



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM OUR CO-OP FAMILY TO YOURS,
WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR.

Sending our best wishes for a brighter tomorrow

CEO's Corner **Ryan Hentges**



If you're like me, the holidays and the end of another year are a time of reflection.

At Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here, too.

As we look back on a year of challenges and successes for the co-op and our members, we think about what the next year will hold. We believe a lot of good work and growth are ahead.

You've probably heard by now that energy fuel costs — specifically natural gas and propane — are on the rise. This means there will be higher costs due to demand, as well as colder weather conditions which impact your electric bill.

MVEC has not had a legacy general service rate change for the past five years. We are watching the commodities and energy markets and monitoring how this impacts our business operations. MVEC has a diverse power supply portfolio to help ensure your cooperative offers competitive rates, which are focused on being fair, equitable and based on actual costs to maintain our 968-square-mile system. Our top priority is to safely deliver electricity to your homes and businesses at cost.

Electricity is vital in running your household, and extended usage in the winter (lights, heaters, entertaining) can add up. There are ways to mitigate your energy costs such as monitoring your usage with SmartHub, winterizing your home, and making smart energy choices.

If you do find yourself needing help with your electric bill, our Member Service Department is always here to suggest solutions.

At the heart of all of our efforts is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community opportunities and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at MVEC, I know the future will be bright, because of you.

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



Community

gets a lot of attention during the holidays, but it's something we like to focus on all year. Concern for community is more than a nice idea – it's one of the Seven Cooperative Principles that we and other co-ops around the world observe. In addition to sponsoring county fairs, town celebrations, and other community events, MVEC Team Members volunteer their time off and support hundreds of causes throughout our service area. Perhaps the best known and most expansive community project at MVEC is Operation Round Up, supported by employees and members alike.



Since 1995, Operation Round Up members have collectively donated over **\$2 million** 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 \$24,071 for the fourth quarter of 2021 to the following organizations:

- **Angel Foundation:** \$2,500 to sustain programming for individuals in MVEC's service area
- **Arts and Heritage of Montgomery:** \$1,276 for log cabin restoration
- **Aspire Artisan Studios and Folk School of Victoria:** \$3,000 for tools and materials
- **BrainPower in a Backpack of Burnsville:** \$500 for food
- **Can Do Canines:** \$3,000 to raise, train and place service dogs
- **Green Isle Lions Club:** \$1,500 for coats and food
- **Holy Redeemer School of Montgomery:** \$800 for roller skate rental
- **Le Center Volunteer Ambulance:** \$3,000 for tourniquets
- **Le Sueur Adopt-A-Family:** \$500 for gifts
- **Le Sueur Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous** (3 locations): \$1,500 for toys
- **Lonsdale Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Minnesota Fire:** \$2,500 for 24/7 Peer Hotline
- **Neighborhood Forest:** \$500 for trees for students to plant in MVEC's service area
- **Pro Act of Shakopee:** \$520 to create new sensory room
- **Salvation Army:** \$1,475 to purchase refrigerator for the Montgomery Food Shelf
- **Sibley FoodShare:** \$500 for food



Interested in serving on the ORU Trust Board in District 1 or 3? For details, visit www.mvec.net/operation-round-up

An ORU grant helped with the costs of a pickleball court in Prior Lake.

5 Reasons to apply for Youth Tour 2022 trip to Washington, D.C.



After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is back on. This six-day all-expenses-paid youth leadership experience is available to a lucky high school sophomore or junior whose parent or guardian is a member of MVEC. The trip is scheduled for June 14-19, 2022.

1. Represent your local and state community.

MVEC's representative will travel with 40 other Minnesota teens sponsored by their rural electric co-ops. Along with 1,500 national delegates, you will learn how electric cooperatives help power the USA.



2. Experience our Nation's Capitol.

Past trips have included Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Supreme Court, the Washington National Cathedral and more.



3. Make new friends.

Inspired by then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, Youth Tour was created in 1958 and now boasts over 50,000 alumni. Many participants have cited the lifelong friendships from all around the country as the best part of the trip.



4. Meet elected officials.

Spend a day on Capitol Hill with elected officials and learn how government works. Hear what your legislators have to say and voice concerns.



5. Stand out.

Being selected for Youth Tour is a unique accomplishment and a chance to add leadership skills to your college application and work resume. It's the experience of a lifetime!



An alternate will also be selected and will receive a \$200 cash prize. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, March 15, 2022. More information and link to the application can be found at www.mvec.net/youth-tour/

Reminder: 2022 scholarship deadline is February 21

\$1,000 High School Scholarships Five recipients from each of MVEC's three districts are randomly selected.

New! Lineworker Scholarships 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.

Basin Scholarship Our wholesale power provider has a \$1,000 scholarship available for high school seniors and college undergraduates. The recipient is chosen by Basin Electric.

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 on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Arlington.



Coloring contest winners

We had 97 great entries this year and it was not easy to choose just eight winners. Congratulations to Andrew O, left, and Madelyn H, right, who were the first place winners of \$100 Target gift cards.

Mara V and Brayden V were the \$50 gift card winners. The \$25 gift card winners were Alivia S, Jayce P, Amelia S, and Elizabeth V. Great job, everyone!



All entries can be viewed online at www.mvec.net/coloring-contest.

Board election filing deadline is January 25

Three Board of Director seats are up for election in 2022, which are currently held by:

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

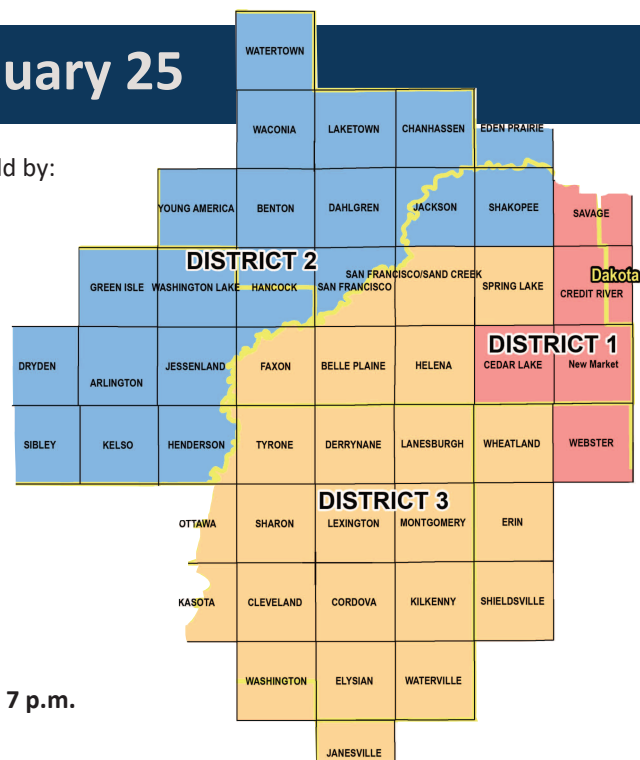
Directors represent the membership in co-op decisions and work to establish policies, develop budgets and set rates.

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.

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.

Election results are announced at MVEC's Annual Meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at the Community Center in Arlington, MN.



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