



Electric Eye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

December 2018

A gift that keeps on giving Operation Round Up supports many thanks to participating members

Operation Round Up, a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, is designed to provide financial assistance to non-profit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) service area.

The primary source of funding for ORU is from MVEC members who voluntarily

round up their electric bills. MVEC employees also have the option to payroll deduct a monthly contribution.

Each quarter, members of the ORU trust board examine requests for funds and meet to determine funding. John Miller of Henderson is president and is joined on the board by Carolyn Christopherson of Belle Plaine, Connie Meeker of Green Isle, Pam

Peters of Hamburg, Dick Peterson of Belle Plaine, Carol Ragan of Shakopee, Carol Schultz of Belle Plaine, Pam Weiers of Henderson and Jeanne Zwart of Elysian.

In 2018, a total of \$121,001 was given to 124 organizations within MVEC's service area. Since the program was implemented in 1995, over \$1.8 million has been donated.

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*Merry Christmas
and Happy Holidays
from all of us at
Minnesota Valley
Electric Cooperative*



\$1,000 scholarships available for high school seniors

The deadline to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship is Monday, Feb. 18, 2019. Graduating high school seniors attending public, private or home school are eligible to apply. Five recipients from each of MVEC's three districts will be randomly selected. The only requirement is to be a member of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative with a wish to further your education.

Applications are available at www.mvec.net/our-community. Winners will be recognized at MVEC's 81st Annual Meeting on April 9, 2019, at TCU Middle School in Le Center. MVEC scholarships are funded through Unclaimed Capital Credits – money that would otherwise be claimed by the state.

Basin Scholarship

Basin Electric, one of our wholesale power providers, has one \$1,000 scholarship available. An essay and an outside appraisal are required. The Basin scholarship deadline is also Monday, Feb. 18. The recipient is chosen by Basin Electric in April.



MVEC sends best wishes to the 2018 scholarship winners as they finish their first semester at college and tech school. 2019 applications can be found at www.mvec.net/our-community

Youth Tour applications now open for free D.C. trip

Do you know a high school sophomore or junior in MVEC's service area who is interested in a trip to Washington D.C.?

One representative, whose parent or guardian is an MVEC member, will be selected to participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, to be held June 15-20, 2019.

A 300- to 500-word essay is due with the application by March 1, 2019.

An alternate will also be selected and will



receive a \$200 cash prize.

The winner will travel with approximately 40 Minnesota teens sponsored by other rural electric co-ops and be one of 1,500 national delegates.

Trip highlights include:

- Touring historical sites, including Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Supreme Court, the

Washington National Cathedral and more.

- Meeting local political representatives and learning more about government.
- Creating lifelong friendships with students from all around the country.

MVEC is sponsoring the trip as a commitment to education and learning the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities in America.

The application and more information can be found at www.mvec.net/our-community.



Coloring contest winners

Thank you for over 100 entries.

Congratulations to Jaxson Vosejka, left, and Elizabet Vasilchenkov, right, who were the first place winners of \$100 Target gift cards.

Alexa Belair and Leo Morrill were the \$50 gift card winners. The \$25 gift card winners were Lauren Garbisch, Noah Lindsey, Ava Wetzel and Karlee Livingston. Great job, everyone!





Since 1995, Operation Round Up members
 have collectively donated
\$1,824,508.63
 in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters



The average yearly donation to round up your bill is just \$6.
 Sign up to add your monthly change at www.mvec.net/our-community

A big THANK YOU to those (over 50% of MVEC's members) who participate in this community-based program.

Through the generosity of MVEC members who round up their monthly electric bills, the Operation Round Up Trust Board gifted \$28,161 for the fourth quarter of 2018:

- Arlington Chamber of Commerce - \$2,000 for ArliDazzle event
- Belle Plaine Food Shelf - \$500 for food
- Brainpower Back Pack program in Burnsville - \$500 for food
- Can Do Canines - \$2,000 for training 50 service dogs in 2019
- Carver County Veterans Memorial - \$500 for flag pole
- Dakota Co. Technical College Foundation - \$2,000 for lineworker scholarships
- Green Isle Lions - \$2,000 for winter clothing drive
- Green Isle Community Connect - \$500 for food
- Holy Redeemer School of Montgomery - \$600 for winter mini courses
- Le Sueur County Sheriff - \$500 for DARE program
- Le Sueur-Henderson Schools - \$500 for Back Pack nutrition program
- Le Sueur County Adopt-A-Family - \$500 for Christmas gifts
- Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous of Montgomery and Le Center - \$1,000 for Christmas gifts
- Lonsdale Area Food Shelf - \$500
- Lutheran Social Services - \$500 for senior citizen meals in Waterville



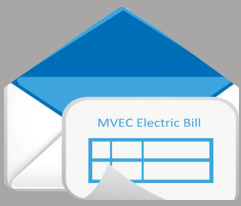
The Scott County Sheriff's Department used a \$3,500 grant to purchase two ResQ CPR units. Officers have already used these plunger-type emergency devices to save three local lives from cardiac arrest.

Over the years, Operation Round Up has funded several dozen traditional-style AED units throughout MVEC's service area, as well.

- Majestic Hills Ranch of Lakeville - \$2,000 for the Heroes on Horseback program
- New Options of Shakopee - \$993 walkie-talkies, TV and room decor
- Oak Crest Elementary of Belle Plaine - \$1,000 for field trip transportation
- Peace Center of New Prague - \$500 for backpack program food
- People Reaching People of Eden Prairie - \$500 for food
- RELATE of Chaska - \$500 for crisis line
- Santa Anonymous of Cleveland - \$500 for Christmas gifts
- Salvation Army of Green Isle - \$2,000 for HeatShare program
- Scott Carver Dakota CAP agency - \$2,000 for crisis nursery
- Shakopee Heritage Society - \$2,008 to publish history books
- Shakopee Schools - \$1,400 for AEDs
- Sibley County FoodShare - \$500 for food
- SW Metro District 288 of Chaska - \$660 for two rocking chairs
- Tri City United of Montgomery - \$500 for outdoor learning

4th Quarter TOTAL \$28,161





Your electric bill will have a new look beginning in January 2019. In place of your January Electric Eye newsletter, you will receive a special insert explaining the updated features of the new billing layout.

Capital Credit notice

MVEC has posted on its website Unclaimed Capital Credits from the General Retirement it conducted in 2011 for the year 1991. To secure any unclaimed dollars, you need to fill out a request for reimbursement and provide the information as indicated to authenticate the request. To see if you are on the list of eligible recipients and fill out the form, visit the Unclaimed Capital Credits section at www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/capital-credits/

Attention snowbirds:

Monitor your northern home's electric usage when you're down south from your smart phone or tablet with MVEC's SmartHub program.



Our office will be closed:

December 24-25
January 1



Solar array project will not move forward

MVEC's campaign to determine member interest in a cooperative-built solar array ended Oct. 31 with the results showing there is not enough member commitments to move forward. Out of the co-op's 42,000-plus members, approximately 200 subscriptions of 100-kilo-watt hour blocks were received. To move the project forward, MVEC needed a member commitment of 1,600 blocks.



MVEC was excited to launch this project at the Annual Meeting last April. Partnering with a group from the University of Minnesota, initial survey results indicated a large interest in a locally-sited Cooperative Solar array. However, when it came to firm commitments, actual participation did not materialize. Though MVEC strives to meet members' needs and interests, as a cooperative, we are tasked with using resources and funds with all MVEC

members in mind.

The renewable energy campaign did show that members are interested in supporting renewable energy through Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). MVEC's GreenSource program features both Wind and Solar RECs at affordable rates.

For as little as \$1 a month for wind or \$3 a month for solar, the average MVEC household can offset its total electric usage with RECs. Information on the REC programs is available at www.mvec.net/renewables.

As a voluntary program, only members who sign up for RECs pay for the GreenSource program, not the membership as a whole.

MVEC remains committed to renewable energy and is on track to meet Minnesota's mandate of 20 percent renewables in our energy portfolio by the year 2020.

Thank you to the members who participated in the surveys and supported the project.

Filing deadline to run for board seat is Jan. 29

The deadline to file to run for the Board of Directors is Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019. Director positions held by Deb Erickson of Savage (District I), Gary Haberman of Chanhassen (District II) and Jim Connelly of St. Thomas (District III) are up for election.

For more information, contact cheril@mvec.net before Jan. 29, 2018.

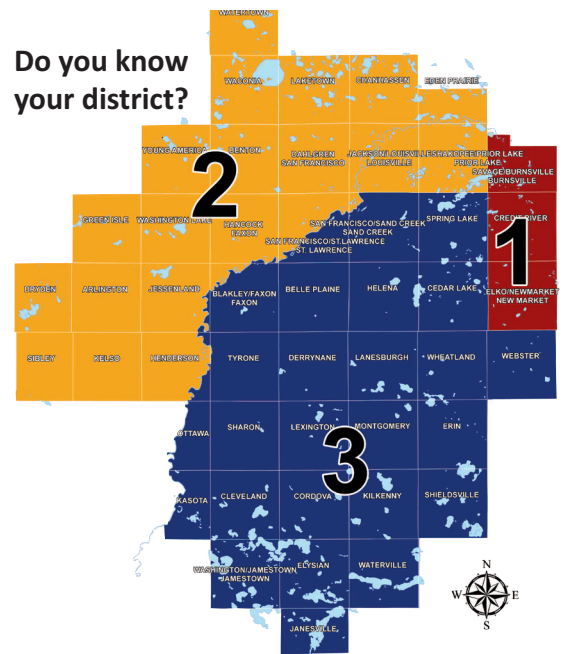
Directors represent the membership and work to establish policies, develop budgets and set rates.

Qualifications

- Candidates must be members who reside within MVEC's service area.
- Candidates may not be employed by or financially involved with a competitor or business selling electric energy or supplies.
- If elected, directors must be able to attend monthly board meetings, usually held at 8:30 a.m. the last Monday of each month.

Voting will take place by mail or at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at TCU Middle School in Le Center.

Do you know your district?



November Board Meeting highlights are online at www.mvec.net

The Electric Eye is the official publication of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
Jordan, MN 55352
www.mvec.net • info@mvec.net
Office Hours: M - F: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

24-Hour Dispatch/Outages:
952.492.8255 or 800.232.2328
Member Service: M - F: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
952.492.2313 or 800.282.6832
Pay By Phone: 952.492.8333 or

1.866.492.8333
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General Manager: Ryan Hentges
Editor: Susan Larson

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