

ElectricEye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

October 2023

October is National Co-op Month

Summer intern program a win for students and MVEC

CEO Update from Marvin Denzer

Innovation, Accountability, Integrity, Community. We strive to follow these business values all year round. As we observe National Co-op Month in October, I'd like to highlight an MVEC program that encompasses all four of these values -- our summer intern program.

A large number of co-op employees will be eligible to retire in the next 10 years. Succession planning is important to maintain continuity, so MVEC operates seamlessly. Part of the succession planning process is attracting new talent to the electric industry.



Giving college students the opportunity to use their college knowledge at a cooperative job for the summer supports both **Community** and education and shows

Accountability to our members that we are working hard to recruit and train our next generation of workers to continue the legacy of providing reliable and affordable electricity. It also shows **Integrity** and **Innovation** as our interns support and complete meaningful, real-life projects that benefit you, our member-owners.



MVEC is here to serve you!

92 Employees *serving* **46,400+ Members** *across* **9 Counties** *through* **4,147 Miles of Line**

Here are the accomplishments of our 10 summer interns:

Will Hoffman, Environmental Health and Safety Intern from St. John's University, explored a business plan when MVEC considers expanding dispatch hours 24/7/365.



MVEC's website, and investigated community solar gardens should MVEC ever develop a program.

Dylan Brose, Engineering Intern from North Dakota State University, created a Distributed Energy Resource business case and experienced mapping and staking out in the field.



Lauren Nichols, Energy Systems Intern from the University of Minnesota, tracked energy-saving data for the energy services department, reviewed



Gabby Rome, Human Resources Intern from Minnesota State University – Mankato, played an integral role in

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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

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recruitment, creating schedules for new hires and assisting with the development of HR policies.

Cole Brenner, Environmental Health and Safety Intern from the University of North Dakota, updated MVEC's safety manual and the apprentice linemen progression, observed operations in the field and participated in onsite safety inspections.



One feature of an MVEC internship is to work on a group project. This summer, the interns researched the electrification of farm equipment. This exercise provides the opportunity to work together, and focuses on the benefits, costs, and concerns it would bring to the co-op and membership.



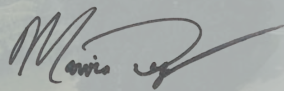
Our five Seasonal Apprentice Linemen work side by side with MVEC line foremen and journeymen, learning safety and best practices from linemen who have many years of experience. Seasonal apprentices put in 950 hours of work, so their time at MVEC extends into late Autumn.

Benefitting from that mentorship this year are **Connor Olson, Hunter Johnson, Nick Sticha, Conner VanWinkle, and Zach Devine**. Skills out in the field that these guys gained experience with include building and maintaining power lines, outage restoration and other trouble-shooting measures, driving large vehicles and operating equipment properly, while practicing safety procedures.

Electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. Our office interns and seasonal apprentice line workers experienced that cooperation by working side-by-side with the MVEC team on projects that will contribute to providing exceptional service to you, our member-owners, on projects we can consider in the future. When all is said and done, we're better when we learn and grow together!

Until next month,

Marvin



Are we looking for you?

MVEC does its best to deliver Capital Credits to former or current members who have moved from their last known address or did not cash a check that was sent to them. See our unclaimed capital credits list at www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/capital-credits

POWERING THE COMMUNITY

Storms, animals and vehicle accidents mean outages are inevitable. Our **linemen** remain on-call 24/7, regardless of weather, to ensure power is restored as quickly and safely as possible. We have two convenient ways to report an outage: phone 952-492-8255 or text OUT to 855-963-3830.



As we celebrate National Co-op Month, MVEC strives to always meet and exceed your specific needs. We love growing with you - the members we are proud to serve.



SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

With more than \$2.3 million donated since its inception at MVEC nearly 30 years ago, **Operation Round Up** is a success that continues to grow. ORU allows members to round up their monthly electric bill, which is combined into a charitable fund that makes a big difference in local communities. The ORU board, represented by the president John Miller, recently donated to True Friends Edenwood Camp, who purchased hospital grade furniture through the program.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MVEC provides **safety demos** throughout the year, demonstrating the importance of electrical safety around the home and outdoors. For Jordan Kindergarten Safety Day, a pair of co-op engineers, Kyle Neal and Daniel Turner talked electrical safety while apprentice lineman Cody Wheeler brought a bucket truck to show how high in the air MVEC linemen sometimes have to work to keep the power on.



CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES

Snowblower Drawing!

We are giving away an EGO electric snowblower. Simply share with us what outdoor electric equipment you use at your home. Deadline is Dec. 1, 2023. Find the form at www.mvec.net/yard-electrification-contest. Don't miss out! Purchases made and submitted through Dec. 1st qualify.



GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY

In the run-up to the 2024 State Amateur Baseball Tournament, MVEC and ORU have helped with several upgrades to the historic Mini-Met Ballpark in Jordan, including the installation of new backstop poles and netting. Baseball was a theme in 2023 as the co-op hosted a Twins baseball/softball clinic, which saw professional clinicians teaching the game to over 100 area youth.

LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

MVEC sponsors and participates in many events, enjoying the opportunity to meet with our members. At right, lineman Pete Kochlin talks with a visitor at the Military Appreciation Family Day at Sutton Ridge Farm near Jordan.



A more formal opportunity for our members to interact with MVEC Team Members is our Annual Meeting, held each April. In addition to hearing a cooperative update and financial review, our member-owners elect their fellow members to serve as board directors to represent the membership in making MVEC decisions – a true cooperative principle of democracy in action.



Stay safe online during Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Use strong passwords

Did you know the most common password of 2023 is 123456? The strongest passwords meet the following criteria: 12-15 characters, including numbers, special characters and lowercase and uppercase letters. If you struggle with remembering passwords, try using a password manager or password phrases that are easy to remember.



Multifactor authentication

Multifactor authentication decreases the likelihood of a breach by adding an additional form of authentication. So, if your password is hacked or stolen, the bad actor still has a hurdle to overcome to access your or the co-op's data.

Secure your network

Computers, smartphones, TVs, thermostats, doorbells—the list of internet-connected devices is ever-growing! Securing your modem, router and Wi-Fi can keep your home network safe from cyber threats.

Recognize and report phishing

You've likely received an email with urgent language and a myriad of typos and grammatical errors saying you need to "update your payment information". Emails like this are typically phishing scams. Legitimate businesses will not send a link to update your payment information.

Stay protected while connected

Whatever the network device, the best defense against viruses and malware is to update to the latest security software and operating systems. Sign up for automatic updates if possible and protect your devices with anti-virus software. Another way to stay safe is to use a virtual private network, or VPN.

Operation Round Up surpasses \$100K in 2023



Through the generosity of MVEC members rounding up their monthly electric bills, the Operation Round Up Trust Board gifted \$56,373 in the third quarter of 2023, surpassing \$100,000 in total donations for the year. Above, ORU's Jeanne Zwart presents a check to the St. Henry Recreation Association near Le Center, for renovating the church's baseball field. Rounding out the board's 3rd Quarter donations are the organizations below. (Photo courtesy of Ben Camp/Southernminn.com)

- **Aging Services:** \$2,500 for logo clothing/mileage
- **Belle Plaine Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **BrainPower in a Backpack:** \$500 for weekend food packages
- **Central Elementary School:** \$945 for Kindergarten transport
- **Cologne Academy:** \$3,300 for 4th grade Kindness Retreat
- **Green Isle Lions Club:** \$2,000 for school supplies & hygiene items
- **Green Isle Lions Club:** \$500 for Community Connect food & supplies
- **Heimatfest:** \$1,000 for Friday night stage

- **HIS Haven Ranch:** \$3,500 for exterior drain tile in the arena
- **Hope United Grief:** \$3,000 for two-night grief retreat weekend
- **Infants Remembered in Silence:** \$2,500 for bereavement support
- **Jordan Area Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Jordan Area Historical Society:** \$2,500 for laptop/equipment
- **Jordan Baseball Association:** \$3,000 for handrails at the ballpark
- **Le Sueur Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Lutheran Home Hope Residence:** \$1,904 for tent/patio sets
- **Majestic Hills Ranch:** \$3,500 for Heroes on Horseback program
- **Peace Center Food Shelf:** \$1,000 for backpack program
- **ProAct, Inc.:** \$662 for exercise bike, aquarium and field trips
- **Saint John the Baptist School:** \$1,600 for field trip transportation
- **Scott Co. Historical Society:** \$1,996 for exhibit gallery upgrade
- **Scott Co. SWCD:** \$1,000 for middle school event materials
- **Sibley Co. Agriculture Assc.:** \$3,000 for new Heritage Building
- **Sibley Co. FoodShare:** \$500 for food
- **Southern Valley Alliance:** \$1,406 for shingle install on new building
- **St. Henry Rec Association:** \$2,000 for new infield fence
- **Teuby Continued:** \$3,000 for Mental Health First Aid for Sibley East
- **Transcend Homeschool Co-Op:** \$500 for CPR & first aid certification
- **Treasures in Town:** \$2,000 for Project Connect - vouchers
- **True Friends:** \$5,560 for new hospital-grade furniture

**Third Quarter
Total Donations:
\$56,373**



The Electric Eye is the official publication of
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
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