

Planning for today and into the future

CEO Update from Marvin Denzer

As the leaves change color and students head back to school, it is a time for everyone to get back to a regular routine, which often includes reflection of the past and looking ahead to the future. Your cooperative is no different. This is the time of year we look at and review our annual plans, goals, and budget.



Strategic planning provides a multi-year strategy that helps us plan for an evolving energy industry, as well as meet unique needs of our service area. This year, our Executive Team (vice presidents of energy services, engineering, finance, human resources, member services and operations along with myself), will be working closely with our Board of Directors to develop plans that focus

on our mission to create exceptional member experiences, while safely providing reliable energy at cost and to our vision of being a trusted energy partner loyal to the community - now and for future generations. Looking at today's needs is just as important as looking to future needs. There are four strategic areas we focus on:

Financial Strength

We are committed to having a balanced and diversified energy portfolio that benefits our cooperative as a whole right down to the individual members, like you. This means having a mix of low-cost, reliable energy sources. Wholesale power continues to be our biggest cost, accounting for 70 percent of our members' bills. We look for opportunities to reduce this cost yet keep reliability high by investing in new technologies and infrastructure. Add to this the potential impacts of legislation with government regulations, such as the Carbon Free by 2040 mandate, Energy Conservation and Optimization Act (ECO) and Inflation Reduction Action (IRA) programs. This is quite an opportunity to keep rates stable and competitive.

Plain and simple we want you, our member-owners to have

Reliability

reliable power 100% of the time. We are constantly investing in our

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Prior Lake's Brandon Busch (front, second from right) with his fellow Minnesota delegation at Arlington National Cemetery

MVEC represented well at Youth Tour in Nation's Capitol

The annual electric cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington D.C. is many things for high school students.

It's a week-long trip to a new destination, where students gain insight on the history of electric co-ops and the roles they play in rural communities across the country. It's a chance to meet peers from different states and make friendships that may last a lifetime. It's also an opportunity to speak with legislators and see the history of our country in the Nation's Capitol.

For Brandon Busch, a senior at Prior Lake this fall, it was all of those things and more.

"It kind of changed my life going

on this trip," said Busch. "You're just in awe of everything there and how beautiful it all is and what it means to the history of our country."

MVEC sponsored Busch — son of Tony and Jennifer of Prior Lake — to attend the annual trip, where he joined 33 other Minnesota students and more than 1,400 high schoolers from around the U.S. to participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, held this year June 13-18 in our nation's capital.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association organized and led the Minnesota state delegation to Washington, where students learned firsthand about

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



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MVEC

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infrastructure to ensure that our system is both reliable and resilient. Operational excellence is our focus. This includes power quality (reducing outages and blinking lights), proactive system-wide maintenance programs, and sound engineering design and operational technology systems.

Member Experience & Community

Not to get lost in all the technical and monetary aspects of strategic planning, engaging with you, our members, is at the heart of all we do. We maximize the value of your cooperative membership with exceptional service, member engagement and community partnerships. Offering rebates, innovative money-saving programs and services, understanding your communication preferences, monitoring data security efforts, providing opportunities to youth of all ages, and supporting local organizations are all ways we try to make life better in the MVEC service area. It's another way of powering our communities.

Cooperative Culture

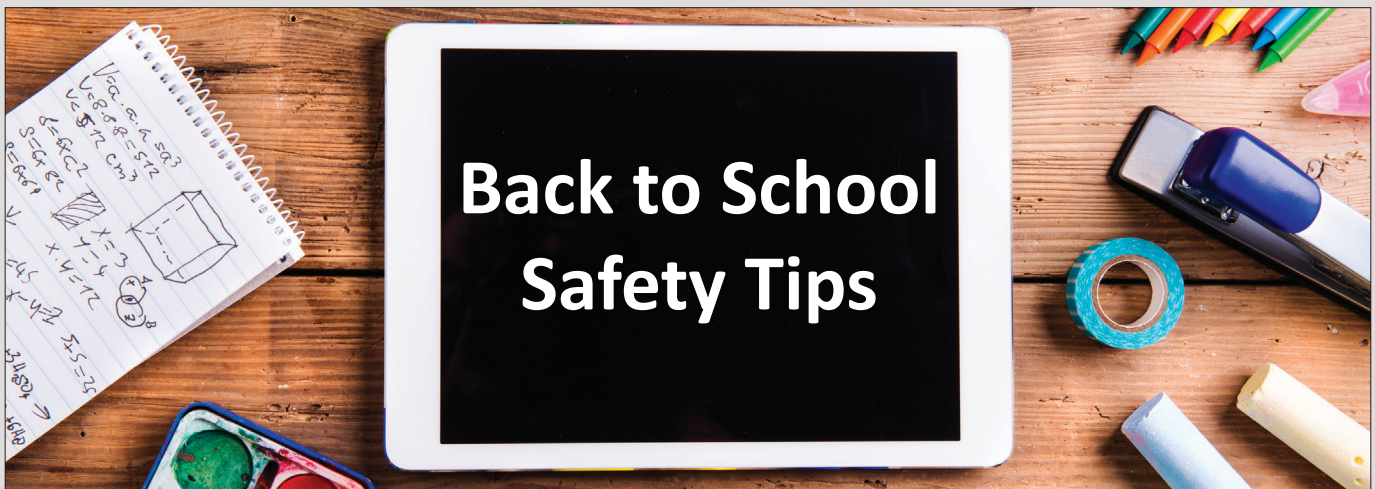
Having a shared culture of safety is a top priority. Safety of our Team and protecting the public is vital. MVEC's Team of employees are critical to our cooperative success. Investing in an engaged and empowered workforce

means keeping the team well informed and positioned to meet the needs of MVEC and the communities we serve today and into the future. We are committed to business continuity to ensure our cooperative has a strong leadership team in place for the future. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, an estimated 25 percent of U.S. utility workers will retire in the next five years. This represents about 200,000 workers, and, at MVEC, around 25 of the nearly 100 Team members.

Lastly, but very importantly, we look at the strategic initiatives and determine appropriate budgets. Our budgeting process is well thought out and takes our members' bottom line into account. We look for ways to reduce costs while improving efficiency. At the same time, we are committed to investing in the co-op's future and its service to you — our member owners.

As you can see, we have great opportunities for us in the coming months. I am confident that by working together with a spirit of servant leadership, we can achieve our goals and continue to provide our members with the reliable and affordable energy you deserve. Thank you, our member-owners, for your continued support.

Until next month,
Marvin Denzer, MVEC CEO



As kids head back to school, here are some electrical safety tips that are useful whether they're starting college, high school, or their first day!

K-8th Grade

- **Keep fingers**, writing utensils, paperclips and other objects away from electrical outlets.
- **When unplugging electronics**, always hold the base of the plug to pull it out — never yank from the cord.
- **Stay clear** of pad-mounted transformers — the big green box commonly found in your yard — and other electrical equipment.
- **Never** throw shoes onto power lines and if you see them already hanging, do not try to take them off.

High School

- If you **drive to school**, obey all traffic laws and practice safety when driving in areas where utility crews are working.
- If you see a **downed power line**, assume the line is energized and stay away from it. Call 911 to report it.
- **Always be cautious** in science classes, specifically those with labs. It's likely your hands, or the area near you, will get wet. Keep everything dry and use caution when plugging in equipment.

College

- **Get in the habit** of unplugging devices that are not in use.
- **Don't overload** electrical outlets. Most dorms and campus housing are not equipped to handle today's use of electronics.
- **Keep extension cords out** from under rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and it is a fire hazard.
- **Keep all** electrical appliances and cords away from bedding, curtains and other flammable materials.



**Brandon
Busch and U.S.
representative
Angie Craig**

YOUTH TOUR cont. from page 1

politics, community development and the cooperative business model. Students also met with members of Congress, including senators Klobuchar and Smith and representatives Craig, Phillips, Finstad and Stauber.

"It was really a new and cool experience to see how they (Minnesota legislators) interact in person," said Busch. "It was great because it really seemed like they wanted to be there and were friendly and willing to talk to all of us."

Among the sights in Washington D.C., the Minnesota group toured the Library of Congress, the Capitol building, Arlington

Cemetery, the Smithsonian and more.

MVEC member service rep Mary Kaye Keohen was selected by MREA to attend the trip as a chaperone, the first time MVEC staff have attended the event.

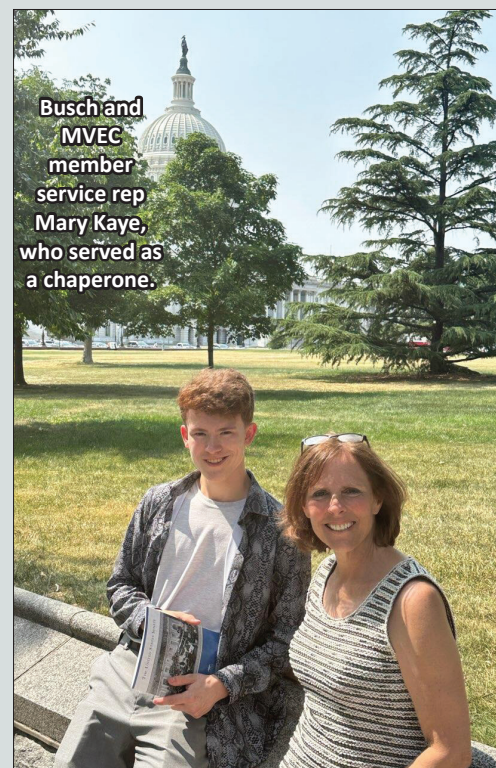
"It was really exciting seeing kids so

interested on the trip," said Keohen. "You're watching the kids find out different career paths that might interest them and that was really fun."

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has hosted Youth Tour students in D.C. since 1964. More than 58,000 students have attended this educational and fun trip, which is a joint effort between the NRECA and electric cooperative statewide associations from across the country. In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of Washington D.C., all state groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and inspirational speakers.

"I think we really take electricity for

granted," Busch said of living in a co-op service area. "I've never lived in a place where you don't have electricity or have to travel somewhere for internet so I was never really forced to think about it too much. So I really enjoyed learning about the history of electric co-ops and hearing about what they do for rural communities."



**Busch and
MVEC
member
service rep
Mary Kaye,
who served as
a chaperone.**

Twins Clinic a Grand Slam

More than 100 local youth joined MVEC at the PlayBall! MN Youth Baseball Clinic.

A little rain wasn't enough to dampen MVEC's first Twins Play Ball Clinic, hosted in early August at the Jordan CERC gym. It was moved inside where more than 100 kids attended to learn from Twins staff about hitting, throwing and fielding.

The event, which was hosted by MVEC in partnership with energy provider Great River Energy and the Minnesota Twins, was meant to take place behind Jordan High School, but some quick work and organization with Jordan Community Ed and Recreation, allowed the clinic to continue indoors despite a rainy afternoon.

The clinic is part of the Minnesota Twins Community Fund, which established Play Ball! MN nearly 20 years ago.

Children from all over MVEC's service area attended, including some from as far away as Watertown, Lonsdale and Edina. MVEC staff, including CEO Marvin Denzer, were excited to organize and host this great program and would like to thank the Minnesota Twins, sponsor

and wholesale energy provider Great River Energy and Jordan Community Education and Recreation for helping us put on a great day of baseball.



**CEO Marvin Denzer sets a
whiffle ball in place.**



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Stay Safe this Harvest Season

Each year, MVEC recognizes the third week of September as National Farm Safety and Health Week. With a nearly 1,000-square-mile service area extending out from the metro, the co-op has no shortage of farmland it covers.

Power lines that we see every day can often fade into the background, posing a threat to farmers operating heavy machinery. Harvest season is an especially dangerous time for farmers as they need to operate equipment and machinery on public roadways. If you encounter a farmer driving machinery, please be patient and share the road so everyone stays safe.

We thank our farmers for the challenging and often dangerous work they do to provide essential resources both locally and across the U.S.

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact MVEC immediately by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time and hop away to safety.
- Consider the equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.

Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.



COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, MVEC will not disconnect — and must reconnect — your utility service between October 1 and April 30 if the primary heat source for your home is electricity. The following statements must apply to qualify:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by MVEC or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals and follow up on energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bill.

If at any time you are having trouble keeping up with your bills, you may wish to join our convenient payment program, Pay as you Go, or contact MVEC at (952) 492-2313 or (800) 282-6832 for other options to tailor a customized installation plan to help get your account up to date.

State and county assistance is also available. Consult the list at www.mvec.net/financial_assistance for the applicable agency near you.



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Chief Executive Officer: Marvin Denzer

Editor: Dan Ring • Contributors: Jessica Heinz, Susan Larson
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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: 866.999.4504

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MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
125 Minnesota Valley Electric Drive
Jordan, MN 55352