

Connections

For the member-owners of Brown County REA



Volume 29, Issue 3

Members have moved away...so help us find them for their capital credits pay day



Former Federated

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

Have these former cooperative members gone astray? No, they likely have just moved away. Help them find their way back to us. Your electric cooperative is trying to reunite former members with unclaimed capital credits. Their “pay day” is issued once we have a current mailing address.

These former cooperative members have moved or died; we no longer have their current address or estate address. Yet, they are still owed capital credits or their share of a profitable year.

Help Federated Rural Electric and Brown County REA (BCREA) locate these far away 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. For older Federated unclaimed capital credits listing, go to their website.

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’s service area. Federated’s Round Up Trust Board awards nine high school scholarships and awards the rest to other Operation Round Up recipients. (U)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Becker, Linda | Bancroft, IA |
| Bell, Amy | Welcome |
| Bezdicek, Lawrence S. | Jackson |
| Blount, Shannon | Jackson |
| Bong, Clyde V. | Welcome |
| Bowman, Jeanette | Fairmont |
| Braun, Colleen | Jackson |
| Brawdey, Valerie | Welcome |
| Brooks, Michael & Rose | Walcott, IA |
| Burmeister, Chris Lee | Mankato |
| Buzick, Tim | St. Croix Falls, WI |
| Charnecki, Gary A. | Fairmont |
| Christensen, Gene | Worthington |
| Clay, Harold | Dakota City, IA |
| Crowell, John | Denver, CO |
| Curtis, John | Welcome |
| Daniels, Evelyn | Minneapolis |
| Dollen, Sasha | Fairmont |
| Dominguez, Jenni | Heron Lake |
| Dopp, John | Lake Park, IA |
| Draper, Alexander | Fairmont |
| Egdorf, Daniel | Round Lake |
| Erickson, Evan | Lakefield |
| Eusebio-Piyano, Jorge Luis | Heron Lake |
| Gaffke, Ronald | Finland |
| Gamble, Wayne | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Gartner, Kay S. | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Gilb, Jeremy J. | Fairmont |
| Gilbertson, Troy | Sherburn |
| Glaser, Shelly | Okabena |
| Gordon, Natalie | Fairmont |

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At A Glance



Exercise your right to vote

Be sure to vote by mail or in person at the April 10th Annual Meeting for directors to represent you on the Brown County REA Board of Directors. Please check out the candidates’ profiles on Pages 4 and 5. Make your voice heard by casting a vote. (U)

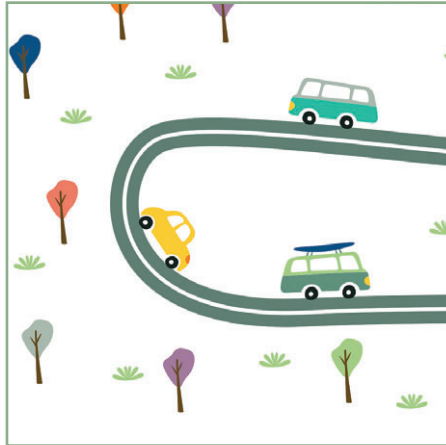


This publication focuses on cooperative savings, programs and events. As this is the official member publication, member's story ideas, letters-to-the-editor and comments are welcomed.
 Andrea Christoffer, CCC, Editor
 "Owned by those it serves"

Yay! Help us find these members who moved away!

— Continued from Page 1

Grant, Patty	Bigelow
Grefe, Jennifer L.	Fairmont
Grunewald, Juanita	Windom
Haneman, Jake	Kasson
Hansen, Misty	Jackson
Hernandez, Jonathan H.	Heron Lake
Hillmer, Jay & Deborah	Stafford, VA
Hines, Lois	Truman
Hoffman, Barbara	Fulda
Isder, John & Lori	Armstrong, IA
Janssen, Terry, C/O Trelonnie Hennings	Round Lake
Jenniges, Jeremy	Lakefield
Johanning, Tom	Valley Springs
Johnson, Phillip	Estherville, IA
Kleinhesselink, Gary	Orange City, IA
Korthouse, Josh	Wilder
Robert Krueger Trust, C/O Jerry Beck	Spicer
Krumwiede, James	Sioux Falls, SD
Kruse, Ryan & Mia	East Tawas, MI
Kuhle, Tom	Worthington
Kutnink, Rhonda	Fairmont
Lamphere, Craig	Roseville
Larson, Scott	Estherville, IA
Lemier-McGowan, Ruth	Fairmont
Ling, Eric	Round Lake
Little Hoop, Elizabeth	Heron Lake
Lomastro, Carol	Fairmont
Lopez, Edgar	Federal Way, WA
Lucas, Kristie K.	Northrop
Marsh, Mike	Spencer, IA
Mason, Shannon	Truman
McCormick, Bryan	Janesville, WI
McDonald, Brady	Welcome
Meyer, Dale	Northrop
Meyeraan, Ronnie & Amy	Odin
Miller, Luke	Granada
Mortensen, Brian	Royal, IA
Munich, Heath	Welcome
Olson, Irene	Fairmont
Park Construction Co	Minneapolis
Past, Larry & Marie	Eau Claire, WI
Pavelko, Rene	Lakefield
Peterson, Opal	Sherburn
Peterson, Vickie L.	Windom
Pittman, Raymond & Sara	Fairmont
Pohlman, Bruce	Belle Plaine
Polzin, Jason & Amanda	Estherville, IA
Poulson, Elaine	New Ulm
Reinke, Jerome	Fairmont
Roth, David L.	St. Paul
Shaw, Lorenzo E.	Jackson
Shumski, Michael	Welcome



Smith, Kenneth & Cheryl	Mapleton, IA
Sobkoweak, Jessica R.	Sherburn
Sorenson, Kyle & Jennifer	Lakefield
Steffen, Pat	Lakefield
Stevens, Sheri	Windom
Stroman, Delois	Welcome
Sugden, Krystalyn M.	Heron Lake
Sunseri, Carol A.	Fairmont
Svoboda, Pat	Welcome
Trevino Jr., Manuel	Sherburn
Wahdan, Alex	Jeffers
Walker, Steve	Waseca
Wallace, Scott	Lincoln, NE
Weaver, Eric	Estherville, IA
Weir, Garth	Welcome
Wells, Adam	Fairmont
Withers, Bill	Custer, SD
Wood, Donald	Windom
Wright, Beverly	Estherville, IA

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

Susan K. Achman	New Ulm
Dorothy Almer	Lake Wilson
Leilah Anderson	Winthrop
Brian Anderson	New Ulm
Robby L. Andrews	Bartow, FL
Gary A. Baumberger	Hutchinson
Jason & Jennifer Bejarano	Hanska
Dr. John Bengtson	Dassel
Jason & Maria Birkeland	Sleepy Eye

Arden Black	Fairfax
Rick Black	Winthrop
Dennis Blackstad, C/O Sadie Rice	Delano
BOC Gases Inc.	Murray Hill, NJ
Nicole Borson/Roethler	New Ulm
Jerry & Destiny Bosma	Mound
Leah Bouton	Mosinee, WI
Beverley A. Bowley, C/O David Bowley	Kingston, Ontario
Larry Boyum	Franklin
Jerry L. Braam	Fairfax
Thomas & Elisabeth Buker	Brainerd
Shanna M. Bunce MD	Eugene, OR
James A. & Robyn L. Bundy	Hanska
Douglas Byro	Madelia
Jeremy Callander	New London
Adolfo Carillo Garcia	Comfrey
Cendant Mortgage	Mt. Laurel, NJ
Citizens Comm #5623	Spokane, WA
Lloyd C. Cochran	De Forest, WI
Curless Flying Service, C/O Harlet Curless	Astoria, IL
David Daniels	Marshall
D-D Money Inc, C/O Dennis E. Sperl	New Ulm
Manuel Z. Dehoyos	Comfrey
Carly J. Dekkers	Hawarden, IA
Delite Outdoor Inc	St. Paul
Jake Dietz	New Ulm
Tania K. Domeier	Sartell
Daniel Earl	New Ulm
Brent Engel	Lake Crystal
Robert H. Evers	Springfield
Exetare Partnership	Gary, SD
Isidor Faerber Jr.	New Ulm
Harold Falk	Hanska
Daniel Falk	Mankato
Farmers Home Administration	Glencoe
First Preston/Minnesota	Spring Lake Park
Ray Flygare	Worthington
Timothy J. Forster	New Ulm
Harris Fredrickson, C/O Ronald J. Dietl	Lafayette
Dennis H. Freitag	Lewisville
John Gag, Jr, C/O Arlene Kopietzki	Waldorf
Becky Geiger	New Ulm
Norbert J. Gleisner	Leesberg, FL
Michael D. Gohr	Boyd
Jesus Gonzales	Hanska
Mark H. Green	Courtland
Wallace A Guggisberg	New Ulm
Kay L. Haas	New Ulm
Daniel Haggenmiller	Winthrop
Steve Hall	New Ulm
Jason J. Hansen	New Ulm

— Continued on Page 6

Matches are no match for electric lighter

How often have you tried to light a candle or campfire and the matches are missing or the gas lighter stick is empty? That's so frustrating!

See the light! Switch to an electric rechargeable lighter. It uses plasma arc technology that is windproof and flameless. That's perfect for campfires, lighting charcoal for grilling or wet conditions. It features a rechargeable lithium battery. Power it up using the USB charger cord to your computer, vehicle charger or power bank. The LED lights indicate when the electric fire stick is fully charged, which works for about 500 lightings. Safety features include a six-second power off and an external safety lock switch to keep children safe from accidental lighting.

Look for a model that features the flexible neck design. You can bend the flexible neck to reach inside a candle; avoid burning your fingers, which can occur with matches.

Look at your local hardware store, Walmart or Amazon. One may cost around \$9 or buy two for approximately \$12. (E)

See the light! Flip the switch and start using a rechargeable electric plasma lighter for candles, camping and grilling — how thrilling!



Safety

Avoid being in a jam! Look out for these utility scams!

Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers. We want to keep you safe. Learn about these utility scams so you can avoid being in a financial jam!

Payment due immediately

Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling on the phone, coming to your door, texting you or e-mailing you for immediate utility payment, especially if your account is current or on Auto Pay. Hang up if caller asks you to go purchase a gift or debit card to settle your account balance. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information; do not call the scammer back at the same number used to call you.

Your electric cooperative will send a past due or disconnect notice before ever disconnecting for nonpayment. At that time your electric cooperative may call to work with you on payment arrangements or credit card payments. Know your utility payment options: online, by phone, automatic transfer from your bank account, debit/credit card, mail, drop box or in person. The only time a cooperative employee may come to your door for payment is for disconnection due to nonpayment. The employee will drive a marked cooperative vehicle. This step occurs only after trying to



work with the member to receive payment. This is why it is important to provide the co-op with any updates to your phone number or e-mail address.

Overpayment call

With a new scam twist some scammers will call claiming you, the customer, overpaid your electric bill. If you receive a call, text or e-mail from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it's very likely a scam. In most cases your electric cooperative will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check to your address on file.

Power restoration rip off

Don't fall for a power restoration rip off. Scammers may contact you and offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams occur after major storms or disasters with widespread outages. We will never request or require payment to restore power after a storm.

If post-storm repairs to customer-owned equipment are necessary, we will advise you to work with a licensed contractor. If any charges are applicable, you will be billed through your existing electric account and address on file with the cooperative. (E)

— Courtesy of Utilities United Against Scams

Efficiency tip

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long. Your co-op offers a \$25 rebate for a cooling system tune-up.


Annual line patrol is underway

Just a reminder that Brown County REA crews are working on the annual line patrol and will be coming onto yards and property throughout the service area.

Linemen will be looking for maintenance issues that need attention, such as loose or missing guy wires and guards, damaged wires and proper line clearance. They will perform maintenance on OCRs and overhead and underground lines. Work will continue until early spring.

Scholarship deadline nearing

High school seniors planning to further their education are reminded to submit your application to receive one of eight \$250 scholarships awarded through the Operation Round Up program.

Scholarship guidelines and the application form are available from high school counselors or on the REA website at www.browncountyrea.coop. Apply by April 7, 2025. 

Meet 2025 director candidates; be sure to vote by April 10

District 1: James Hanson



James (Jim) Hanson and his wife, Jeri, live on a farm northwest of Comfrey. They have four children: daughters Jody (Brandon)

and Jaime (Dallas) and sons Aaron (Jamie) and Adam (Marisa). The Hansons have 13 grandchildren.

Jim and Jeri farm 800 acres and have a registered Hereford cow/calf operation. Jim graduated from Comfrey High School and attended the University of Minnesota at Waseca for two years before going into farming.

Jim wants to continue to be a part of the BCREA board because he believes his prior experience gives him a good base for decisions that need to be made in the near future. "When I started on the REA Board in the early '90s, deregulation was facing us, then Cap and Trade and we continually deal with government regulations/mandates. The names of the issues change, but the bottom line is that we need to keep reliable and low-cost electricity. That has been the focus of Brown County REA in the past, and will continue to be my focus," Jim said. "Brown County REA is a good, strong organization, and I want to continue to be a part of a positive organization that truly cares about its members. I enjoy working with the staff and board."

District 4: William Berg



William (Bill) Berg lives on the Sigel Township farm where he was raised. He is a graduate of New Ulm Cathedral High School and worked at Del

Monte and Kraft for a few years before he began farming. Bill and his wife, Jean, have four children: Nate, Sara, Matt and

Kari, Bill, Jean and son Matt operate a cow/calf and crop farming operation.

Bill has served on the Brown County REA Board of Directors since 2013, currently as vice president. Since 2020, he has represented Brown County REA on the Great River Energy Board of Directors.

Bill has served 25 years on both the Sigel Township Board and New Ulm Rural Fire Department as a supervisor, currently as chairman of both boards. He also served as AMPI District 3 president for nine years. Bill is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters.

He believes that a steady, low cost and reliable supply of electricity is important to everyone. He thinks the REA board is doing a good job and would like your support to elect him to serve another term.

Christine Kral



A New Ulm native, Christine graduated from New Ulm High School, she attended St. Cloud State and Mankato State universities,

receiving a Master of Science degree in Education. She has taught at New Ulm Area Catholic Schools and New Ulm Public Schools, currently teaching special education at New Ulm Middle School.

Christine's children, Jon and Katherine, are busy parents. Jon lives nearby, and Katherine lives in Iowa. They spend some of their time together honoring the memory of son and brother, Chuck, who passed away in 2008.

Christine currently serves on New Ulm Middle School's Leadership Team and as a member of the local teachers' union executive board. She said life in the country is perfect for her, raising chickens and experimenting with plant varieties. She is also a member of the Friends of the New Ulm Public Library and looks forward to the monthly Mystery

Book Club meetings.

She said she has witnessed many changes and advancements since becoming a Brown County REA member in 1988. As she approaches the conclusion of her career in education, she is looking for new challenges.

"I have benefitted from the work of my electric cooperative and would like to be involved in meeting future challenges," she said. "I would bring a solid foundation of problem-solving skills, strengths in written and verbal communication, and a readiness to learn to serve the members of Brown County REA effectively."

District 5: Dale Domeier



Born and raised on a farm near Sleepy Eye, Dale Domeier graduated from Sleepy Eye Public School and attended Jackson Trade

School. For 39 years he worked for Brown County REA, first as a mechanic and then as a lineman, retiring as a line foreman in 2015.

Dale and his wife, Jean, have been married for 53 years. They are parents to three adult children: Vicki, Brent and Kari; they have five grandchildren.

He served two terms on the board for the Church of the Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth. Dale farmed from 1988 to 2020, operated a light-duty farm shop while on the farm, and remains an on-call mechanic when friends and neighbors need help.

Dale said having worked for Brown County REA for 39 years, he would like to see the good service the cooperative has always offered to its members continue. He said it is also important to keep rates as low as possible.

Keith Hoffmann

Keith Hoffmann, known to many as "Herman," is a lifelong resident of Brown County and Sleepy Eye St. Mary's

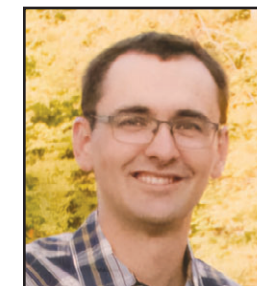


High School graduate. He grew up in Stark Township where he currently resides with his wife, Sheena, and 3-year-old son, Maverick.

He worked for 30 years in the service and parts department at John Deere in Sleepy Eye. For the past three years, he's been an employee of Springfield Co-op Creamery, Sleepy Eye Division. In addition, he farms and raises cattle. Keith is a member of the Knights of Columbus and serves as a Stark Township board supervisor.

With 30-plus years of customer service experience in combination with his township board experience, Keith feels he is a great candidate for the REA Board of Directors position.

"As a member of the board I would do my due diligence, being an advocate for all my constituents. I would work together with the other directors to continue to provide you with reliable power in the most cost-effective way," he said. "I would appreciate your vote."



Brad Sellner

Brad Sellner grew up and currently lives on the family farm in Stark Township. He graduated from Sleepy Eye St. Mary's High

School and obtained an associate's degree in Mechatronics from Alexandria Technical Community College. He worked at Del Monte and 3M before he began farming fulltime. Brad currently works with his father in a dairy, cow/calf, hog and row-crop farming operation.

Brad and his wife, Becky, are parents to two children: Millie and Leo. He is involved in the community volunteering at his church as an usher and helping at parish festivals. He said becoming an

REA director would be a good way to be involved in the community. Being part of the REA Member Advisory Council allowed him to see firsthand how the cooperative operates and functions to provide energy to its members.

"I am interested in becoming a director to help contribute to BCREA to maintain a reliable source of electricity at reasonable rates for all members," he said. "A personal quality about myself is that when facing an issue, I prefer to research the options and hear from all sides before making an informed decision."




Justin Steffl

Justin Steffl is a lifetime resident of Leavenworth Township, raised on the family farm southwest of Sleepy Eye.

Following high school, he studied carpentry at Ridgewater College in Willmar before returning to Sleepy Eye to do construction work and farm alongside his father.

Justin and his wife, Bethany, have two children: Lauren, 13, who enjoys volleyball and softball and Louie, 3, who spends countless hours playing with his tractors and machinery. He said he enjoys being a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye, spending time with friends and family.

Justin said the utilities sector is at a pivotal moment right now. "I've always considered our cost and access to electricity to be fair and reliable. With the State of Minnesota 100 percent Carbon Free Electricity mandate by 2040, and ever-increasing load growth at the same time, our costs as a cooperative will rise significantly as we see the sources of purchasing our electricity limited," he said. "I would ask for and appreciate your vote as director of District 5, where I would be your voice to help keep our electric service reliable and our costs affordable." 

Okay, do you know where these formers members live today?

— Continued from Page 2

Jerome A. Hanson, C/O Roy J. Lodes ADM

Bellevue, NE
New Ulm
Franklin
Nicollet
Ogema
New Ulm
Morgan
Winthrop
Sleepy Eye
New Ulm
Wayne
Stewart
New Ulm
Mankato
New Ulm
Minnnetonka
Battle Lake
Lamberton
New Ulm
Livermore, CA
Hendricks
Gillette, WY
Jeff Hopman
St. James
Sleepy Eye
Aberdeen, SD
Holiday Island, AZ
Lake Crystal
Dale J.
Loveland, CO
Fairmont
Lafayette
New Ulm
New Ulm
Noble, OK
Sleepy Eye
Shakopee
Perham
New Ulm
Claremont
Watertown, SD
Silver Lake
Chanhassen
Hanska
Suwanee, GA
Sleepy Eye
New Ulm
New Ulm
New Ulm
Las Vegas, NV
Geneva Sondag
Hanska
New Ulm
Denver, CO
Madelia
Shakopee
New Ulm
Springfield
Baxter, IA
Springfield
Sleepy Eye
Mankato

Thomas Meyers
Leland L. Miller
Dean Miller
Leeza G. Moe
Moe's Sandy Lane, C/O Trent Moe

Jeanette Moeri
John Claud Monro
Francisco Montaivo
Harry R. Montanye
Terry A. Moore
Joseph Morales
Alice Murphy Trust, C/O Marlene Pelton
Trustee
Brady Nelson
Larry A. Netland
Christopher Newman
Marilyn Novak
Carri J. Odegard
David Olson
Diane M. Olson
Duane A. Olson, C/O Bryan Olson
David E. Pace
Wayne Paulson
Nicole M. Paulson
George Pavelek
Shawn Peters
Matthew D. Petersen
Dorothy Pfeiffer
Angie & Jeremy Pidde
Scott S. Pieper
Braylynn Pitschka
Allen E. Porter, C/O Tad Ulrich (POA)

Brad & Paul Portner
Nick & Kristin M. Psyck
Shirley Purrier
Christine J. Rasmussen
Richelle Reasor
Paulette L. Reighard
Dan Reim
Jason Ries
River Valley Truck Center
Viviana Rivera
Lola Robertson
Lillian Roe
James A. Rogers
Romberg & Petermann Farms LLP, C/O Jon Petermann
Sleepy Eye
Dewayne Sadler, C/O Winthrop State Bank
Winthrop
Robert W. Sahli, C/O Mary Lou Sahli
Mankato
Madelia
New Ulm
Scherer Properties Corp, C/O Mark & Matt Hagberg
Lafayette
Darrel D. Schmidt
Steven J. Schoener
Rita K. Schoof
Gary Schreyer
Carmen Schumacher Fischer
Sleepy Eye
Jason Schutz
Marjorie M. Schwaegerl
Sleepy Eye
Thomas R. Sirovy
Pine River

Faribault
New Ulm
Redwood Falls
Springfield
Springfield
New Ulm
Las Vegas, NV
Pasco, WA
Chaska
Rochester
Logan, UT
Marlene Pelton
Green Valley, AZ
St. Peter
Willmar
New Ulm
Buffalo
New Ulm
Hanska
Chanhassen
Olson P.R. Nicollet
Grand Rapids
St. James
New Ulm
Lester Prairie
Winthrop
New Ulm
New Ulm
Comfrey
Hanska
Winthrop
Cannon Falls
New Ulm
New Ulm
New Ulm
New Ulm
Lake Crystal
Eldora, IA
North Mankato
Gibbon
Mankato
Sleepy Eye
Sleepy Eye
Hanska
LaSalle
Sleepy Eye
Winthrop State Bank
Winthrop
Mary Lou Sahli
Mankato
Madelia
New Ulm
Matt Hagberg
Lafayette
Winthrop
Laporte
New Ulm
New Ulm
Sleepy Eye
Sleepy Eye
Pine River

Eileen M. Siskel
Marlyn D. Smith
Michael W. Smith
Patricia South
Russell Sperl
Debbie L. Spicer, C/O F&M
New Ulm
Dean Spilde
Jason E. Stiernagle
Angeline Sturm
TCF National Bank
Douglas E. Tharp
Linda Theis
Douglas Thorson
John Tornow
Alice Trebesch
Loen D. Troldahl
Phillip C. Turgeon
Twenty 1st Century Wireless
U.S. Geological Survey
Ray H. Van Wyngarden
Verizon Wireless
Saimi Vogl
William D. Walters, C/O Enclave at Parkview
Fort Worth, TX
St. James
Butterfield
Burns, OR
Eric Webster Family Trust, C/O Sally Webster
St. Peter
Doreen L. Weckwerth, C/O Deb McDermott
Big Lake
Oakdale
New Ulm
Lewisville
New Ulm
Stacy
New Ulm
Gibbon
Max Creek, MO
New Ulm (GA)



Oh happy day! Your co-op is sending "thanks" your way! Thanks for taking time to help former members receive their capital credits "back pay."

Whip up your favorite meringue recipes to share with all of us

Springtime calls for a light and fluffy dessert using meringue! Share your favorite meringue recipes with us, whether it's for a cookies, pie or torte. Send your favorite meringue recipes to Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by April 25. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! ☺

Egg Yolk Chocolate Chip Cookie Bars

by Jessica Nachreiner, Comfrey

If you made an angel food cake and find yourself with an abundance of egg yolks, this is a great recipe to use them up!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 c. softened butter | 3/4 tsp. baking soda |
| 1 c. light brown sugar, packed | 3/4 tsp. baking powder |
| 1/2 c. white granulated sugar | 1 tsp. salt |
| 5 large egg yolks | 2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour |
| 2 tsp. vanilla extract | 2 c. chocolate chips, divided |

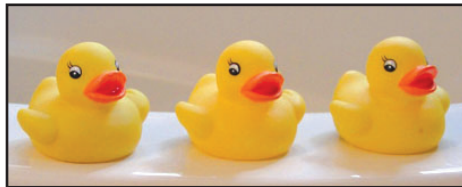
Preheat your oven to 350°F and prepare a 9x13" baking pan with non-stick spray. In a large bowl beat together the butter and sugars until combined and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks and vanilla extract. Then beat in the baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add the flour and use a large spoon or spatula to mix the dough together. Stir in 1 3/4 c. of the chocolate chips (the rest will go on top). Spoon the dough into your prepared baking pan. Use the spoon to evenly spread and gently flatten the dough. Sprinkle the remaining 1/4 c. of chocolate chips on top and gently press them into the dough. Bake the bars at 350°F for 25-30 minutes or until the edges are lightly browned and the center no longer looks wet. Allow the bars to cool completely in the pan placed on a cooling rack. ☺

Natalie's Monster Bars

by Elizabeth Shimon, Granada

- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 c. peanut butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 4 1/2 c. old-fashioned oats
- 1 c. M&Ms
- 3/4 c. chocolate chips

Mix all together and press into a greased 9x13" pan. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Don't overbake! ☺



Get your ducks in a row...
Turn to your electric co-op for your next water heater & hot, bubbly bath!



Take advantage of our Energy Star refrigerator or freezer rebates with the recycling of the old unit. Find the form on our website or call us! ☺

MARCH SPECIAL!

Get a free cellular communicator when upgrading from a landline

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A subsidiary of your local electric co-op



Always call first:

1-800-252-1166



Call Gopher State One Call before doing any digging more than 12" deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees and tiling.

Register at www.gopherstate-onecall.org or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. ☺

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 — 507-228-8954
William Berg, Vice President — 507-766-1497
James D. Hanson, Sec.-Treasurer — 507-829-6756
Brad Sprenger — 507-317-5576
David Wendinger — 507-276-3166
Greg Mages — 507-794-3540
Joel Christensen — 507-828-4550
James Mickelson — 507-794-6298
Landon Sletta — 507-276-1899
The Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of each month.

Brown County REA

88th Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 10
Sleepy Eye Event Center, 110 12th Avenue NE
Sleepy Eye, MN



- Registration & Leon Olsen Band 4:30 p.m.
- Meal at 5:30 p.m., immediately followed by business meeting
- Election of Directors in Districts 1, 4 & 5

- Vote by mail before April 10 or in person at the meeting

Board meeting highlights

The Brown County REA Board of Directors held its monthly board meeting on January 23, 2025. Discussion and/or action were taken on the following agenda items:

- Reviewed and approved the December 2024 board meeting minutes, new membership applications/cancellations, payments to estates and assignment transfers.
- Reviewed and approved December 2024 payroll and December financial statement.
- Approved Russ Hacker, District 6, and Ruth Klossner, District 9, as new Round Up Trust Board members.
- Reviewed and approved the 2025 Cogeneration and Small Power Production rate schedule for member-owned Distributed Energy Resources less than 40 kW, effective January 1, 2025.
- Reviewed Safety, Reliability and Service Quality report and the OSHA 300 Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses.
- Discussed and approved the 2025 Operating Budget as presented.
- Reviewed staff and director meeting reports, plus individual director reports.

The next meeting is set for February 20, 2025, at the Brown County REA office in Sleepy Eye. (U)

Watch for 2024 BCREA Annual Report



A copy of the Brown County REA 2024 Annual Report will be arriving in members' mailboxes in mid-March. Please bring your report to scan for registration if you attend the April 10 Annual Meeting in person.

Included with the report is a mail-in ballot to vote for directors in Districts 1, 4 and 5. All members are encouraged to vote for cooperative directors and return the ballot by mail in the enclosed, stamped and addressed envelope. Mail ballots must be received at the REA headquarters no later than 12:00 p.m. on April 10, 2025, to be counted. Members who vote by mail are welcome and encouraged to attend the annual

meeting in person but will not be given a ballot at registration.

With the passage of new by-laws in 2021, a signed proxy form is required for voting by proxy at the annual meeting. If a spouse is not listed as the cooperative member on the membership and plans to vote at the annual meeting without the designated member present, they must present a signed proxy form when registering at the meeting. The proxy form is included in the annual report. Please do not mail proxy forms. A proxy form is not required for mail ballots. (U)