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Reminders

Deadline for Beat the Peak drawing is May 21

Though individual households can sign up for the annual energy challenge at any time, the deadline to compete on a team and be eligible for one of two \$500 Visa gift cards is Monday, May 21. Sign up at www.mvec.net/challenge

Simplify this summer

Pay your electric bill with automatic bill pay and have funds automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the same day each month. It will take one more thing off your monthly to-do list! Visit www.mvec.net.

April Board Highlights are online at www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/

Additional resources available 24/7 at www.mvec.net



Electric Eye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

May 2018

Incumbents re-elected Annual meeting presentations highlight busy, healthy co-op

Nearly 200 people, representing 120 registered member households and businesses attended Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting at New Prague High School the evening of Tuesday, April 10.

Tom Wolf, Bill Heinlein and Kevin Gibbs were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

All three incumbents were returned to the Board of Directors for three-year terms.

In a tight District I race, Tom Wolf of Credit River Township received 565 votes, while challenger Barbara Marschall of Prior Lake received 546 votes.

In District II, Bill Heinlein of Chanhassen received 517 votes with challengers Mike Liebl of Prior Lake close behind with 491 votes and Charles R. Gehman of Chaska with 223.

In District III, Kevin Gibbs of Le Center was unopposed and was returned to office by acclamation.



Tom Wolf, Bill Heinlein and Kevin Gibbs will continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

General Manager Ryan Hentges' presentation focused on the employees of the cooperative and the services they provide to the membership. MVEC's new Green Source renewable energy program was introduced, as well as two programs

See Annual Meeting on page 2



Sam Meeker

Meeker selected as 2018 Youth Tour representative

Sam Meeker of Green Isle, a junior at Central High School in Norwood-Young America, will represent MVEC next month on the 2018 Youth Tour, a national leadership trip to Washington, D.C. Anna Holden of New Prague was selected as the alternate.

Forty Minnesota youth will join more than 1,800 students from electric cooperatives all across the U.S. on this week-long trip, which gives young people the opportunity to learn more about U.S. history and the role rural cooperatives play, explore museums, memorials and monuments, and be part of a group with over 50,000 alumni from the past 60 years in every walk of life.





**\$1.4 million
back to local
communities
since 1995**

Interested in serving?

MVEC is looking for a member to fill a spot on the Operation Round Up Trust Board. ORU board members each research and recommend 3-4 grant requests for every quarterly meeting. Contact chrisr@mvec.net, if you are interested.

ORU makes donations of \$3

Operation Round Up (ORU) is a voluntary program where MVEC members pool excess pennies together to benefit local organizations. If your bill is \$75.56, it is rounded up to \$76.00, and the extra 44¢ goes to ORU. Multiply all that extra change by the thousands of generous MVEC members who participate and it makes a BIG difference. Here is a partial list of the groups that received donations in the first quarter of 2018:

- Aging Services for Community of Montgomery** – \$1,500 for transportation
- Belle Plaine Food Shelf** – \$500 for food
- Belle Plaine Lutheran Home** – \$750 for Let’s Go Fishing
- Belle Plaine Robotics** – \$1,500 for robotics parts
- Brain Power in a Backpack of Burnsville** – \$500 for food
- Carver County Veterans Memorial of Mayer** – \$1,000 for flag poles
- Choose Not to Use/Scott Co.** – \$2,000 for presentations
- Green Isle Community Connect** – \$500 for community meals

- Harriet Bishop Elementary of Savage** – \$1,000 for community service projects
- Holy Redeemer School of Montgomery** – \$1,000 for mini courses
- Jordan Techno Tech Robotics** – \$1,000 for supplies
- Le Sueur Backpack Nutrition** – \$500 for food
- Lions MD5M of Carver County** – \$2,000 for T-shirts
- Lonsdale Food Shelf** – \$500 for food
- Lutheran Home Hope of Belle Plaine** – \$1,000 for camp scholarships
- New Options of Shakopee** – \$1,000 for clothing
- NPACE of New Prague** – \$900 for Camp scholarships
- New Prague Area Schools** – \$1,500 bus grant
- PLRAC of Waseca** – \$1,000 for Harvey Kauffman One Man Band

MVEC’s 80th Annual Meeting continued from page 1

promoting co-op safety and awareness.

Hentges said the co-op’s Board of Directors and employees continue to focus on the key areas of safety, reliability, technology, competitive rates and member satisfaction.

Following Hentges’ presentation, members asked questions about the proposed city of New Prague acquisition of 750 current MVEC households. Hentges responded that it isn’t MVEC’s wish to sell this portion of the service area, but that state law allows municipals to acquire services within city limits, upon proper compensation.

Other questions were fielded regarding the costs of the GreenSource renewable options, the term limits of board directors and other election procedures.



MVEC’s 81st Annual Meeting was held at New Prague High School.



Twenty-two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to area high school students. More information about the recipients will appear in the June *Electric Eye*.

Gerry Mareck, vice president of finance, gave a 2017 financial review and concluded the co-op had another solid year while maintaining competitive rates within the area and ranking 13 percent below the national average.

The co-op has kept local spending flat and at the same time has returned over one million dollars in Capital Credits back to members for four years in a row.

The annual meeting also featured scholarship presentations, funded by MVEC’s unclaimed capital credits. In all, 22 \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to area high school seniors.

The evening concluded with prize drawings: eight \$100 gift cards to Amazon, Lowes, Holiday and Cub.

0,490 to local groups

- 750 for Shakopee Area Catholic Schools – \$690 for transportation
 - \$600 for Scott/Carver CAP Agency – \$2,500 for crisis nursery
 - robotic Scott County Historical Society – \$400 for commercial vacuum
 - food Shakopee Band Boosters – \$1,000 for baritone instrument
 - for event Sibley County Fairgrounds – \$1,000 for restroom upgrade
 - 2,000 for Sibley East Schools – \$1,500 for visual arts event
 - ient placement Sibley FoodShare of Gaylord – \$500 for food
 - Invention SouthWest Metro Intermediate District – \$1,000 for switches and bar magnifiers
 - rage AED All Night Safe Parties – \$100 each to high schools in Burnsville, Chaska, Cleveland, Le Sueur-Henderson, Waconia and Waterville-Elysian
 - ane
- TOTAL 1st Quarter Distribution: \$30,490**



The New Prague Area Schools Transportation department received a \$1,500 grant from Operation Round Up to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) device for the bus garage.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE FOR AUGUST 1, 2018

On August 1, 2015, you became a member of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) as part of the acquisition of Alliant Energy's Minnesota electric distribution assets by MVEC and 11 other members of Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative. The sale, along with a five-year rate transition plan, was approved at that time by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

This is official notice that MVEC will be implementing the next stage of that approved rate transition plan on August 1, 2018. The PUC received MVEC's compliance filing on December 11, 2017, with a maximum five percent increase to the rate. MVEC's Board of Directors approved the residential rate listed below.

| Rate Class* | Current Basic Service Charge | Aug. 1, 2018 Basic Service Charge | Current kWh Rate | Aug. 1, 2018 kWh Rate |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Residential | \$8.50/month | \$10.00/month | 9.438¢ Oct-May (first 1,000 kWh) 6.549¢ Oct-May (over 1,000 kWh) 11.322¢ June-Sept | 9.690¢ Oct-May (first 1,000 kWh) 7.775¢ Oct-May (over 1,000 kWh) 11.560¢ June-Sept |

*Other rates available upon request from the cooperative.

It is important to keep these items in mind as you review the rate change:

- Your last rate increase was from Alliant Energy in 2010.
- You will no longer see a \$2 per thousand kilowatt-hour cooperative credit on your bill. This credit was applicable only for the first three years following the acquisition as approved in the rate transition plan.
- The cost of power supply and transmission service will continue as a pass through (as a power cost adjustment) with no markup of the actual cost of power and its transmission service charged to the cooperative by the wholesaler as it has been. This is adjusted semi-annually.
- The impact on your bill will vary depending on your personal energy use.

Important factors to consider when you became a member of a cooperative versus a customer of an investor-owned utility:

- MVEC is a not-for-profit that is committed to delivering reliable power and providing quality member service at the lowest cost.
- MVEC works hard to minimize the impact of necessary price increases.
- MVEC is accountable to local consumer-members, not outside investors.
- MVEC is a cooperative and you have a voice in decision making through a local, member-elected board of directors who protect members' access to safe, affordable and reliable power.

If you have questions, please contact us by calling 952.492.2313 or email info@mvec.net.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards, and MVEC is committed to safety for its employees on the job and members in their homes.

In 2017, 475,500 structure fires (including residential fires) were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical everyone understands their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes. With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, people need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Everyone plays a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries. Together, let's plug into safety this May.



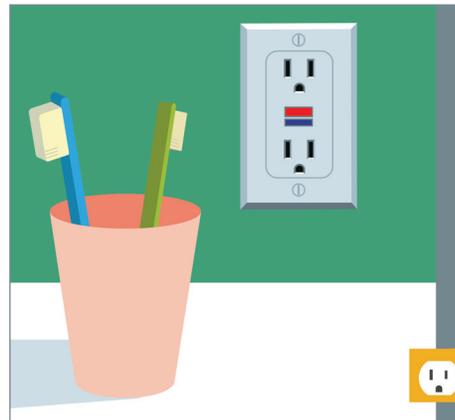
Remember to unplug the toaster before you pry out that stuck piece of toast! Always unplug small appliances before cleaning them.

And don't forget to test your smoke alarms every month.



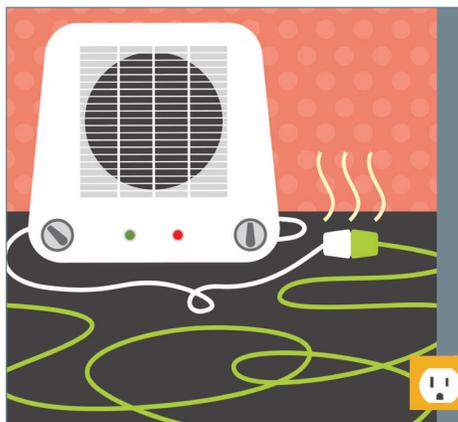
Never use water to extinguish an electrical fire. Use a fire extinguisher or baking soda instead.

Never use electrical equipment near water and other liquids.



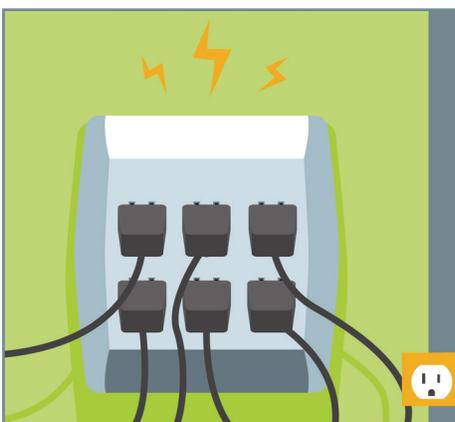
Is your home properly protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters? GFCI outlets should be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoor outlets.

Never use light bulbs that exceed the recommended wattage.



Do not use an extension cord or power strip with heaters and fans. This could cause the cord to overheat and result in a fire.

If you depend on extension cords as permanent solutions, it might be time to call an electrician.



Know the warning signs of overloaded outlets:

- Flickering or blinking lights
- Warm or discolored wall plates
- Burning odor from receptacles
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers