co-op to provide you with safe and reliable power? It takes an up-to-date and well-maintained distribution system, dependable and reliable equipment and substations.

The costs for these things occur monthly and have no direct relationship to the number of kilowatt hours you use in a month. Therefore, regardless of how much electricity you may have used in a month, the cost of delivering power to your farm, home or business remains the same.

The monthly service charge covers a portion of the costs associated with giving you “access” to the power grid. See the adjacent table for details.

According to our most recent Cost of Service Study, Brown County REA’s actual fixed cost per residential meter is more than \$85. The difference between that fixed cost and the monthly service charge is recovered through charges for the amount of electricity used each month. As energy usage has

decreased due to increased appliance and lighting efficiency, conservation, weather variation and other sources, the “gap” between the actual fixed cost and the monthly service charge has grown; this made it necessary to adjust the monthly service charge.

Starting with your bill for January usage, due February 20, the monthly service charge for single-phase service

increased from \$32 to \$42 per month. Three-phase and irrigation services go from \$55 to \$65 per month. Large power services needing a greater than 50-KVA transformer will see the monthly service charge of \$70 and peak demand charge of \$7.20 per kilowatt remain the same. The large-power energy charge will rise from \$.067 to \$.077 per kilowatt hour. (L)

BIG TRUCKS	COST	YOUR CO-OP HAS	INVESTMENT
Digger Derrick Truck	\$275,000	2	\$550,000
Big Basket Truck	\$255,000	2	\$510,000
TRANSFORMERS & METERS	AVERAGE COST	YOUR CO-OP HAS	ACTUAL INVESTMENT
Padmount Transformer	\$1,300	2,482	\$3,227,441
Overhead Transformer	\$315	1,818	\$573,098
AMI Meters	\$268	5,299	\$1,420,576
POLES & WIRES	COST PER MILE	# MILES OF LINE	INVESTMENT
Single-Phase Overhead	\$37,800	666	\$25,174,800
Single-Phase Underground	\$43,200	509.8	\$22,023,360
Three-Phase Overhead	\$72,800	238.6	\$17,370,080
Three-Phase Underground	\$88,800	162.5	\$14,430,000

Director retirement creates a vacancy in District 8

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.

Each year BCREA holds a director election in three of its nine districts. This 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. For the Annual Meeting April 2, nominations are being sought for candidates in Districts 2, 3 and 8.

District 2 consists of Mulligan and Albin townships in Brown County and part of Nelson Township in Watonwan County. Brad Sprenger is the current District 2 Director. District 3 is made up of Lake Hanska and Linden townships and the City of Hanska in Brown County, plus parts of Riverdale and Madelia townships in Watonwan County. The present director is Allen Hanson. District 8 includes Ridgley, West Newton, North and South Lafayette townships, portions of Cairo and Severance, plus part of Courtland townships in Nicollet County. Incumbent Director Reuben Kokesch is retiring and will not seek re-election.

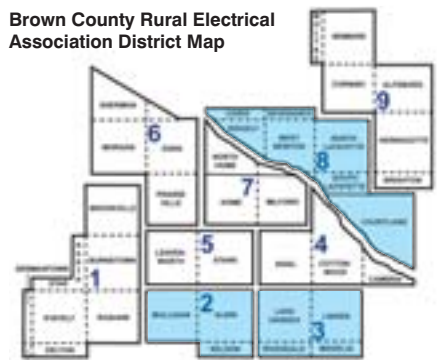
If interested in being a candidate, complete and return the director application found on the BCREA website www.browncountyrea.coop.

[browncountyrea.coop](http://www.browncountyrea.coop). Click on *About Us* and then the *Employees & Directors* tab. You may also contact a member of your district’s Nominating Committee. District 2: Troy Windschitl, Mike Schroepfer

and Peter & Colleen Vachuska; District 3: Adam Suess, Joe Beranek and Travis & Ashley Sondag; District 8: Ryan & Chelsey Franta, Sheldon & Ann Rieke and Craig Wilson. Nomination forms must be completed before February 24.

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 March 6. Nominations may also be made at the Annual Meeting for a member residing in the district by another residing member of the district. (L)

Brown County Rural Electrical Association District Map



Do you detect some names you know? Reunite these former members with unclaimed capital credits checks

— Continued from Page 2

Nelson, Robert P.	Little Falls	Richter, Jayne	New Ulm	Spicer, Debbie L.	New Ulm
Novak, Marilyn	Buffalo	Rivera, Viviana	Sleepy Eye	Svoboda, Larry M.	Martin, ND
Olson, Allen E.	New Ulm	Roberts, Jesse F.	New Ulm	TinaJero, Araceli Y.	New Ulm
Olson, Diane M.	Chanhassen	Rodriguez, Jose L.	Sleepy Eye	Torres, Nancy	Sleepy Eye
Olson, Noel	New Ulm	Rogers, Ronald W.	Girard, OH	Triax Midwest Ass., L.P.	Denver, CO
Parsons, Lonnie D.	International Falls	Roiger, Lorraine A.	Sleepy Eye	Twenty 1st Century Wireless	Edina
Paschka, Joel & Tara	Alexandria	Sadler, DeWayne	Winthrop	U.S. West Communications	Denver, CO
Paulson, Clarence	Sleepy Eye	Sanchez, Orlando	Sleepy Eye	Warnke, Donald J.	Plainwell, MI
Peters, Shawn	Arlington	Sather, Mark F.	Lakeville	Warta, Norman O.	New Ulm
Platz, Joseph L. Jr. Living Trust	New Ulm	Schiller, Harold H.	Springfield	Wilke, Steven D.	Lewisville
Ramirez, Herbert	Madelia	Schilling, Paul S.	Worthington	Woodward, Laurie	Eugene, OR
Rasmussen, Christine J.	New Ulm	Schmidt, Jerome W.	Madelia	Worden, Jerry L.	Linwood, NE
Rathmann, Leroy B.	New Ulm	Schumacher, Richard L.	Mooreville, IN	Youngblom, Virgil E.	Belle Plaine 
Reihs, Robert	Madelia	Scott, Kip A.	St. Paul		
Reim, Dan	North Mankato	Seidl, Adelbert J.	Sleepy Eye		
Reinhart, Edward	Tucson, AZ	Sommer, John A.	Gibbon		
Reiniger, Theresa M.	Sleepy Eye	Spectators Bar & Grill, C/O	B. Pfeiffer &		
		J. Fruhwirth	New Ulm		

The value of electricity continues to shine

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy thanks to the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count up your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music/video players and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from your local electric cooperative.

Look around your kitchen. See the coffee maker, toaster and microwave... we have a lot of kitchen appliances, including the refrigerator.

If you've got a craft nook or workshop, the power tools and machines are plugged in or recharged from the outlets connecting your shop's wiring to the co-op.

You use electricity to run all of these devices; your co-op keeps the lights on, the stove working, heating and air conditioning working and provides hot water too. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential



rental rates and education have increased at rates of 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs go up by more than one to 2 percent annually; even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average.

Electricity costs rise about 1 percent a year, but co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with less energy.

Kilowatt hour use per household dropped by 8 percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly less than the 9 percent decline reported by all electric utilities, nationwide.


When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner. We're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why your co-op urges energy efficiency, encourages

you to look for Energy Star® appliances and promotes technology designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

Smart thermostats, smart power strips and appliance settings can shift most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods to help reduce the co-op's overall power demand.

That's good for our members trying to live within their budgets. Plus, it's going to become even more important as digital devices, electric vehicles and internet-connected technologies become even more important in our lives.

In 2018 the average home had 10 Wi-Fi connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2025. Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon your electric co-op for more than the power that keeps the lights on.

That's why we're always working to provide service that's reliable, keep it affordable and make it even more valuable to our cooperative's members. 

—Courtesy of Derrill Holly, NRECA

Seal the deal for really healthy meals by sharing oatmeal recipes

Oatmeal features many health benefits. What's your favorite oatmeal recipes, whether it's in yogurt, cookies, bars, bread or granola? Share your favorite oatmeal recipes by sending to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by February 24. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! ☺

Taco Soup by Nancy Katzer, Fairmont

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 15 oz. can tomato sauce |
| 1 medium onion, diced | 1 pkg. taco seasoning mix |
| 14 oz. canned tomatoes | 15 oz. can black beans, drained & rinsed |
| 1 cup water | shredded cheddar cheese, optional |
| 16 oz. can corn, drained | tortilla chips, optional |

Brown the ground beef and onions. Add the tomatoes, water, corn, tomato sauce, taco seasoning mix and black beans. Bring to a boil and simmer 10 minutes. Optional: serve in bowl topped with cheese and chips. I also put this in a crock pot on low for 8 hours. ☺

Turkey Wild Rice Soup

by Joyce Halverson, New Ulm

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, diced
- 2 medium carrots, diced
- ½ c. butter or margarine
- ½ c. all-purpose flour
- 4 c. chicken or turkey broth
- 2 c. cooked wild rice
- 2 c. half-and-half cream
- 2 c. diced cooked turkey
- 1 tsp. diced parsley flakes
- ½ tsp. salt ¼ tsp. pepper

In a Dutch oven or soup kettle over medium heat saute the onion, celery and carrots in butter until the onion is transparent. Reduce heat. Blend in flour; cook and stir for two minutes. Gradually add broth, stirring constantly. Bring to a boil; cook for one minute. Reduce heat. Add the remaining ingredients; simmer for 20 minutes. Yields: 8-10 servings. ☺

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1-888-264-6380

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before the shovel;
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.gopherstateonecall.org or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. ☺



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
Website: 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

2020 rebates save you money

Thinking about replacing your aging heating and cooling system with a more energy efficient furnace and air-source heat pump? Is your refrigerator failing to keep up? Not only can you save energy and money when you replace with more efficient equipment, you may qualify for Brown County REA rebates if you purchase Energy Star products.

Enjoy the best of both worlds with an air-source heat pump (ASHP), which provides home cooling and heating with 76 percent less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. Rebates are available when you install an ASHP, placed on load control with a non-electric or storage backup. New this year, the heat pump rebates are based on Heat Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF), instead of SEER ratings. Bonus rebates will be offered all year, as funds remain. Figure in up to 300-percent efficiency to help make the decision an easy one.

- ASHP with HSPF of 8.2 or higher: \$1,000 rebate
- ASHP with HSPF 9.0 or higher: \$2,000 rebate

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? No problem. Energy Star ductless mini-split heat pumps can efficiently heat and cool your home and qualify for a \$500 rebate if electricity is your home's primary heat source. Pair with a delivered fuel heating system to earn a \$300 rebate. Members who install a new furnace with an Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) can receive a \$25 rebate. Upgrade to an Energy Star WiFi/Smart thermostat for your heating and cooling equipment and receive a \$25 rebate.

Appliance rebates are available when you purchase an Energy Star model.

- Refrigerator (not dorm size) or freezer with recycling of replaced unit: \$75
- Energy Star dehumidifier or clothes dryer: \$25

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. Rebates for amounts less than \$100 will be paid as a credit on your electric bill. One appliance rebate per member per year. More information and rebate forms can be found on our website.

Aside from the residential rebates, retrofit lighting projects, electric forklifts, robotic milking systems, heating and cooling, and other custom electrical applications may qualify for commercial rebates as well. Contact the office with questions. ☎

Learn more about your electric co-op and services at www.browncountyrea.coop

Board meeting highlights

The BCREA Board of Directors held its monthly board meeting January 23 at the BCREA headquarters, Sleepy Eye. Discussion and/or action were taken on the following agenda items:

- Reviewed and approved the December 2019 board meeting minutes, new member applications and member cancellations.
- Reviewed the 2019 PURPA Qualifying Facility report and Cogeneration and Small Power Production Schedule 1 with 2020 Average Retail Cooperative Energy Rates.
- Approved the appointment of Pat Roiger, District 1; and Landon Sletta, District 3; to the Round Up Trust Board.
- Informed that the audit of 2019 will be conducted at end of January by Eide Bailly.
- Reviewed the 2019 Service Reliability Service Quality (SRSQ) report.
- Reviewed the 2019 OSHA 300 Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses.
- Informed of progress with line patrol using the new mapping and recording system.
- Reviewed and approved cooperative policies regarding Workplace Violence and Safety and Occupational Health.

The Board will meet again February 27 at the BCREA headquarters, Sleepy Eye. ☎