

Wishing Members a merry Christmas and healthy New Year

CEO Update from Marvin Denzer

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank our member-owners for their trust and confidence in MVEC as we have the important job of powering your lives.



Beyond delivering electricity, we are also dedicated to being an active and engaged member of our local communities.

Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to exceed your expectations and make our corner of the world a little brighter, both figuratively and literally.

This holiday season, we are particularly proud of the impact our Operation Round Up (ORU) program has made in supporting local organizations. This is the time of year the ORU program is donating to holiday toy drives and food programs. Over the past 28 years, thanks to the generous donations of members who round up their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount, ORU has given \$2,457,030.24 to community organizations that serve thousands of people in our service area.

MVEC is committed to investing in our local youth. Our team members have

CEO UPDATE cont. on page 3

Interested in serving on our board?

The filing period for the cooperative's 2024 election process is now open with a deadline of Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024. On the ballot are the seats currently held by:

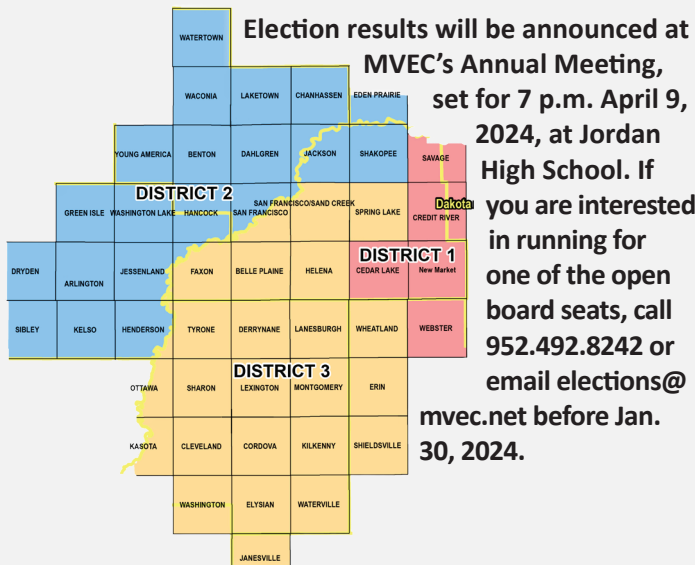
- Tom Wolf of Credit River (District I)
- Michael Lins of Savage (District I)
- Brent Lawrence of Prior Lake (District II)
- Kevin Gibbs of Le Center (District III)

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.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Directors represent the membership as a whole in making co-op decisions, establishing policies, developing budgets and setting rates.
- If elected, directors must be able to attend board meetings, typically held the last Wednesday morning of each month at our Jordan headquarters.



Election Timeline

November

1

Filing opens

January

30

Filing period closes

March

8

Ballots mailed out

April

9

Voting deadline & Annual Meeting

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



Inside this issue:

Apply for Youth Tour today/
page 2

Basket of local goodies
giveaway/page 3

MVEC lights up Scott
County/page 2

ORU Board honors
Carol Ragan/page 4

MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Lighting up Scott County

As part of Scott County's streetlight initiative, MVEC is installing streetlights at rural intersections.

If you drive the rural areas of Scott County at night, you may start seeing something new when approaching certain road intersections: streetlights. The County recently installed 16 rural streetlights at county road intersections across several townships.

According to Scott County Traffic Safety Engineer Mark Callahan, improving lighting at rural intersections is all about safety. This project is a component of the County's roadway safety plan, which also calls for an estimated 40 to 50 miles of enhanced all-weather pavement lines and messages along rural road corridors to improve nighttime driving and prevent the likelihood of crashes.

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) is partnering with the County to install and maintain these new light poles. "We are excited to partner on this project because we see the safety benefits to rural road intersection lighting," said Daniel Turner, an MVEC distribution design engineer working on the project. Turner said MVEC is providing time and labor to build new transformers at the intersection locations and install the new light poles, which are funded by the federal grant. The new poles will have engineered breakpoints to mitigate severe damage or injury if struck by a vehicle. The County will cover monthly utility costs.

"Safety analyses have proven the risk of nighttime

crashes at a high-speed rural intersection can be significantly reduced by illuminating the intersection," said Callahan. "This action will improve rural highway safety in Scott County for many years to come."

The total cost of the project was \$89,785, 90 percent of which was funded by a federal grant through the Highway Safety Improvement Program. County road intersections with average daily traffic volumes over 2,000 and located in rural residential areas were given highest priority in this grant-funded project, according to Callahan. The cost to install lighting per intersection is around \$22,000, which includes the costs to run new power lines and install the poles and light fixtures. The lights are set to turn on automatically when it gets dark.

The hope is the lighting will make rural intersections safer and reduce crashes, which is what prior research indicates.

According to the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies, crashes at rural intersections account for 15 percent of nationwide fatalities, with nearly 30 percent of those occurring at night. In 2015, University of Minnesota research fellow Chris Edwards studied the effect of lighting in rural intersections and found that lighting did reduce crashes.

"Our models demonstrated that intersection lighting produces major safety benefits," Edwards said in a University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies article. "The biggest impact comes from adding lighting to an unlit intersection, which can reduce the ratio of nighttime-to daytime crashes by more than 90 percent."

County highway maintenance staff, who drive rural county roads night and day through all kinds of inclement weather, said they see a benefit of intersection streetlights during snowplow events and pre-dawn foggy mornings. Turner agreed: "This project should improve safety for residents and travelers, and even for spotting wildlife wandering around the rural parts of the county at night."

MVEC installed these lights at the CR 2 and CR 15 roundabout north of New Prague.



MVEC students! Apply for a free leadership trip to Washington, D.C.

Do you know a high school sophomore or junior who is interested in leadership, energy or would like to learn more about government and see the nation's Capitol?

MVEC is now accepting applications for the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. This six-day all-expenses-paid youth leadership experience is available to a high schooler whose parent or guardian is a member of MVEC. The trip is scheduled for June 18-23, 2024. Apply online at mvec.net/youth-tour/

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$1,500 Scholarships

Five graduating high school seniors from each of MVEC's three districts are randomly selected.

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.

At-large Scholarships

Three \$1,500 at-large scholarships will be available in a random drawing for students attending MVEC's Annual Meeting.

Winners will be recognized at MVEC's 87th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in Jordan. Visit mvec.net/high-school-scholarships/ for more info.

CEO UPDATE cont. from page 1

collectively dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to supporting schools, youth clubs, and other programs in the community. Additionally, we provide scholarships annually for high school seniors and offer a week-long Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., for a high school sophomore or junior.

For younger students, we bring MVEC's utility equipment to 'touch-a-truck' events, and we present free electric safety demonstrations to schools, youth groups, fire department open houses and other community organizations. This past August, we hosted our first youth Minnesota Twins Baseball Clinic, an event we hope to make an annual tradition.

In everything we do, we are driven by a commitment to safety, a dedication to our mission, and having a clear vision and single-minded purpose of being the best utility for our members.

This holiday season, we wish you and your loved ones peace, joy, and prosperity. On behalf of our entire MVEC family, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May your homes and businesses be filled with love, laughter, and the spirit of this joyous season.

Happy Holidays!

Marvin



Reminder for Snowbirds

It's not too late for many in our area to prepare their homes for a long winter before heading south. Follow these tips and keep your electric usage to a minimum while you're away.

- Turn off the water supply. Exceptions would be homes with a fire sprinkler system or a hot water heating system. Once the water is turned off, drain any pipes and give each toilet a flush. Continue outside and close and drain any outdoor faucets.
- Set the temperature at 55 degrees or higher to help keep the interior of the floor and wall, where the water piping is likely located, above freezing temperatures. Keeping room and cabinet doors open can also help heat to circulate and warm the areas where pipes are located.
- Speaking of preventing leaking cold air, ensure all windows and doors are closed tight. There is still time to install new weatherstripping, if necessary.
- Shut off and disconnect electrical devices wherever possible. Don't forget instant-on devices such as computers, televisions, coffee makers, gaming consoles and microwaves, among others. Although they appear off, instant-on devices may continue to draw electricity.
- Be sure to maintain electrical power if required to keep the heating system running. If electrical service to the home is to remain on while you are away, consider having a licensed electrical contractor inspect your main electrical panel, wiring and outlets. Repair or replace anything that may be defective.

While you're away, sign up for SmartHub, so you can monitor the energy usage of your home Up North. Learn more at www.mvec.net/smarthub.

Kick off the New Year with an MVEC member-inspired basket of local goodies!



Featuring products from:

- Bongards Cooperative of Norwood-Young America
- Cambria Countertops of Le Sueur
- European Roasterie Coffee of Le Center
- Faxon Farms Maple Syrup of Henderson
- Jim's Apple Barn/Candy Store of Jordan
- Odenthal Meats of Heidelberg
- Thor's Lefse of New Prague
- Turek's Arctic Hillcrest Elk Farm of Montgomery

MVEC member exclusive! Enter at www.mvec.net/giftbasket

**by midnight Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024.
Three baskets will be given away.**

Kids' Safety Poster Contest



Search "Safety" at www.mvec.net, choose a tip or message and create an electrical safety poster for the chance to win one of two \$25 VISA gift cards or one of four

\$25 Jim's Apple Barn gift certificates.

Two age categories: 12 and under and 13-18.

**See details and enter at mvec.net/safetycontest
by midnight Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024.**

Winners will be contacted by email the following week.

Operation Round Up closes year out strong



Earlier this year, St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Henderson was gifted an Operation Round Up grant that came to fruition this fall. The church used the funds to purchase an AED unit, something the church did not have previously. In October, Henderson Fire Chief and EMT Randy Tiegs trained a group of 15 individuals on how to use the AED unit, which will remain at the church.

To date, MVEC's generous members who "round-up" their monthly electric bills have donated nearly \$2.5 million to hundreds of local organizations.

ORU board honors Ragan



The Operation Round Up Trust Board's November meeting marked the last for Carol Ragan, who has served since 1995. Over her 28 years with the board, Ragan oversaw nearly \$2.5 million donated through ORU. "It's been very interesting and exciting seeing the growth of the program since the beginning," said Ragan, who served on the initial ORU Board. "It really has been a pleasure working with area communities and event groups and figuring out how we can help." The Trust Board consists of, from left, Paul Jacobus, Jeanne Zwart, Carol Ragan, Mary Krentz, Diana Brenke, Connie Meeker, Dick Peterson and John Miller. (Missing from photo is Dwayne Glenn)

The Operation Round Up Trust Board gifted **\$40,903** for the fourth quarter of 2023 to the following organizations:

- **Angel Foundation:** \$3,000 for Emergency Financial Assistance
- **Brainpower in a Backpack:** \$500 for weekend food packages
- **Can Do Canines:** \$5,000 to raise, train and place dogs
- **Central Elementary:** \$500 for weekend food program
- **Cologne Fire Department:** \$2,120 for gas monitors/camera
- **Green Isle Lions Club:** \$500 for Community Connect meal
- **Henderson Area Food Share:** \$500 for food
- **Holy Cross Catholic School:** \$1,760 for field trip
- **Jordan Area Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Jordan Family Outreach:** \$500 for Christmas gifts
- **Jordan Lions:** \$500 for Christmas food program
- **Le Center Ambulance:** \$6,000 for LUCAS device
- **Le Center Food Shelf:** \$500 for food
- **Le Sueur Co. Adopt-A-Family:** \$500 for Christmas gifts
- **Santa Anonymous - Cleveland:** \$500 for Christmas gifts
- **Santa Anonymous - Le Center:** \$500 for Christmas gifts
- **Santa Anonymous - Le Sueur:** \$500 for Christmas gifts
- **Santa Anonymous - Montgomery:** \$500 for Christmas gifts
- **Peace Center Food Shelf:** \$500 for backpack program
- **People Reaching Out to Other People:** \$500 for Smart Snacks
- **Reaching Our Community Kids:** \$500 for Power Packs program
- **Rotary Club of Le Sueur:** \$500 for backpack program
- **Scott Co. Sheriff's Department:** \$1,000 for car seats
- **Sibley County Food Share:** \$500 for food
- **Southern Valley Alliance:** \$7,000 for asphalt shingles
- **Tri-City United Band/Choir:** \$1,300 for field trip
- **Tri-City United Trap Team:** \$2,000 for enclosed trailer
- **Westbrook Community Church:** \$1,723 for growing food shelf produce

**Fourth Quarter
Total Donations:
\$40,903**



The Electric Eye is the official publication of
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
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MVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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