



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

MVEC is pleased to offer several scholarship opportunities for member dependents wishing to further their education.

The deadline to apply is February 21, 2022.
Applications and further information:
www.mvec.net/high-school-scholarships/

Up to \$19,000 in scholarship money is available for 2022 graduating seniors. The scholarship opportunities include:



Legacy Scholarships

Graduating high school seniors attending public, private or home school are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship for college or tech school. 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. These scholarships are funded

through unclaimed Capital Credits — money that would otherwise be claimed by the state of Minnesota.

New! Lineworker Scholarships

MVEC is excited to announce a new scholarship offering — specifically for students entering the field of electrical line work.

The scholarship amount will range from \$1,000 to \$3,000, depending upon how many applications are received. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the



student must enter line school in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given.

Basin Scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of our whole-sale power providers, has a \$1,000 scholarship available. An essay and teacher/counselor appraisal are required. The recipient is chosen by Basin Electric. High school seniors and college undergraduates are eligible to apply for this scholarship.



**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

Further details and applications

can be found on our website at:
www.mvec.net/high-school-scholarships

Winners will be recognized during MVEC's 85th Annual Meeting, which will be held April 5, 2022, in Arlington.

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

Like it or not, winter is coming

Here are ways to get ready

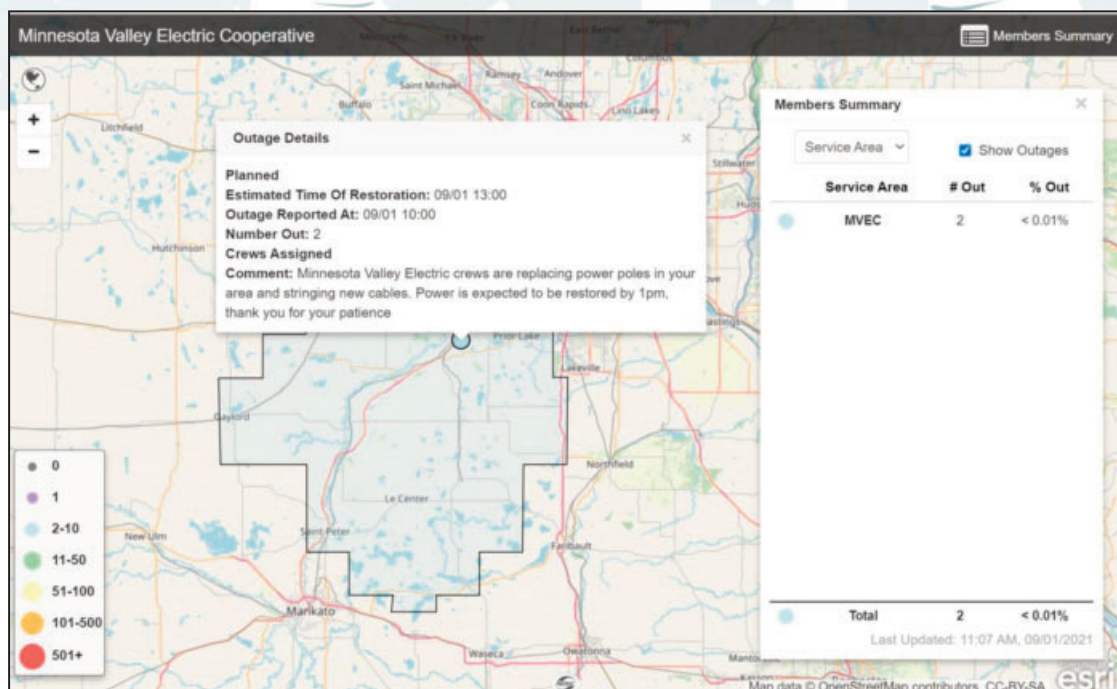
Bookmark MVEC's online outage map at www.mvec.net/outage

This web page houses our live outage map, which is refreshed every few minutes. Click on the dot near your location for expanded information. When time allows, the dispatcher also is able to post pertinent comments. The map has two views — entire system and by county. When there is an outage affecting over 250 members, an outage update is posted here and on our Facebook page. Please note: do not report outages on Facebook or Twitter as those two sites may not be monitored 24/7.

Make sure your phone numbers are current

If your two most-used phone numbers are in MVEC's records, our automated phone system will be able to identify your location when you call or text in an outage. Your information is added to the other outage information that has been reported. This helps our dispatchers send crews to needed areas and speeds up power restoration.

You can easily fill out an update form at www.mvec.net/power-outages/update-phone/



Check to be sure your heat system is ready for winter



Members who participate in Energy Wise load manage-

ment programs, especially heating programs, are encouraged to have a reliable, automatic backup heating source in place and ready to work when MVEC calls for load management time periods. Test your backup heat (such as propane or natural gas) and schedule any servicing or tune ups now before the real cold temperatures arrive! Learn more about Energy Wise at www.mvec.net/energy-wise-programs



Attention Snow Birds

Before you leave for your winter home, send an email to billing@mvec.net. Our billing department will put a note on your account. This saves us from sending a meter tech out to investigate low usage on your meter.

While you are enjoying warmer weather, you can keep an eye on your Up North usage with SmartHub.

mvec.smarthub.coop

Winterize your home with these energy and money-saving ideas

- Replace worn weather stripping and caulk around doors and windows.
- Install storm doors.
- Replace older windows
- Make sure your home is insulated according to recommended levels for Minnesota winters.
- Seal gaps in attics, soffits and basement rim joints by stuffing in pieces of insulation.
- Use expandable caulk to seal around gaps in exterior plumbing and wiring access.
- Have your furnace or boiler inspected and cleaned.
- Replace furnace filters throughout the year.





Outage reporting at your fingertips

Text messaging has become the preferred method of quick communication for many people. Whether texting a colleague to let them know we are running late or letting the spouse know we'll pick up milk on the way home, it has allowed us to be more efficient and timely in communicating with others.

The first text, "Merry Christmas," was sent by computer in 1994. Mobile phones didn't have keyboards then — remember tapping multiple times on a tiny phone number pad to get to the character you needed?

By 2007, more texts than phone calls were made. Now, literally trillions of texts are sent every day.

When the power goes out, you can reach for your smart phone to report your outage — whether by phone call

or by text. Either way, your information is sent to our outage system, which helps dispatchers direct crews to the scene of an outage more efficiently.

We launched outage texting on Sept. 1 of this year. Just two weeks later, we had an outage and almost 9% of the outage notifications from members were sent in by text.

If you'd like to use text messaging to report an outage, make sure your phone number is matched to your SmartHub account and enable receiving notifications.

Don't have a SmartHub Account? Go to www.mvec.net/smarthub and sign up for your free account. PDF and video directions are available to help you through the process.

How to report an outage

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT at your home or business, MVEC offers several easy ways for you to notify us. By reporting your outage, you are helping us get the power back on as quickly and safely as possible.

Text: One of the quickest and most convenient ways to report an outage is to [send us a text message to 855-963-3830](tel:855-963-3830). Text OUT to report the outage and text STATUS to request an update. Just make sure the phone number in your SmartHub account is enabled to receive messages.

Phone: Call MVEC at [952-492-8255](tel:952-492-8255) or [1-800-232-2328](tel:1-800-232-2328). Your information is automatically added to our outage reporting system. If you stay on the line, you always have the option to talk with a Dispatcher.

SmartHub: The Report an Outage quick link makes it easy for registered users of SmartHub to report outages on the SmartHub home page or app. To learn more, [visit mvec.smarthub.coop](http://www.mvec.net/smarthub.coop)

Your electric heat bills may be exempt from sales tax

If 50 percent or more of your energy costs are for using electricity to heat your home, you may be exempt from Minnesota sales tax on that heating cost. Fill out the exemption form online at www.mvec.net. If you have filed for an exemption in the past, there is no need to file again.

Active military personnel protected from shut off

Minnesota Law protects active duty military personnel households from shut-off if they cannot pay utility bills.

To request an arrangement, complete a Military



Protection form at www.mvec.net and return it to MVEC. If you qualify and make the required monthly payment, MVEC will not disconnect your electricity due to financial hardship.

Cold weather rule reminder

Members who fall behind on utility bills can avoid disconnection between Oct. 1 and April 30 when it affects the primary heat source for the household and as long as members have filled out a form at www.mvec.net declaring inability to pay, meet state fuel assistance guidelines and have a payment arrangement with MVEC in place.

Area emergency assistance



If you require emergency assistance due to potential utility disconnection, there are various agencies that may be able to assist you.

- Carver County Social Services: 952-361-1600
- Dakota County Human Services: 651-554-5611
- Hennepin County Energy Assistance: 952-930-3541
- Le Sueur County Human Service: 507-357-2251
- Rice County Human Services: 507-332-6115
- Scott County Human Services: 952-445-7751
- Sibley County Human Services: 507-237-2981
- CAP Scott/Carver counties: 952-496-2125
- CAP Dakota County: 651-322-3500
- Three Rivers Community Action: 507-732-7391
- Minnesota Valley Action Council: 507-345-6822
- Heat Share/Salvation Army: 612-721-1668 or 507-345-7840 or 888-999-1568

Find more information at www.mvec.net.

Interested in serving on MVEC's Board of Directors? Three director positions open in 2022



The filing period for the cooperative's 2022 election process is now open with a deadline of Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.



The director seats that will be on the ballot are currently held by:

- Deb Erickson of Savage (District I)
- Gary Haberman of Chanhassen (District II)
- Jim Connelly of St. Thomas (District III)



Directors represent the membership in co-op decisions and work to establish policies, develop budgets and set rates.

Qualifications

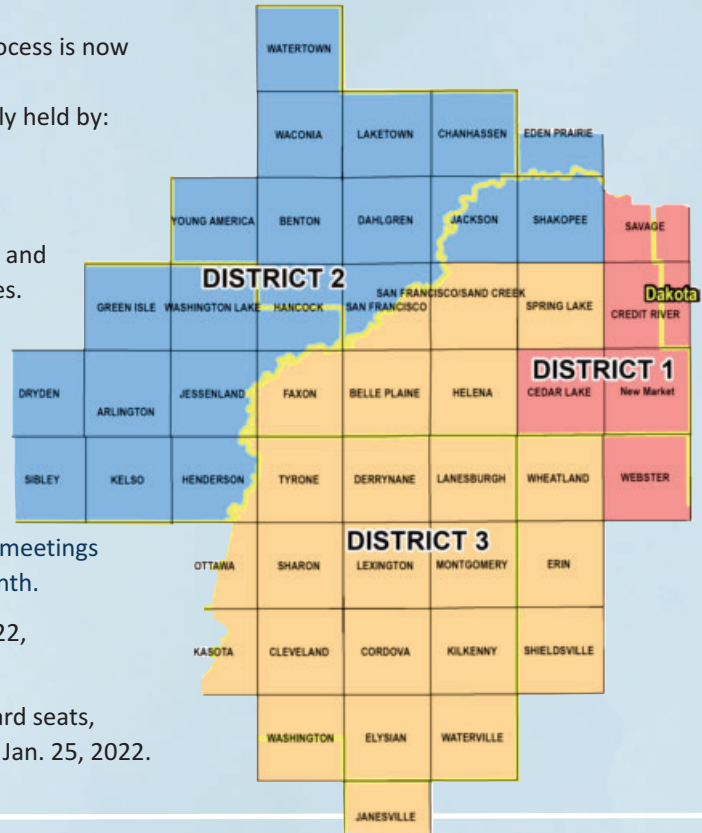
- Candidates must be members who reside within MVEC's service area.
- Candidates may not be employed by or financially involved with a competitor or business selling electric energy or supplies.
- If elected, directors must be able to attend board meetings usually held the last Monday morning of each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



The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 5, 2022, at the Community Center in Arlington, MN.



If you are interested in running for one of the open board seats, call 952.492.8242 or email elections@mvec.net before Jan. 25, 2022.



Decorating tips for a safe holiday season

Use LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than incandescent.

Inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and loose, exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.

If you are decorating up high outdoors, have another person steady the ladder and pass up decorations. Don't overextend the ladder and keep a safe distance from overhead lines.

Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Turn off all electric decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Likewise, when leaving a room make sure all candles are extinguished. Never leave a candle unattended. Consider battery-operated LED candles as a safer alternative.

Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like an air duct, fireplace or space heater.

Fill your tree's water reservoir daily and check the tree for signs of dryness that may indicate it's time to take it down.

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www.mvec.net • info@mvec.net
MVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Office Hours: M - F: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
24- Hour Dispatch/Outages:
952.492.8255 or 800.232.2328

Contact Member Service:
952.492.2313 or 800.282.6832
Pay By Phone: 952.492.8333 or 1.866.492.8333

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