

84th Annual Meeting held via WebEx

Incumbents returned to Board; restated co-op Bylaws accepted

Due to ongoing pandemic conditions, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative once again held its yearly business meeting via WebEx on April 6. Hosted by Board President Brent Lawrence, the 84th Annual Meeting featured cooperative updates from CEO Ryan Hentges and Gerry Mareck, vice president of finance.

All three incumbents were returned to the Board of Directors for three-year terms, and a variety of bylaw changes were adopted. A total of 3,923 votes (all by mail) were cast. This is 10 percent of 39,586 eligible MVEC

voters. Results were certified by independent election vendor Survey & Ballots Systems of Eden Prairie.

Incumbent Tom Wolf of Credit River

was re-elected with 738 votes. Challenger Kirt Briggs of Prior Lake received 508 votes. Wolf received 59 percent of the 1,251 votes cast in District I, which covers portions of Prior Lake, Savage, Burnsville, Credit River and Elko-New Market.

Incumbent Bill Heinlein of Chanhassen

was re-elected with 892 votes. Challenger Mary Leizinger of Victoria received 470 votes. Heinlein received 65 percent of the 1,366 votes cast in District II, which covers portions of Carver, Hennepin, Sibley and Scott counties.

Incumbent Kevin Gibbs of Le Center ran unopposed in District III, which covers portions of Scott, Le Sueur, Rice, Blue Earth and Waseca counties. Under MVEC bylaws, an online poll was conducted during the meeting to return him to his seat by acclamation.

The restated bylaws passed by 77 percent — 2,915 yes votes and 864 no votes. The amended bylaws are published at www.mvec.net

A special tribute was given to Vice President of Finance Gerry Mareck, whose financial presentation at the Annual Meeting was his final duty at MVEC upon starting retirement after nearly 22 years at MVEC.



Tom Wolf
District I

Tom and his wife Kellie live in Credit River and have been members for 26 years. Tom also serves on the Scott County Board of Commissioners.



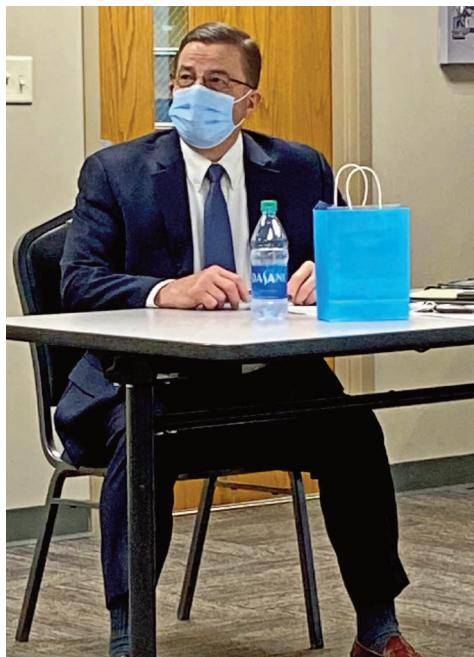
Bill Heinlein
District II

Bill and his wife Mary live in Chanhassen and have been members for 51 years. He is retired since 2004 from Control Data/Seagate Tech.



Kevin Gibbs
District III

Kevin and his wife Karen live in rural Le Center and have been members for 41 years. He owns Skidder Done Services, LLC.



Gerry Mareck waits his turn to present the financial update via WebEx.



Additional resources and board meeting highlights available 24/7 at www.mvec.net



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MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Plug Into



Safety

May is Electrical Safety Month

Electricity helps make our lives easier, but its potential for shock and fire-related hazards are often taken for granted. Each May, safety organizations raise the awareness of potential home electrical hazards, electrical fire safety, and the safety of electrical workers and general public.

Computers, kitchen appliances, heaters, fans, air conditioners – any equipment powered by electricity has the potential to be involved in an electrical fire. Electrical safety awareness is always important, but during this particular time of pandemic, it is even more so as thousands of workers and

students have left offices and classrooms to work and learn from home. This means more family members are now online, watching television and using appliances all at once — and for longer periods of time.

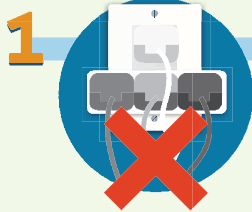
You can take simple steps to greatly reduce electrical hazards, like learning the proper way to plug in appliances, safeguarding electrical outlets in the home, and more.

Homeowners should also have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician, including scheduling electrical inspections when buying or remodeling a home. It is

critical that you call a qualified electrician immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when touching an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet

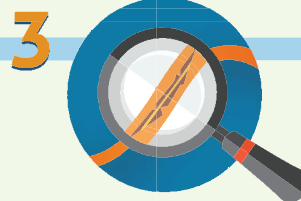
Conduct your own home electrical safety inspection:



1 Avoid **overloading outlets**.



2 **Unplug appliances** when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.



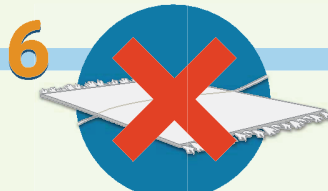
3 **Regularly inspect** electrical cords and extension cords for damage.



4 Extension cords should only be used on a **temporary basis**.



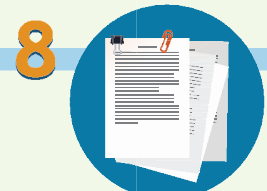
5 Never plug a space heater or fan into an **extension cord** or **power strip**.



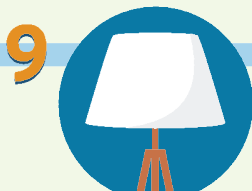
6 Never run cords under **rugs / carpets, doors, or windows**.



7 **Plug in smartly.** Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.



8 Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least **three feet away** from space heaters and other heat sources.



9 Make sure you use **proper wattage** for lamps / lighting.



10 Make sure your home has **smoke alarms**. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace the unit every 10 years.



CEO's Corner

By Ryan Hentges

Safety is a partnership - with you!

There are many topics discussed in the energy business. Many people are interested how electricity is generated and like to talk about all the great uses and applications of electricity. While these are important conversations, we must also be mindful of the fundamentals of the delivery and use of electricity. One such fundamental is safety.

As an electric distribution cooperative, we are focused on ensuring the safety of our team and our members. There are many ways we go about ensuring a culture of safety. Here are a few I'd like to highlight:

MVEC has a safety director who is focused on helping our organization maintain a safe working environment. Our safety director identifies areas of improvement, keeps up with industry developments, conducts field visits and ensures our entire

team is getting necessary training. He leads our safety committee and meets weekly with our crews to discuss relevant items.

He also follows up on near-miss reports. A near-miss is a situation where an injury could have occurred, but fortunately did not. Each year, we set a goal that each employee submits a near-miss report. These near-misses are shared with the team to help educate and inform everyone about potential hazards. We look at near-misses as great opportunities to understand our environment and look for ways to improve.

An important aspect of our safety culture is job briefings. Prior to conducting their work, each crew goes through a process of evaluating and understanding potential hazards on the job site. There are a variety of issues they may need to address such as traffic, wet conditions, complex power configurations and dangerous equipment. Often, in order to restore an outage, the

crews have to coordinate with other crews and our dispatch center.

Our team also works to keep our members safe and is trained to watch for issues on the distribution system which could potentially cause safety concerns. This includes equipment issues, attachments on our poles or trees growing too close to the power lines.

Safety is a partnership. Within our organization, we work hard to partner with each other and build a culture of safety. We also see it as a partnership with you. Your safety is important to us. Please remember, prior to digging, to call 811 and have the area checked for utility lines buried below the surface. If you see downed power lines, stay away and call our dispatch center to report the situation. And finally, when working around the house, be careful around electricity.

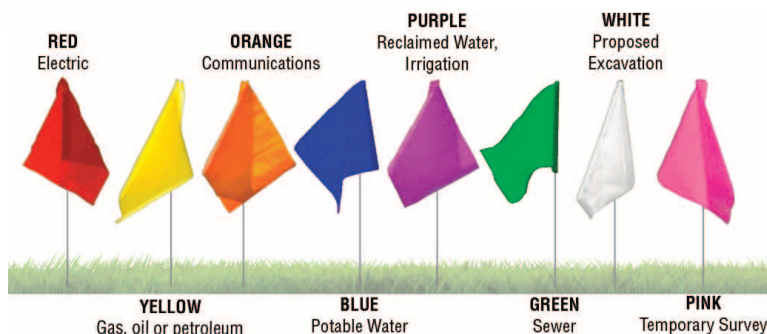
Thanks for the opportunity to serve you.



Landscaping?

Don't forget to call 811 before you dig.

Avoid unnecessary surprises and dangerous contact with underground cables. At least 48 hours before you start a digging project, call Gopher State One Call at 811. It's absolutely free. A locator will come to your property to mark underground utility lines. Here's what the color flags mean:



There's an electric transformer buried in here. The shrub growing over it will slow down MVEC crews in the event of an outage.

Don't dig or plant around electrical equipment

Do you have one of our green box transformers on your property? It's very tempting to "hide" this unsightly equipment, but it is very important to keep transformers easy to find and free from plants and shrubs growing around it. Keep all plantings at least 10 feet away from a transformer. This gives crews better access the transformer with a "hot stick" to disconnect energized power before they can start repairs safely. In the event of an emergency, crews need to access the electric equipment quickly and will need to remove things in the way. Having to remove shrubs, flowers and large rocks can slow down restoration efforts and may create a serious safety hazard.

Reminders

Account fees resume June 1

Beginning June 1, 2021, MVEC will resume assessing late payment charges, returned bank fees and other fees associated with disconnection for non-payment.

MVEC recognizes members may still be facing financial hardship as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Members are encouraged to reach out to local agencies that may be able to provide assistance. Eligibility criteria for assistance has been expanded and extended due to Covid-19.

To set up a Payment arrangement, please contact Member Account Support at 952-492-2313 or visit our website at www.mvec.net.

Funding deadline is Sept. 1

Local agencies that offer energy assistance programs can help income-eligible households with a portion of their energy bills. The deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 1, 2021. Visit www.mvec.net for a listing of phone numbers for agencies in your area.

Is your heat still running?

With Spring now here, make sure you have your electric heat turned off at the thermostat to ensure you aren't using unexpected energy — or spending unexpected dollars! Now's the time to enjoy energy savings before air conditioning season begins.

Basements can still be chilly and make your heating source run, even if you don't need it — or don't notice it.

Now is also the time to shut off roof melt devices, warm floor boiler systems and other seasonal electric devices that aren't necessary until next winter.

Cleaning up for Earth Day

MVEC employees sponsor spring and fall road cleanup along Marystown Road in Scott County. In April, small groups took sections of the road and went out the weekend after Earth Day to tidy up the ditches. The opportunity to spend time with co-workers made the chilly work a little more fun.



One group found a computer monitor and remains of a car accident in their section of the ditch.



Minnesota Valley Electric Co-op

What value can you get for \$1 worth of kilowatts?



You can run a dishwasher for about 5 hours for \$1.
(1800 w) dishwasher

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