

Inside this issue:

- See how the teams are doing in Beat the Peak **page 2**
- Co-op's 29th substation energized; crews busy with road moves **page 3**
- ORU makes 2nd quarter donations of \$31,290; recipient says "thanks" **page 4**

Reminders

Take it on the road

In addition to pharmacy savings, MVEC members who use the Co-op Connections program can take advantage of local and national discounts and offers at over 31,000 businesses in 46 states.

It's the perfect travel companion, thanks to the GPS-enabled phone app which lets you easily search to see what discounts await you at your next destination.

Vacation-related offers include entertainment, hotels, food, attractions, car rentals and more!

Learn more at www.mvec.net/our-community/

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



ElectricEye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

July 2018

Sam Meeker enjoys D.C. experience; says it was a trip of a lifetime

Each year in June, electric cooperatives send youth delegates to Washington, D.C., and for the first time in many years, MVEC sponsored a representative.

Sam Meeker of Green Isle, who will be a senior at Central High School this fall, was MVEC's representative on the 2018 Youth Tour. Though a bit of rain caused delays while landing, Sam and his companions had a busy, educational week. Each day was filled to the brim with sightseeing, museums, and informational sessions hosted by national representatives. The group learned about the Seven Cooperative Principles and how to apply them to their lives. Sam said he believes those principles will have an impact on his senior year, especially that working together is crucial to success; he believes co-ops do that really well.

Some of the sights the group saw include all of the Smithsonian museums, the Marine Corps museum, Mount Vernon, Newseum, Holocaust museum,



Sam's selfie at the Jefferson Memorial.

MVEC's Youth Tour delegate Sam Meeker at the U.S. Capitol Building.



Washington Monument, Lincoln Monument, Vietnam and Korean war memorials, FDR and MLK memorials, Jefferson Monument, Air Force Monument, Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon.

If that doesn't sound busy enough, the youth also met with congressional leaders, including Tina Smith and Rick Nolan, to ask them questions about their viewpoints on topics such as the lack of broadband in rural communities and how cooperatives can help in this situation.

Sam said the trip was a whirlwind, and he enjoyed everything so much — he just wanted a little more time there! Going into the trip, Sam didn't know how many cooperatives were in the U.S. nor the impact they have, and he was pleased to learn that Minnesota has the most cooperatives in the United States. It surprised him how much of an impact members have on their cooperatives, and he loved learning about the Seven Cooperative Principles. Cooperative speakers, such as one who spoke about a mission trip that brought power to impoverished communities, also stood out to Sam.

Since it was his first time in Washington, D.C., Sam thought it was cool to see all of the monuments for

See Youth Tour on page 2

13 is lucky number for Beat the Peak savings

As of June 27, two Beat the Peak events were held with over 3,400 participants collectively saving 13 megawatt hours of electricity.

Beat the Peak started off in a big way on the very first day of the challenge – May 28, which was Memorial Day – with 6.9 megawatt hours saved. On June 15, another 6.1 megawatt hours was saved.



START

Team Standings as of 6/28/2018

5-15 members	16-25 Members	Over 25 Members
1. New Prague State Science Fair	1. Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School	1. Redtail Ridge Elementary School
2. Chaska/Chan/Eden Prairie Mountain Bikers	2. SnowDrifters of New Prague	2. River Valley YMCA
3. WEM Volleyball	3. Czech Heritage Club	3. Savage Area Women of Today
4. New Prague Chamber of Commerce	4. Operation Round Up	4. Cystic Fibrosis Society of Minnesota
5. Our Czech Heritage Club	5. St. Wenceslaus Catholic School	5. Minnesota Military Family Foundation
6. Lonsdale Ambassadors	6. New Prague Rotary	6. Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School
7. Grassroots Government		
8. Belle Plaine High School Weight Room		
9. River Valley All Stars		

Teams are off to a great start!

Those 13 megawatt hours saved are equal to what 6,132 typical modern solar panels would generate during 8 hours of direct full sunlight.

There are 21 teams participating in Beat the Peak this year, raising money for their various causes. Prizes will be awarded to the top three

teams in each category at the end of the 2018 challenge in September.

Winners of the \$500 Visa gift cards drawn from all participants were Christina and Jay Swiggum of Prior Lake and Charlotte and Doug Weber of Carver (see photo).

The Weber family of Carver sent this photo of their dog Teddy and said: "We love to 'beat the peak' by enjoying Minnesota summers in our back yard or on the lake!"
Do you have a unique way to Beat the Peak? Email a photo to info@mvec.net.

Youth Tour continued from page 1

the first time. He especially liked the Washington Memorial, and enjoyed watching the Secret Service safely deliver Vice President Mike Pence to the Ford Theater

while the Youth Tour group was dining at the Hard Rock Café. Being one of 13 guys among 27 girls in Minnesota's delegation was interesting, but he made several friends from

all over the state that he plans to keep in contact with.

As for future career plans? Sam still isn't sure; however, he definitely says he will keep in mind the Seven Cooperative Principles and believes they will aid him in his senior year of high school and beyond. He also mentioned that visiting the monuments and museums taught him that "everything is not as bad as you think. Stay humble."

"Thanks for sponsoring me," said Sam. "It was a great experience. I'll never forget it – it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

MVEC plans to sponsor a Youth Tour participant again in 2019. Watch the Electric Eye in January for further details. Or see more photos and information about Youth Tour at www.mvec.net/community



Minnesota electric co-ops sent a total of 40 students to Washington, D.C. Here Sam (second from right in the front row) and his fellow Minnesota delegates meet with Senator Tina Smith.

Zinran Substation energized in time for road move

MVEC's 29th substation, the Zinran Substation in Savage, went into service on June 4.

At a cost of approximately \$2 million, Zinran is one of MVEC's larger substations with the capacity to power between 3,000 and 4,000 homes. At its current load, the substation has plenty of room to grow, according to Curt Cordt, engineering manager. Zinran will power homes and businesses in Savage and serve as backup power for MVEC members in Prior Lake, Shakopee and Burnsville.

Originally, Zinran wasn't scheduled for completion until the electric load in the Savage



MVEC's Sawyer Moser, Bruce Klehr, Mike Callies and Jeremy Denzer look over the details of plans for the Zinran Substation. MVEC's newest substation was energized on June 4.



The new Zinran Substation is supplementing power flow from the Prior Lake Substation during the road moves on Highway 13 and County Road 42. Its main purpose is to power homes and businesses in Savage.

area had grown to an amount necessary for a new substation. However, once the Scott County Road 42 and Minnesota State Highway 13 road upgrades in Prior Lake were scheduled, the timeline for Zinran was moved up to assist in re-routing electricity from the Prior Lake Substation.

During a road relocation, adjacent power lines within the road right of way need to be moved along with the road. Instead of interrupting power on that line, electricity is either re-routed from another substation or, when possible, linemen work safely around live conductors.

Adding a substation to the system increases power reliability by providing a new source for backfeeding, which is used in cases of road moves or power outages. Next year, MVEC plans to upgrade the Cleveland and Waconia substations to increase capacity and replace aging equipment, again to increase reliability, according to Cordt.

The Zinran Substation is located next to Eagle Creek, one of the last metro trout streams in the state. The Minnesota DNR was involved with environmental impact studies prior to building the substation and will continue to monitor the creek and its trout.

Air conditioning is a major culprit for a summer electric bill that seems unusually high, as are dehumidifiers and fans. Here are other simple tips for keeping your electric bill under control:

Countertop Convenience

Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, Crock-Pots and toaster ovens are cooler ways to cook.



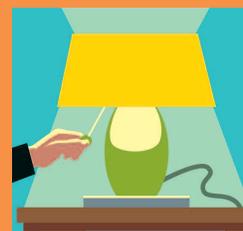
Intramural Competition

Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen.



Laundry for Less

Full loads mean fewer cycles, and running your washer and dryer in the late evening adds less heat and humidity to your home. Energy costs less outside of peak hours.



Cool it Down

Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat. Resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember that lower fan settings use less energy.

Giving back to the community

ORU makes 2nd quarter donations of \$31,290

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 are the groups that received donations in the second quarter of 2018:

Belle Plaine Senior High – \$100 for post prom party

Belle Plaine Back Pack Program – \$500 for food

Belle Plaine Public Schools – \$904 for Fort Snelling trip

Caden Frauendienst – \$200 for overseas care package

Campfire MN – \$1,000 for scholarships

Community Giving Hope, Inc – \$1,500 for gas cards

Central Public Schools – \$700 for peer T-shirts

Czech Heritage Club – \$500 for speakers

Flags and Honor of Minnesota – \$1,000 for 10-member team

Green Isle Community Connect Project – \$500 for food

Hamburg Fire Department – \$3,092 for pagers

HIS Haven Ranch – \$1,500 for transportation/foster program

Holy Redeemer School – \$280 for Washington, D.C. trip

New Options Pro Act, Inc. – \$504 for assorted requests

New Prague Historical Society – \$500 for software

Scott Carver CAP Agency – \$2,000 for crisis nursery

Scott County Agricultural Society – \$1,500 for cupolas and bleachers

Scott County History Society – \$400 for interactive screen

Sibley FoodShare of Gaylord – \$500 for food

Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women – \$5,000 for cell phone service

Tri City United Schools – \$1,810 for Friendship Adventure

True Friends – \$1,000 for scholarships

TOTAL SECOND QUARTER DISTRIBUTION: \$31,290

Thanks to all who participate!

Add your cents at www.mvec.net/our-community/operation-round-up



MaryAnn Bigaouette, center, accepts a \$5,000 check on behalf of the Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women (SVABW) from ORU directors Carolyn Christopherson, left, and Connie Meeker, right. The money pays for the organization's crisis telephone line.

ORU recipient says thanks!

1) What does this donation mean to you? This \$5,000 donation from ORU means the world to Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women. Receiving this grant means we can guarantee the costs associated with having a 24-hour crisis line will be fully covered for our next fiscal year. In 2017, SVABW served over 700 victims of domestic violence, and we could not have done it without the availability of our crisis line.

2) How does it benefit SVABW? It benefits SVABW in that we are now able to assure every victim of domestic violence who calls on us for our services, that we will be available to answer their calls and meet their needs 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Our crisis line is the gateway by which all of our other services are accessed, so having this service is very crucial in our delivery of on-going services. SVABW regularly trains volunteers who stand ready to answer our crisis line, but without the money to pay for the call forwarding system that feeds the crisis line calls into the volunteers' homes, this much-needed service would not be possible.

3) If you could say anything to members that participate in Operation Round Up, what would you say? I would say THANK YOU for helping us to help others! The donation you make to ORU by "rounding up" your bill every month truly helps to save the lives of victims of domestic violence every day. I know it may only seem like you're donating pennies on the dollar, but those pennies add up along with everyone else's pennies, so please continue to "round up" to make sure SVABW can continue to help those in need of our services.