



CEO's Corner By Ryan Hentges

During this holiday season, reflect on your “Why”

The holiday season is a time for reflection, gratitude, and goodwill. While the past year brought challenges, we all pulled together to make our co-op and communities stronger. For me

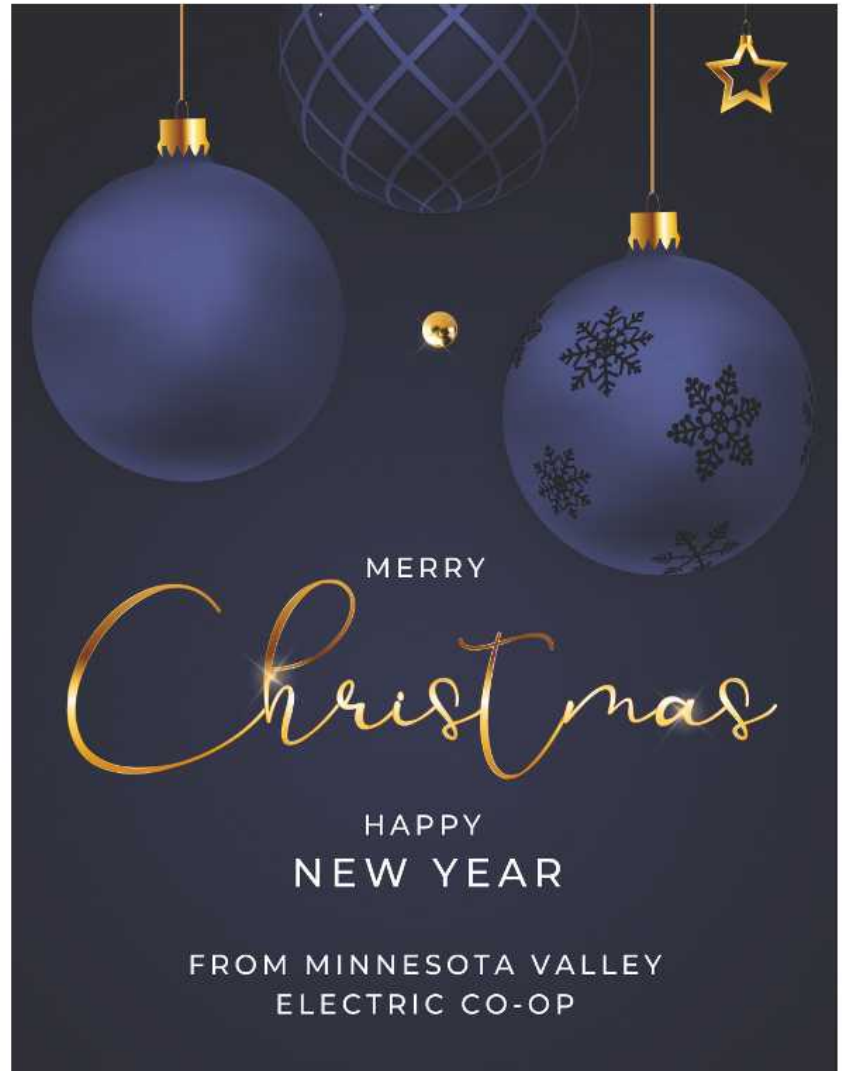
personally during the holidays, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones.

Despite the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays are an opportunity to slow down and reflect. As we look to a New Year, one longstanding personal commitment I have is safety -- for myself, my family, and the cooperative Team Members, whom I am privileged to work with each day. At an electric cooperative, safety is imperative.

Among the many safety training sessions we hold at the cooperative, one resounding theme is that we work in a way so that everyone goes home safely at the end of the day. Sadly, one day in May, one member of the crew did not go home due to a tragic accident. As we continue to remember and honor Tanner, the work must go on. And we make sure it goes on safely.

One question that makes safety hit at home is “What is your Why?” Why do you work safe? Why do you take the time to make sure your processes, actions, and work style are as safe as possible? For our Team Members, the Why mentioned most often is loved ones. I have challenged the MVEC Team Members to not only think about their Whys, but to go the next step and also write their own heartfelt letters to their loved ones. We never know what the next day may bring, but we can let our loved ones know how we feel about them any day of the year.

I also encourage you, our members, to think about your Whys, and why safety is important to you. Your activities and work may have its own hazards, electrical or not. During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it's important to take a breath and be grateful for all we have and for those we love. Safety has many forms, and it is important to keep it always at the forefront.



We appreciate your membership and want to keep you, your home and business reliably powered as safely as possible. As we prepare for 2023, we look forward to the opportunity to continue to safely serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative family, we hope your holidays are indeed merry, bright – and safe!

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

5 Reasons to apply for Youth Tour 2023 trip to Washington, D.C.

The Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is back and better than ever. 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 13-18, 2023.



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!**



Savannah Berg

An alternate will also be selected and will receive a \$200 cash prize. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 15, 2023. More information and link to the application can be found at www.mvec.net/youth-tour/

Reminder: 2023 scholarship deadline is February 21

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

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 86th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in Jordan.



The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because

we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy. But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together. If you are a member of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative who participates in Operation Round Up, you help us spread the

Small Change Can Change Lives

good throughout the year. Through ORU, your donations help local organizations that serve entire communities as well as individuals in need. When you "round up" your monthly bill from MVEC and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. You are helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but just as importantly, you are telling this person the community cares. Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other grants have supported local schools and young people, geared up fire departments, fed hungry families, trained canines for the handicapped, and supported other groups in need. To date, with your help, MVEC and its members have given over \$2 million back to

local organizations and individuals through ORU. And across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact. As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you will think of MVEC as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community. I hope you have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright! To learn more about Operation Round Up, visit www.mvec.net.



John Miller
ORU Board President

ORU Gives Back

Through the generosity of MVEC members rounding up their monthly electric bills, the Operation Round Up Trust Board gifted \$41,111 for the fourth quarter of 2022 to the following organizations:

- **Aging Services:** \$3,000 for mileage to support elderly
- **Angel Foundation:** \$3,000 for Emergency Financial Assistance Program & Cancer Support in MVEC area
- **Aspire Artisan Studios & Folk School:** \$3,000 for tools & equipment for area mobile classrooms
- **Belle Plaine Backpack Program:** \$500 for food
- **Belle Plaine Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **BrainPower in a Backpack:** \$500 for food
- **Can Do Canines:** \$2,500 to train and place service dogs
- **Central Elementary School:** \$425 for Kindergarten field trip
- **Harriet Bishop Elementary School:** \$2,400 for meeting and project supplies for after school program
- **Holy Cross Catholic School:** \$1,750 for school field trip
- **Jordan Family Outreach:** \$500 for giftcards
- **Jordan Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Jordan High School:** \$200 for all-night grad party
- **Le Sueur Co. Adopt-A-Family:** \$500 to purchase gifts
- **LeSueur Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Most Holy Redeemer:** \$1,450 for roller skating field trip rental
- **Oak Crest Elementary:** \$900 for field trip
- **Peace Center Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **ProAct, Inc.:** \$646 for Life skills sensory items
- **Rotary Club of Le Sueur:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Santa Anonymous (Le Center, Le Sueur, Le Sueur County):** \$500 each for gift purchases
- **Scott-Carver-Dakota Cap Agency:** \$5,000 for crisis programming
- **Sibley County Community Connection:** \$500
- **Sibley County Food Share:** \$500 for food
- **Lutheran Home - Hope Residence:** \$3,465 for outdoor fencing
- **Treasures in Town:** \$2,000 for thrift store vouchers
- **Tri-City United Band & Choir:** \$1,400 for transportation
- **True Friends:** \$2,414 for Camp Eden Wood exterior upgrades
- **Waterville-Elysian-Morristown High School:** \$200 for post prom
- **Wheatland Sportsmen Club:** \$361 for maintenance costs to Twin Lakes public access



At its most recent board meeting, MVEC's ORU Trustee Board honored longtime member Carolyn Christopherson, who has decided to end her tenure with the board. A former MVEC employee, Christopherson was part of the original team that brought Operation Round Up to the Co-op 27 years ago and served with the trustees since 2000.

Overseeing more than \$2 million dollars gifted through the years, Christopherson said she'll miss working with people and communities the most, which is what kept her coming back year after year.

"It's fun to do good things for people," she said.

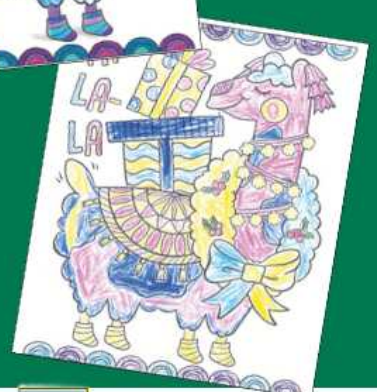
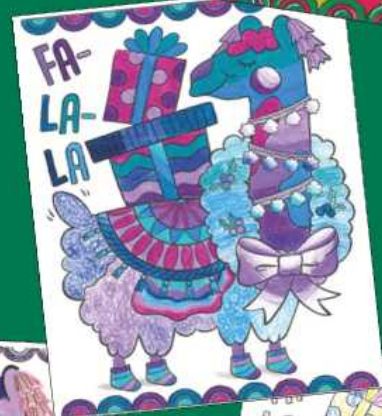
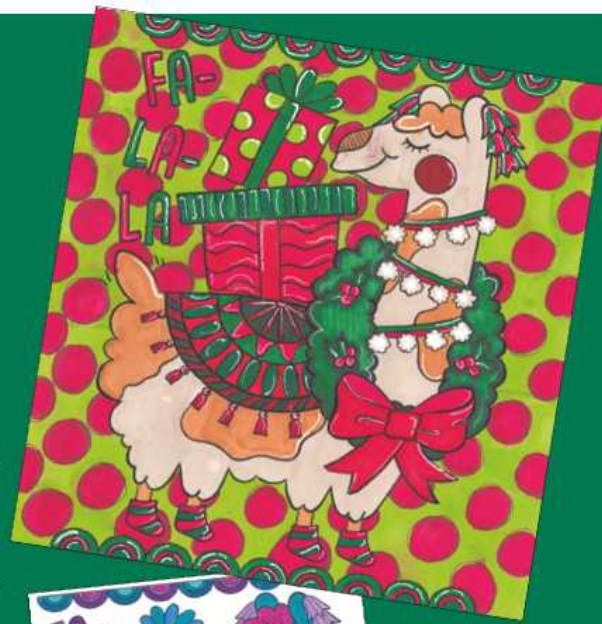
"Few people do anything for 27 years," Trustee board president John Miller added. "We are blessed and blown away by Carolyn's commitment and dedication over the years."

Coloring Contest Winners

We had 143 great entries this year and it was not easy to choose just eight winners. Congratulations to Colin S (11), left, and Natalie P (10), right, who were the first place winners of \$100 Target gift cards.

Landon R (12) and Briella O (11) were the \$50 gift card winners. The \$25 gift card winners were Henry K (7), Kinsley Z (10), Kristi A (7), and Tate H (7).

Great job, everyone!



All entries can be viewed online at www.mvec.net/coloring-contest-winners-2022.

Board election filing deadline is January 17

The filing period for the cooperative's 2023 election process is now open with a deadline of Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023. On the ballot are the seats currently held by:

- Brent Lawrence of Credit River (District I)
- Michelle Morrison of Belle Plaine (District II)
- Fran Barten of New Prague (District III)

Directors are MVEC members who represent the membership as a whole in making co-op decisions, establishing policies, developing budgets and setting 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, typically 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. 17, 2023.

Election results will be announced at MVEC's Annual Meeting, set for 7 p.m. March 28, 2023, at the Jordan High School.



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