

*Engaging with our younger members*

## We deliver more with safety, education, and opportunity

### CEO Update from Marvin Denzer

At MVEC, the Fifth Cooperative Principle—Education, Training, and Information—is a practice we take to heart. From keeping kids safe to building skills, we are here to show the next generation the cooperative difference.



### 1. Stay Safe with Electricity: PowerTown is a Hands-On Electrical Safety Demo

Safety is a top priority at MVEC. Our PowerTown tabletop demonstration teaches students and community



Apprentice Zach hands out kids hard hats after a safety demo.

members how to stay safe around electricity. This free, 30-minute, interactive presentation is available for schools, Scout meetings, and other youth events. Plus, on special request, we'll bring it to after-hours safety events. Learn more: [www.mvec.net/youth](http://www.mvec.net/youth).

### 2. Batter Up! Free Minnesota Twins Youth Baseball & Softball Clinics

We team up with the Twins Community Fund and Great River Energy to bring baseball and softball excitement to local youth for the past two summers. These free clinics give kids the skills, teamwork, and confidence they need to shine on and off the field. Watch this newsletter for 2025 details.

### 3. \$1,500 Scholarships for Member-Owner Students

We're proud to support students (whose parents or guardians are MVEC members) in furthering their education through our \$1,500 scholarship program. Apply online at [www.mvec.net/high-school-scholarships](http://www.mvec.net/high-school-scholarships) by Tuesday, Feb. 18, for one of 15 scholarships. Plus, there's a second chance to win by attending our Annual Meeting at Jordan High School on Tuesday, April 8, where we'll draw five more scholarships.

### 4. Youth Tour Leadership Experience in Washington, D.C.

This is a life-changing leadership experience. Participants gain valuable skills, learn the importance of electric



MVEC's summer interns visited a Steele-Waseca solar farm to learn more about renewables.

cooperatives, make lifelong connections, and come home ready to make a difference. The 2025 Youth Tour deadline is **Friday, Mar. 14**. Know an outstanding high school sophomore or junior from a member-owner household. Learn more: [www.mvec.net/youth-tour](http://www.mvec.net/youth-tour).

### 5. College Student Internship Opportunities

Electric cooperatives offer opportunities for everything from line workers and engineers to accountants and communicators. MVEC's HR staff attend college intern and career fairs to find next-generation talent to help power our future. Every summer, we hire three to five interns who gain hands-on experience in various departments. Learn more: [www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/career-center](http://www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/career-center).

At MVEC, we aim to deliver a stronger tomorrow and a brighter future for the youth in our communities.

Marvin

Additional resources and board meeting highlights available 24/7 at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)



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# MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Don't be left in the cold -  
Keep your workspace  
comfortable all year!



Dayton Electric Garage  
Heaters in stock for just  
**\$400** (\$630 value)

We've DOUBLED the incentive:  
Get a \$100 credit on your bill

Act fast! Sale price and bill credit  
valid until March 31, 2025

#### Details

- Have your preferred electrician install or ask us for a recommendation.
- Delivers 5,000 watts and 17,065 BTUs
- Size: 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>H x 14W x 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> D
- Must remain on MVEC's Energy Wise program for at least one year.

Contact: Mike R at 952-492-2313  
or [info@mvec.net](mailto:info@mvec.net)

Did you know:

## MVEC has FREE payment options?

Managing your MVEC electric account is easy and convenient. Whether you're looking to simplify monthly payments, stay on top of your budget, or just save time, MVEC offers a variety of FREE payment and billing options to suit your needs.

No matter how you prefer to pay, MVEC ensures your experience is fast, simple, and hassle-free—all without additional fees. Pick the option that works best for you.

#### Online with SmartHub

Total account access to make secure online payments and view usage anytime, anywhere.

#### Auto Bill Pay

Have funds automatically deducted from your checking or savings account each month.

#### Recurring Credit Card

Set up monthly recurring payments, using your credit or debit card.

#### Prepay Billing

Prepay for electricity — as you use it. Pay when you want, the amount you want.

#### Pay Now

Make a quick, single transaction without having to register for a SmartHub

#### Pay by Phone

On the go? Call the automated phone system Touch-n-Go at 855.963.3830 or 800.282.6832.

## Congratulations to 2025 gift basket winners

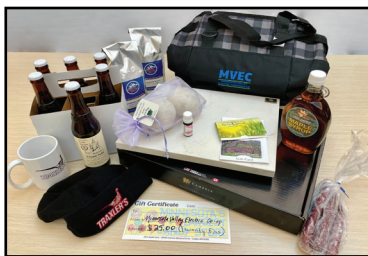
MVEC's holiday gift basket giveaway, featuring goodies from some great local businesses attracted nearly 1,800 entries.

And the winners are:

**District 1: William Swartzwelder of Savage**  
(not pictured)

**District 2: Jerry Turbeville of Eden Prairie**

**District 3: Nan Washa of Montgomery**



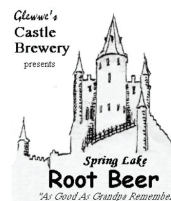
#### Member-sourced products:



Quartz cheeseboard from  
**Cambria** in Le Sueur. Coffee  
blend from **European**  
**Roasterie** in Le Center.



Gift cards from **Jim's Apple**  
**Barn/Candy Store** in Jordan, **The**  
**Mustard Seed** in Chanhassen and the  
Arboretum in Chaska.



Goodies from  
**Gleww's Castle**  
**Brewery, Sutton**  
**Ridge Farm,**  
**O'Keefe's Meat**  
**Market, Traxler's**  
**Hunting Preserve.**





# Reliability is focus of \$16 million construction work plan

In 2025, your cooperative will make an investment of nearly \$16 million in MVEC's electric grid system. Construction budget dollars are spread over the co-op's 968-square-mile service area to increase reliability, power quality and to provide general maintenance for MVEC's 47,500 members in portions of nine counties. Below are some of our largest projects once construction season begins.

**1. Creating a tie line** between the St. Thomas and Le Center substations. A tie line acts as a bridge between the two subs. It increases capacity, reliability, and allows one substation to cover for any maintenance or interruptions at the other.

**2. Relocating and updating** the tie line between Eagle Creek and Spring Lake substations. The current path for this tie line goes under Prior Lake. Construction here will send the line around the lake and update it for backfeeding.

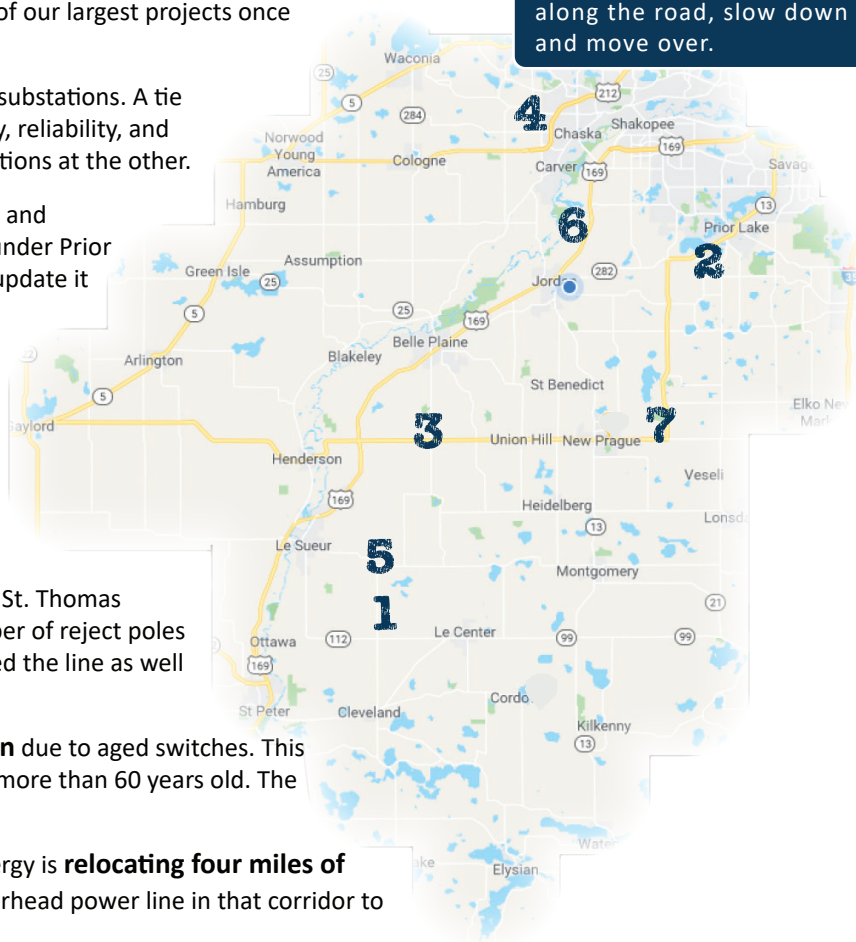
**3. Replacing aged line** west of Union Hill. This project updates nearly three miles of some of MVEC's oldest three-phase line. Updating aged line increases reliability throughout the area.

**4. Moving line underground in Chaska**, is part of a large infrastructure project the City of Chaska began in 2024.

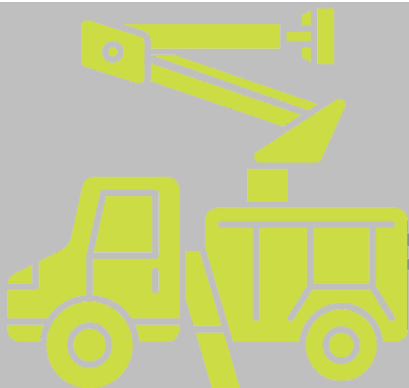
**5. Replacing nearly three miles of overhead** line near the St. Thomas Substation. As part of MVEC's pole inspection program, a number of reject poles were identified. Since the poles need replacing, will be upgraded the line as well for improved reliability.

**6. Rebuild high side structures at the Merriam Substation** due to aged switches. This is a reliability project as the current high-side structure style is more than 60 years old. The Spring Lake Substation will undergo similar upgrades.

**7.** While not an MVEC project, energy provider Great River Energy is **relocating four miles of transmission line east of New Prague**. MVEC will move overhead power line in that corridor to underground.



When you see MVEC or other utility crews working in your neighborhood or along the road, slow down and move over.



## Delivering more with outage texting

Quickly report an outage with a simple text. To report your outage, text **OUT** to **855-963-3830**. To request status updates, text **STATUS**.

**First step:** If you don't have one already, set up a free SmartHub account management tool. You can do so online or by downloading the app from your smartphone's store.

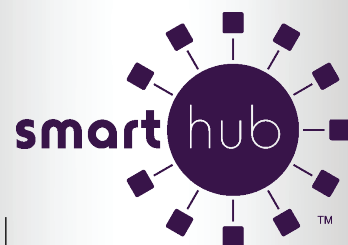
**Second step:** To use this service, have text messaging enabled on your SmartHub account. *(Please note: to send and receive messages, any texting fees charged by your phone carrier may apply.)*

Scan the QR code below for SmartHub account management



Not a texter? No problem! You can still report an outage by phone.

Report outages by phone by calling: 952-492-8255 or 800-232-2328



Manage all aspects of your MVEC account with SmartHub, including:

- view electric usage
- report any account issues
- make payments
- receive alerts



# Can you recommend MVEC's next Youth Tour student?

## Last call for scholar looking for a trip of a lifetime

An all-expenses-paid, six-day Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., awaits one outstanding MVEC student. Scheduled for June 16-21, 2025, this unforgettable experience will immerse participants in leadership development, historical exploration, and the importance of electric cooperatives.

### Apply Now – Deadline: March 14

Submit your application at [www.mvec.net/youth-tour](http://www.mvec.net/youth-tour).

The selected MVEC representative will join 40 Minnesota teens sponsored by other rural electric cooperatives, 1,800 delegates from across the country. Together, they discover how electric co-ops power America while forming lifelong friendships.



*Build confidence, enhance leadership skills, and create memories that will last a lifetime.*

### Experience the Nation's Capitol

Past trips have included stops at Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Supreme Court, Washington National Cathedral and more. Being selected for Youth Tour is a standout achievement for any college or career application.

### APPLY TODAY!

This opportunity is open to any current high school sophomore or junior whose family is a member of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative.

Deadline to apply: **Friday, March 14.** One MVEC alternate will be selected and either receive a \$200 cash prize or attend the Youth Tour if the winner is unexpectedly unable to attend.



### Non-discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, nationality, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint](http://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

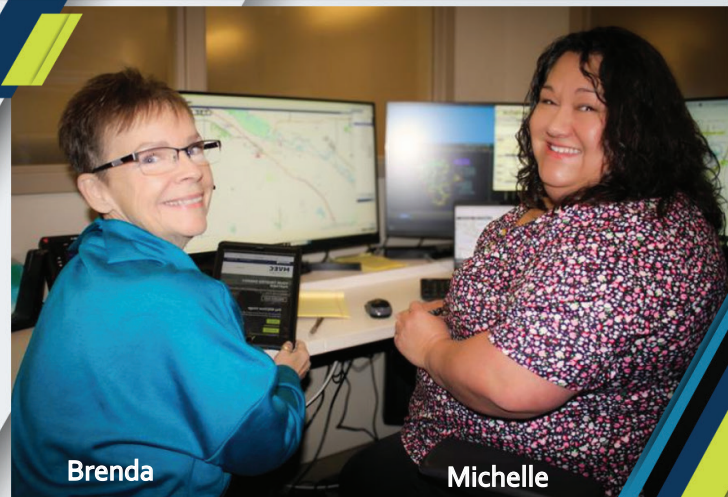
MVEC is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

## Meet Our Dispatchers: The Friendly Voices Behind the Power

### When you call to report an outage or share a concern, our Dispatchers are the friendly voices ready to assist.

They work hand-in-hand with our linemen, dispatching them quickly to where they're needed most. Behind the scenes, they ensure equipment records are accurate and system maps stay up-to-date, keeping everything running smoothly. Clear, detailed, and accurate communication is at the heart of what they do, ensuring safe and reliable electricity delivery for our members.

## We Deliver More



Brenda

Michelle

The Electric Eye is the official publication of  
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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: 855-963-3830

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