

Connections

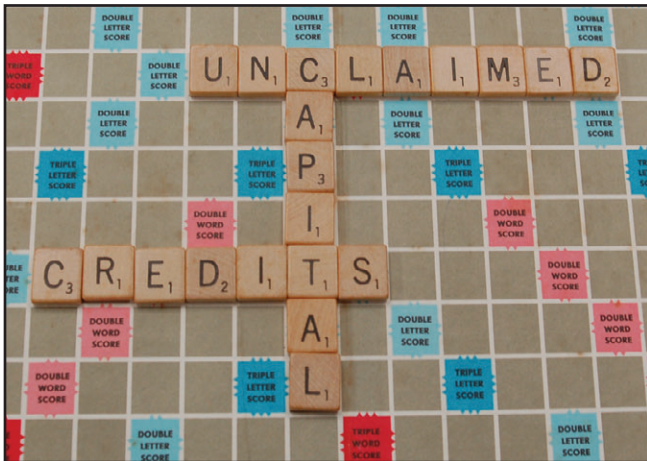
March 2023

For the member-owners of Brown County REA



Volume 27, Issue 3

Play our missing members capital credits game so they can be paid!



Play our version of Scrabble with the theme of missing members' names. Your word search can land them some co-op dollars!

These former co-operative members moved and we no longer have their current address. Yet, they are still owed capital credits or their share of a profitable year.

Review Pages 1-3. Help Federated Rural Electric and Brown County REA (BCREA) locate these missing members and provide us new addresses. Their capital credits check was returned last year — address unknown. If you know the current location for any of these former members, please have them call or e-mail the appropriate cooperative with their new address and/or phone number. We'll then mail their capital credits check. In addition, BCREA's list also includes older, uncashed accounts payable checks. More names are listed this year as two wholesale power suppliers retired capital credits. Great River Energy paid out capital credits, plus Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative retired funds.



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 programs. 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 and awards the rest to other Operation Round Up recipients. ☺

Former Federated

members: Call Angie direct 507-849-7847 or 1-800-321-3520 (extension 2233) or e-mail ziemer@federatedrea.coop.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Abel, Alice M. | Odin |
| Anders, Margie | Granada |
| Anderson, John V. | Dunnell |
| Anderstrom, Alan | Mendota Heights |
| Arnold & Madsen Inc. | Woodbury |
| Asmus, Donald | Blue Earth |
| Ault, Brian | Welcome |
| Beavers, William & Tina | Dunnell |
| Bennet Farms | Windom |
| Bennett, Orlo | Lakefield |
| Benson, Monica | Jackson |
| Benz, Martha | Ceylon |
| Biggar, Dale & Deb | Brewster |
| Bockman, Ellen | Cordova, TN |
| Boesl, Judy | Muscatine, IA |
| Bohlsen, Jerry | Fairmont |
| Boje, Lavonne | Sherburn |
| Bolsinger, Terri | Amboy |
| Borer, Donald | Windom |
| Broek, Rog & Linda | Ireton, IA |
| Brua, Todd | Worthington |
| Bulock, Guy | Fairmont |
| Burmeister, Terry K. | Windom |
| Campe, Brad | Granada |
| Campe, Rhonda | Granada |
| Carlson, Mark | Trimont |
| Carson, Adeline M. | Granada |
| Carter, Pat | Jackson |
| Charles, Rick & Valerie | Virginia |
| Cihak, Tony | Lakefield |

— **Continued on Page 2**

At A Glance



Electing Director candidates

Directors will be elected in Districts 2, 3 and 8 at the April 13 Annual Meeting. Read candidate profiles on pages 4 and 5. The board authorized mail ballots, which must be requested in writing before March 24. Or vote in person at the Annual Meeting. ☺

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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Scribble down names you know & have them reach out to us with their new address

— Continued from Page 1

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Cook, Gloria | Rochester | Hart, William | Charles City, VA | Monsen, Harold | Sioux Falls |
| Cook, Willis, c/o Standard Oil Co. | Rochester | Hartman, G.F. | Fairmont | Morrison, Jim | Worthington |
| Crow, Monekee | Sandstone | Hartung, Leroy | Fairmont | Mulcahey, James | Janesville |
| Daleske, Duane | Welcome | Haskins, Don | Fairmont | Murphy, Wayne | Cokato |
| Daly, Joe | Mapleton | Hatfield, Ralph | New Almelo, KS | Nelson, Clara I. | Windom |
| Damon, Patricia | Rushmore | Haugland, Jeff & Cindy | Mount Ayr, IA | Nelson, Leo T. | Windom |
| Danbred Production | Columbus, NE | Hellen, Gary | Winnebago | Niebruegge, Brent | Worthington |
| Dankenbring, Dave | Higginsville, MO | Hintze, Lloyd | Round Lake | Nowicki Prop Ltd, | |
| Deberg, Darvin | Heron Lake | Hodenfield, Stephen | Phoenix, AZ | c/o Joan Adams | Winnebago |
| Detert, Alma | Ceylon | Howard, Curtis | Fairmont | Oddson, Tim | Mountain Lake |
| Dingman, Joel | Wheatland, WY | Hurlbert, Rob | Spencer, IA | Oelke, Velma | Heron Lake |
| Dunford, Francis | Jackson | Geitzenauer, James | Clear Lake, IA | Olson, Darwin | Winnebago |
| Dunker, Norman | Jackson | JDB Holdings LLC | Mesa, AZ | Otts Duck Club | |
| Dykstra, Jim & Marcia | Butterfield | Jensen, Tim | Northrop | c/o Roger Griffis | Minneapolis |
| Edamame Co MN, c/o Sunrich LLC | Hope | Jensen, Wallace H. | Lakefield | Park, Gary | Fairmont |
| Eigenberg Bros | Heron Lake | Johnston, Craig | Winnebago | Paulson, David | Jackson |
| Eisenbarger, Lucille | Mineral Point, WI | Jungjohan, William | Lake Park, IA | Paulson, Jeff D. | Bemidji |
| Eitreim, Jon | Brandon, SD | Junker, Donald | Worthington | Penny, Paul | Winnebago |
| Elmore, Mark | Winnebago | Kable, David | Sherburn | Peter, Stacey & Jim | Heron Lake |
| Erickson, Sophie | | Kelly, Garman | Fairmont | Peterson, John C. | Heron Lake |
| c/o Joann Erickson | Jackson | King, Stan | Lakefield | Polzine, Richard | Worthington |
| Fairmont Area BMX Inc. | Fairmont | Kockelman, Kenneth | Lake Park, IA | Poulson, Leroy | Fairmont |
| Farrow, Dale David | Manilla, IA | Kohout, Tom | Orange City, IA | Prokes, Miss Adeline | Mankato |
| Fillmore, Selina | Worthington | Korfe, John | Windom | Prom, Nick | Fairmont |
| Forstrom, HR | Fairmont | Kosbab, Lorna L. | Zimmerman | Real, Soleta-Byam, c/o | Pete Byam |
| Fraizer, Trina | Welcome | Kosbab, Paul | Fairmont | Regan, Patrick | Hill City, SD |
| Friend, Weltha Lhill, c/o | Mrs. Ken | Krueger, James | Bethany, MO | Reimers, Sue | St. Cloud |
| Roberts | Jackson | Larsen, Bob | Windom | Riegel, Rodney | Worthington |
| Gannon, Bill | Aberdeen, SD | Larsen, Maurice | Estherville | Rosendahl, Lucille | Fairmont |
| Gardner, Kim | Fairmont | Legler, Lyle | | Roslansky, Marilyn | Brewster |
| Gettler Bros | Ceylon | c/o Verilyn Legler | Slayton | Schenk, Dan | Worthington |
| Gilbertson, Gerry | Fairmont | Leimer, William | Hermosa, SD | Schmidt, Connie | Granada |
| Gjertson Farm Supply | Worthington | Leopold, Mark | Heron Lake | Schmidt, Paul | Jackson |
| Gorackowski, Tom | Soudan | Liston, Darrell | Akron, IA | Schmidt, Robert | Kilua Kona, HI |
| Gordon, Virginia | Jackson | Loring, Jack | Fairmont | Schwieger, Reinhard | Granada |
| Greeley Gas Co. | Denver, CO | Lubben, Rev. Lowell L. | Sioux City, IA | Scott, Bonnie J. | Fairmont |
| Greene, Tom | Winnebago | Lysne, Robin (Temple) | Truman | Scott, Clarence | Granada |
| Griffin, Jeff | Marion, IA | Maday, Ethel | Olivia | Scott, Clarence | Alexandria |
| Grunst, Ruth | Alpha | Magnussen, Kent | Kansas City, KS | Shank, Cindy (Werner) | Fairmont |
| Gunder, Norman | Windom | Malherek, Joseph | Austin | Shirley, Edman Sharon | Black Forrest, CO |
| Gustafson, Mabel E. | Fairmont | Mammenga, Debra | Sherburn | Sieburg, Dora B. | Jackson |
| Hacker, Leo | Jackson | Marco, Jerry | Dassel | Sieve, Jim | New Ulm |
| Hage, Wilbur H. | Lakefield | Masters, Delbert | | Smith, Clarence | Algona, IA |
| Hall, Lawrence | Ocheyedan, IA | c/o Helen Masters | Winnebago | Smith, Larry E. | Apache Junction, AZ |
| Halm, Loina | Jackson | McCarthy, Kevin | Jackson | Smith, Robert & Ruth | Granite Falls, WA |
| Hand, August | Loveland, CO | Miller, Rodney | Delft | Solyntjes, Scott | Lakefield |
| Hanson Brothers | Granada | Mohns, Gladys | Round Lake | Spee, Donald N. | Fairmont |
| Harnden, Lillian | Fairmont | Molitor, Nick | Madison, SD | Stall Lutheran Church | Jackson |
| | | Monier, Jerome | Sibley, IA | | |

— Continued on Page 3

Play our name game & share their addresses

— Continued from Page 2

Steffen, Gary Lee Worthington
 Stolarski, Ray Cincinnati, OH
 Strauser, Debra Fairmont
 Strom, Mildred Windom
 Struck, Amy Winnebago
 Struthers, Michael W. Arnolds Park
 Survis, Bruce Bowling Green, KY
 Suter, Gail Sherburn
 Szuberski, Doug Granada
 Terhorst, Matilda Orange City, IA
 Thelen, Alicia Sherburn
 Theobald, Francis M. Sherburn
 Thompson, Marilyn Windom
 Tietema, Thomas Fairmont
 Tischler, Robert Worthington
 Unke, Todd Echo
 Uttech, Rick Granada
 Vancura, Bonnie Lakefield
 Vanlith, George Mankato
 Vannatter, Randall L. Northrop
 Viesselman, Wayne Trimont
 Villeneuve, Cary Windom
 Voss, Larry J. & Nancy Fairmont
 Voth, Randy New Ulm
 Walders, Gary Dolliver, IA
 Walser, Ross, Jr. Ceylon
 Weinzettl, Karen, White Birch Resort
 Blackduck
 Wenzel, Judy Windom
 Wenzel, Kermit Windom
 Werling, Mariann Park Rapids
 Whitman, Mike Fairmont
 Williams, Robert Graceville
 Williams, William
 c/o Beverly Williams Lakefield
 Woizeschke, Bernie,
 P.R. Frederickson Est Windom
 Wood, William A.
 c/o Geneva Wood Granada
 Ziemer, Dennis Fargo, ND
 Ziemer, Walter E. Winnebago

Black, Arden
 Bouton, Leah
 Bowley, Beverley A.
 Boyum, Larry
 Braam, Jerry L.
 Braulick, Elaine
 Brown, Steven R.
 Bunce, Shanna M.
 Byro, Douglas
 Cochran, Lloyd C.
 Daniels, David
 Domeier, Tania K.
 Eckstein, Patsy A.
 Eifert, Mark R.
 Elbert, Jesse
 Fischer, Scott W.
 Flygare, Ray
 Frederickson, Steven H.
 Gieseke, Dorothy
 Gonzales, Jesus
 Hacker, Anna
 Haggemiller, Daniel
 Halverson, Ken M.
 Halvorson, Marcia
 Hansen, Jason J.
 Hanson, Jerome A.
 Hasse, Penny
 Hazelton, Robert
 Hertling, Eric
 Herzog, Mark
 Heyer, David
 Higdem, Vickie
 Hillesheim, Charles J.
 Hoffmann, Susan
 Hornick, Lois L.
 Hovland, Marilyn
 Hughes, Dwight W.
 Hunstad, Jonathan
 Irlbeck, Daniel C.
 Jakes, Shawn, E.
 Jasper, Curt
 Johnson, Gary L.
 Kilmer, Charles M.
 Kral, Tammy
 Kraudy, Roxanne
 Krenz, Jeffrey P.
 Kuehl, Daniel J.
 Landkammer, Wilfred
 Lenzen, Dennis J.
 Lewandowski, Ryan J.
 Linn, David W.
 Lornes, Gladys I.
 Lothert, Dale E.
 Manderfeld, Robert G.
 Marquardt, Danny
 Matter, June M.
 Means, Daniel L.
 Meyer, Karyl A.
 Miller, Dean

Fairfax
 Mosinee, WI
 Kingston, ON
 Franklin
 Fairfax
 New Ulm
 Alexandria
 Eugene, OR
 Madelia
 De Forest, WI
 Marshall
 Sartell
 Sleepy Eye
 Fergus Falls
 Eagle Bend
 Sleepy Eye
 Worthington
 New Ulm
 New Ulm
 Hanska
 Lafayette
 Henderson
 New Ulm
 New Ulm
 New Ulm
 Bellevue, NE
 Franklin
 Ogema
 Sleepy Eye
 Park Rapids
 New Ulm
 New Ulm
 Mankato
 Sleepy Eye
 Minnetonka
 Battle Lake
 New Ulm
 Spicer
 Wabasso
 New Ulm
 Cedar
 Gillette, WY
 Lake Crystal
 New Ulm
 Claremont
 Valrico, FL
 Watertown, WI
 Chanhassen
 New Ulm
 New Ulm
 New Ulm
 Hanska
 New Ulm
 Shakopee
 Sleepy Eye
 Springfield
 Baxter, IA
 Mankato
 Redwood Falls

Montaivo, Francisco
 Morales, Joseph
 Mueller, Brian
 Neubauer, Bernard W.
 Olson, Diane M.
 Pelzel, Thomas W.
 Peters, Shawn
 Pfeiffer, Dorothy
 Platz, Ervin J.
 Polzin, Jeffrey S.
 Porter Allen E.
 Quinn, Sara K.
 Rader, Alice
 Reim, Dan
 Rewitzer, John C.
 Roe, Lillian
 Sahli, Robert W.
 Schilling, Paul S.
 Schmidt, Darrel D.
 Schoener, Steven J.
 Schwab, Richard J.
 Seitz, Helen M.
 Sherman, Todd S.
 Sirovy, Thomas R.
 Smith, Marlyn D.
 Smith, Michael W.
 Sperl, Russell
 Spicer, Debbie L.
 Stadick, Conrad
 Streich, Quinten L.
 Tauer, Michael N.
 Tharp, Douglas E.
 Thedens, Don
 Thorson, Douglas Y.
 VanWyngarden, Ray H.
 Vanderveur, Frank A.
 Wall, William H.
 Wilke, Steven D.
 Williams, Cathy
 Wilner, Richard O.
 LP Triax Midwest Ass
 Farmers Home Admin.
 Curless Flying Service
 SO Central Coop
 Lake View Sporting Outlet
 Klossner Klippers
 Parker Residence
 BOC Gases Inc.
 Moe's Sandy Lane
 Lunda Construction Company
 Black River Falls, WI
 D-D Money Inc. New Ulm
 Doug Kerkhoff Enterprise LLC Morgan
 Scherer Properties Corp Lafayette
 Cendant Mortgage Mt. Laurel, NJ
 First Preston/MN Spring Lake Park ^(C)

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

Abraham, Glenn H. Paynesville
 Achman, Susan K. New Ulm
 Akin, Chad R. Brandon, SD
 Anderson, Hobart H. New Ulm
 Anderson, Leilah Winthrop
 Aschenbrenner, Nicole New Ulm
 Austin, Orville W. Fairmont
 Baier, Elvera Springfield
 Barrett, Raymond St. Paul



Brown County Briefs

No Community Health Day

There will be no 2023 Community Health Day in Sleepy Eye this spring. Organizers are hopeful the event can be offered again in the future.

Energy-efficiency tip

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers; they enhance overall health and productivity.

Round Up Scholarships



High school seniors whose parents/guardians are BCREA members or adult REA members pursuing a degree are reminded of the April 10 deadline for applications to be considered for one of six \$250 scholarships offered through the Brown County Rural Electric Trust.

Winners will be announced at the BCREA Annual Meeting April 13. Scholarship funds will be awarded after successful completion of the first semester of college. Application materials available at www.browncountyrea.coop.

Rebate correction

The 2023 rebate amount for the 10.5 HSPF air source heat pump is \$2,000 not \$2,500 as was printed in the February Connections. We apologize for any confusion.

Operation Round Up

The next meeting of the Round Up Trust Board is April 11. Scholarships winners will be chosen and applications reviewed. ☎

2023 Director candidates

Directors will be elected at the 86th Annual Meeting set for the evening of April 13, 2023 at the Sleepy Eye Event Center.

District 2



Brad Sprenger

Born and raised in Brown County in Mulligan Township, Brad Sprenger, along with his son Chad grows corn, beans and sweet corn on 550 acres of crop land.

Brad and his wife, Julie, have 4 grown children: daughter, Melissa and sons, Chad, Scott, and Michael. They also have 6 grandsons and 3 granddaughters.

In addition to serving on the BCREA Board the past eighteen years, Brad is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the farm board for the Church of the Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth. He also serves on the Cooperative Television (CTV) board.

Brad said he is proud to serve on the REA board and feels we have a strong co-op with excellent management and employees to keep our electricity on all the time. ☎

District 3



Landon Sletta

Landon Sletta has lived his entire life in the Hanska area. He is a graduate of New Ulm High School and attended Mankato State University where he studied business.

Since 1991, he has been engaged in farming in rural Hanska, where he lives with his wife, Jodi, and four children: Andy, Alden, Abby and Blake.

Landon is a 24-year member of the Hanska Fire Department and serves as a supervisor on the Lake Hanska Township Board. He was representing his district on the Brown County Rural Electric Trust Board in 2020 when he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Brown County REA Board of Directors. At the 2021 annual meeting, he was elected in a special election to complete the three-year term.

Landon said REA members are fortunate to have affordable and reliable electrical service like we do. He wants to work to keep it that way. ☎

Please attend Brown County REA's 86th Annual Meeting

- Thursday, April 13, 2023
- Sleepy Eye Event Center, 110 12th Avenue NE, Sleepy Eye, MN
- Registration begins 4:30 p.m.
- Meal at 5:30 p.m., immediately followed by business meeting
- Election of Directors in Districts 2, 3 & 8




Elect a District 8 director




Scott Hulke

Courtland Township resident Scott Hulke graduated from New Ulm High School and earned a business degree at Mankato State University. Since 1984, he has worked at Kraft Foods in New Ulm and is currently a Line Operator in the Raw Materials department.

Scott and his wife, Kathy, have two children; Megan (Willie) and Travis, and one grandchild. He has served as the treasurer at his church for 17 years.

He said he is interested in being a Brown County REA director after having served on the Member Advisory Council many years ago. Scott said he found the REA very interesting and now that his children are grown, he would like to become more involved and learn more. 

John would draw on his experience serving the Nicollet/Sibley County Corn and Soybean Growers, State Board of Minnesota Corn Growers, Minnesota Soybean Processors, Nicollet County Commissioner and Rural Minnesota Energy Board. He said he would be honored to serve and appreciates your vote. 




David Wendinger

David E. Wendinger and his wife Ann proudly reside on the home farm in West Newtown Township, rural New Ulm. Family, dedication, commitment and community involvement are the foundations upon which they have built their lives.

Raising three children on their farm and nurturing seven grandchildren ages 2 through 9 keep them active! After farming with his twin brother Donald for over four decades, he has

transitioned D&D Wendinger Farms to include sons Matthew and Eric. Together they are generational farming partners in a diversified crop and livestock operation.

David is a fourth-generation member of St. George Catholic Church where he proudly serves on the administrative council, as a parish trustee and Area Faith Community Council. Other positions which have helped him develop his leadership and cooperative spirit are years spent on the Central Livestock Board of Directors, First District Association of Litchfield advisory board member, New Ulm Farm City Hub Club, Nicollet County Planning and Zoning board, Nicollet County Recycling Committee and the newly-formed Nicollet County Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Having completed his first three-year term on the BCREA Board of Directors, David is seeking to continue being the voice of District 8. He vows to remain educated, committed and approachable to meet the electrical needs and demands of the REA into the ever-changing future needs of its members. He is proud to represent the hard working and dedicated professionals of the REA. 



John Luepke

John Luepke resides in Courtland Township and is a New Ulm High School graduate. For 35 years, he was employed at 3M in New Ulm and has always been involved in agriculture.

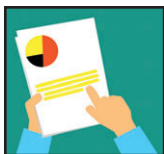
He and his wife, Lorna, are parents to David, an agricultural lender and farmer, and Kristen, a pharmacist for the VA Medical Center.

John recently served six years as a Nicollet County Commissioner and represented Nicollet County on the

Rural Minnesota Energy Board for four years. He has been involved with church and school boards and volunteers for activities at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School. He has been an active member of the New Ulm Farm City Hub Club serving as president and vice president and many years as floor manager for the New Ulm Farm Show.


He believes community service of all types is important and seeks the Brown County REA Director seat because he would like to help continue the excellent job Brown County REA does to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

Be on the lookout for the 2022 Brown County REA Annual Report



A copy of the Brown County REA 2022 Annual Report will arrive in members' mailboxes by mid-March. Included in this year's report is a proposed amendment to the cooperative bylaws which removes the requirement for members to send a written request, at least 20 days prior to the Annual Meeting, to receive a mail ballot. This change would allow the cooperative to send a mail ballot to all members prior to the Annual Meeting.

For the 2023 Annual Meeting, a written ballot request is

required. A request form is included in the annual report. To receive a mail ballot, the request form must be completed and returned to the cooperative by March 24, 2023. Mail ballots will be sent to those from whom a request is received and must be returned by 4 p.m. April 13, 2023. Also included with the annual report mailing is a proxy vote form. A spouse not listed as the cooperative member who plans to attend the Annual Meeting and vote by proxy will need to bring along the completed form. 

Grassroots efforts helped modify energy bill



Darrick Moe
President & CEO
Minnesota Rural
Electric Association

At Minnesota's electric cooperatives, our priority is to provide sustainable, reliable and affordable electricity. With that goal in mind, I want to provide an update on a piece of significant legislation that the governor recently signed.

That legislation calls for Minnesota's electric sector to be 100-percent carbon free by 2040. While Minnesota's rural electric

cooperatives had significant reservations with the original bill, we are pleased to report that the final package is better than what was first proposed, despite our continued concerns about affordability and reliability.

Our grassroots' efforts were successful in getting legislators from both sides of the aisle to work with us to add amendments that addressed some of our major concerns. Thank you to everyone who reached out to your legislators and made your voice heard. It made a difference.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives have long been working and planning toward a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy future. We want you, our member-owners, to know that the heat will be on in the dead of winter and the AC available in the dog days of summer. Furthermore, we want the electricity we provide to always be affordable for your family, while being good stewards of our planet.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association successfully secured changes to the legislation that will provide more flexibility in implementing its mandates. As one example, we sought and obtained language providing greater flexibility in the use of renewable energy credits (RECs) as an option to comply with the carbon reduction mandates. We also received a reduction in the steep timeline, allowing co-ops to reach 60 percent carbon-free generation by 2030, rather than 80 percent at that time. All utilities still need to be 100-percent carbon free by 2040. However, the legislation contains "off-ramps" that allow utilities to ask the Public Utilities Commission to modify the legislation's requirements if needed to protect reliability or affordability.


Minnesota's rural electric co-ops advocated for other adjustments to improve reliability and affordability that did not make it into the final bill; yet, we remain hopeful that additional concerns can be addressed in the future.



Federated directors met with Minnesota Representatives Bjorn Olson and Marj Fogelman February 21. Directors in the back row are Darvin Voss, David Meschke, David A. Hansen, Bruce Brockmann and Scott Thiesse. Topics of discussion included the 100-percent carbon free mandate, opposing mandates on electric cooperatives and defending the rural electrification tax exemption.



Brown County REA directors also met with their legislators February 21. Director Brad Sprenger, Comfrey, discussed proposed legislation with Representative Paul Torkelson. Topics covered included the radio control receivers avoiding unnecessary state requirements and matching state funds to unlock federal infrastructure funding.

We want you to know that your electric cooperatives are working to provide an environmentally-friendly energy future, while keeping the reliability and affordability you expect. We ask that you stay engaged as more legislation moves through the process and sign up for alerts at <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota/>. 
— Darrick Moe, Minnesota Rural Electric Association

Craving raisins recipes? Share your favorite raisin recipes with us

Raise your recipe box and dig out your favorite raisin recipes. Share your raisin recipes for pudding, cookings, bars, pies, rolls and snacks. Mail your favorite raisin recipes to Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by March 27. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! 📧

Thank you
line crews!



CELEBRATE
the power behind your power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 10, 2023

Need help with your winter utility bills?

The Energy Assistance Program helps pay energy & water bills. Benefits up to \$1,400, plus more help for energy or water emergencies. Use this new online application. For more info go to: mn.gov/home



Swedish Meatballs

by Jan Knips, Lakefield

- 2 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped fine
- ¾ c. milk
- ¾ c. uncooked quick oatmeal
- 1 egg
- salt & pepper to taste
- 2 cans golden mushroom soup
- 1 soup can of milk

Mix the beef, onion, milk, oatmeal, egg and seasonings. Form into walnut-sized balls. Place into a greased 9x13" pan. Combine the soup and milk in a bowl. Pour over meatballs.

Bake uncovered at 350° for one hour or until the meat is no longer pink. 📧



Find the Energy Star rebate for a new refrigerator or freezer

on our website (need proof of recycling the old unit).

Keep an eye on your pet with cameras from Heartland Security



Heartland Security

888.264.6380
heartlandss.com





Mike Heidemann
Chief Executive Officer

Staff Notes

Get involved! Join us at the Annual Meeting

One of my favorite events is coming up on April 13, when Brown County REA will host our Annual Meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event because it's a great opportunity for me, our directors and employees to talk with our members and hear what's on their minds.

We hope you'll join us for the Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Sleepy Eye Event Center. For those who are unable to attend in person, you still have the opportunity to vote in the

director election using a mail ballot. However, per the cooperative bylaws, a member must request in writing, a mail ballot. A mail ballot request form is included in 2022 Annual Report sent to all members. To receive a mail ballot, members must return the ballot request form before March 24. The board of directors is proposing an amendment to the bylaws to remove the written request requirement, and members will be asked to vote on this amendment in addition to the director election on the 2023 ballot.

During the Annual Meeting, we'll share a few brief business updates on the 2022 financial reports, highlights of the past year and industry events affecting cooperative members. We'll have food, fellowship with other cooperative members, attendance gifts and opportunity to learn more about our Operation Round Up program and Heartland Security Services, a subsidiary of Brown County REA. Winners of the Operation Round Up scholarships will be announced.

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community's energy future is so important to us. The energy industry is in the midst of massive change. Consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy to local homes, schools and businesses.

As we navigate major changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all Brown County REA members.

Our board of directors is comprised of nine members who live and work right alongside you, so they are in the best position to know issues that are important to you, our member-owners. This local input means those closest to the service area know its needs and priorities and help direct where co-op dollars are spent. Every year, we invest funds to make updates to our local distribution system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: every time you pay your electric bill, you're actually investing in the area in which you live because all the money we take in stays local. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

Most members likely don't equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But Brown County REA is not an ordinary utility company. We're a co-op, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community in which it operates.

Our core purpose and mission are to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. But as a co-op, we're also motivated by service to our community, rather than profits. We hope you'll exercise the benefits! (a)

BROWN COUNTY REA

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: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Mike Heidemann, Chief Executive Officer

Board of Directors

Thomas Hayes, President — 228-8954
William Berg, Vice President — 766-1497
James D. Hanson, Sec.-Treasurer — 829-6756
Brad Sprenger — 317-5576
David Wendinger — 276-3166
Greg Mages — 794-3540
Joel Christensen — 828-4550
James Mickelson — 794-6298
Landon Sletta — 439-6559
The Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of each month.

Board meeting highlights

The Brown County REA Board of Directors held its monthly board meeting on February 28, 2023. Discussion and/or action were taken on the following agenda items:

- Reviewed the cooperative's Distributed Energy Resources documents and received the 2022 Cogeneration Report.
- Informed of progress on the cooperative's 2022 financial audit being conducted by Eide Bailly LLP.
- Set April 17 as the date for the first meeting of the new Member Advisory Council.
- Discussed and approved adding a proposed amendment to the cooperative's bylaws to permit the cooperative to mail ballots to all cooperative members without requiring a written request for a ballot. The amendment will be on the 2023 ballot.
- Reviewed and approved an amendment to modify the cooperative's Renewable Member Resource Option in the Power Purchase Contract with Great River Energy.
- Updated on winter maintenance and upcoming work plan projects for 2023.
- Reviewed staff and director reports.

The next meeting is set for March 30, 2023, at the Brown County REA office in Sleepy Eye. (a)