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BOARD MEETINGS August 30 ■ September 27 (9:30 am at Cohasset Service Center. Members welcome)

Electric vehicle show set for Bayfront Festival Park

Discussion panel, food trucks, live music and more

The annual North Country EV Show & Tell Event is charged up and ready to drive into its new location Thursday, September 8 at Bayfront Festival Park in Duluth.

If you're considering an electric vehicle (EV), already own one, or are just interested in learning more about EVs, save the date and bring your family and lawn chairs to the Bayfront location, where parking and admission are free.

The first 100 people who sign in at the registration table starting at 4 p.m. on September 8 will receive a complimentary \$10 voucher to use at the food trucks. Vouchers will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis and are expected to go fast.

Food trucks include Bob-a-Q Smokehouse and Grill, Kernel's Best Kettle Korn, Love Creamery, Na-cho Bizness and Blackwoods.

Several types of EVs will be available to the public for viewing - dozens of models ranging from light-duty to heavy-duty such as the Ford F-150 Lightning, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Tesla, hybrid trucks, work vans, an excavator, Mean Green mower and more.

At 5p.m., a discussion panel of EV industry experts will share their knowledge and experience with electric

vehicles, including time to take questions from the audience.

Mason Dixon Line, a popular music group, will go live at 6:15 p.m. EVs and food trucks will remain on display until 7:30 p.m. when the event concludes

"The cooperatives of northern Minnesota are very excited to expand this event by holding it at Duluth's Bayfront Festival Park where people will find food trucks, beverages, activities for children, lots of EVs to see and hear about, and then wrap up the evening with a free, live concert on the main stage," said Tami Zaun, LCP public relations coordinator.

turn this into a destination event where people will learn a lot and have some fun at the same time, so come!"

Shift2Electric, several EV owners and local dealerships will be on hand.

The North Country EV Show & Tell Event is sponsored by Great River Energy, Arrowhead Cooperative, Cooperative Light & Power, East Central Energy and Lake Country Power, with additional support from Minnesota Clean Cities Coalition and Minnesota Power.

For more information, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop/north-country-ev-show-and-tell.

CONSIDERING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE? Join us for the North Country EV Show & Tell Event! SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 4:00 PM - 7:30 PM Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth. Includes live music, food vendors, electric vehicles, and family fun.



# Great River Energy has sufficient resources to serve members

Last month, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) issued its 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment. In it, NERC — the United States' authority on electric reliability — warned that several parts of the country are at risk of energy shortfalls this summer due to predicted above-normal temperatures and drought conditions over the western half of the continent.

The announcement followed similar comments from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which manages the power grid for 42 million people in the United States and Canada, including Minnesota. Although MISO projects the Midwest will have sufficient energy for the summer, it stated that additional measures may be necessary to maintain reliable service during periods of peak demand. These periods typically occur on hot and humid days when consumers are using more electricity than normal.



NERC indicated the north and central areas of MISO are in a “high risk” category due to generator retirements and increased demand. Great River Energy serves the northern area of MISO, including Lake Country Power.

In emergency situations, MISO calls on additional power supply resources, imports energy from other regions and performs voluntary load reductions to

manage the electric system. Temporary controlled manual load sheds, or periodic power outages, are used as a last resort to keep the system in balance. If there are temporary controlled load sheds, Great River Energy has procedures in place to act immediately when directed by MISO to shed load. Load shed protocols and processes are defined and drilled routinely, so when these events happen, Great River Energy is ready. ■

## Operation Round Up® gives more than \$57,000 to community programs

Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Electric Trust Board recently approved \$57,115 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 44 grant applications and distributed funds to 42 projects and programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2.9 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up® are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary Trust Board of nine co-op members administers the trust. Of the funds collected through the program, 100 percent is distributed to charitable organizations through an application and selection process. The Trust Board uses special guidelines and policies when choosing recipients.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to

electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by “rounding up” members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.



If you don't already participate in Operation Round Up® but see the value of community impact, please call us to enroll at 800-421-9959.

Applications are available online at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) (My Cooperative > Community > Operation Round Up®). Application deadlines are quarterly. For a list of the most recent recipients, visit [www.lakecountrypower.coop/posts](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop/posts)

# People Powering You

This is a regular series of employee spotlights where you'll get to know the people behind your power.

**Years served:** 8 years in September.

**Brief overview of my job:** Application, database desktop and mobile device support.

**Why I enjoy working at LCP:** Our department has a fun culture; we work well together and there's always plenty to do to keep us busy!

**Family:** Husband Joel, son Danny (20) and daughters Hope (18) and Ellie (16), puppy Piper (10 months)

**Community Involvement:** Involved in several levels of Boy Scouts of America as an assistant scoutmaster, district commissioner, course director of our council's National Youth Leadership Training (twice) and will be a scoutmaster leading a group of 44 youth to the 2023 National Jamboree in West Virginia. I'm also very active at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia.

**Hobbies:** I like to go camping and fishing with my family. Even though I'm way behind on my scrapbooks, I love to scrapbook. I decided I'd rather make the memories now and scrapbook the pictures later!

**One random fact of interest about yourself:** I love musicals and showtunes.

**What did you do before working at the co-op?** I've worked in IT



**Mara Spaeth**

Applications and Data Analyst

departments in several different industries since graduating from college including a list processing and marketing company, healthcare at St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic (pre-Essentia days), University of Minnesota, Duluth and Minntac.

**Education/training/background:** Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from University of Minnesota, Duluth.



## Save a life: Avoid distractions while driving

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we all can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews working near the roadside, move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Lake Country Power, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving.

So, let's work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: That text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

**Play it safe. That text can wait.**

While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can't wait.

# Clear right-of-ways lead to a safe and reliable electric system

Keeping the area clear around power lines is critical to maintaining a safe, reliable electric system. Every year, Lake Country Power inspects its lines by air or ground. We are looking for trees that are growing too near – or could grow too near – a power line, equipment needing repair or replacement, easement encroachments, and anything that might jeopardize safe, reliable electric service.

## Why is this important?

Maintaining a clear right-of-way (ROW) is important to ensure safe, reliable operation of transmission lines. Trees that are dead, weak or leaning all have the potential to contact a power line, which can break the electrical current and disrupt service to surrounding homes and businesses.

Lake Country Power crews work with Great River Energy, our wholesale electric supplier, during outage situations to restore power quickly and safely. Sometimes tree crews must clear branches or limbs from the area before repairs can be made.

When trees or other objects are close to a power line, an “arc flash” can occur. An arc flash is a short circuit through the air that can flash over from an energized conductor (like a power line) to trees, people or other objects. Arc flashes produce intense heat and light, and can cause serious or fatal injuries, widespread power outages and/or fires.



## smart hub Tip

**Q:** It's summer! Curious to see how the temperatures outside affect the energy usage inside your home?

**A:** Take advantage of the 'My Usage' section of SmartHub. By selecting the Usage Explorer graph, you can compare your usage to the weather trends each month and even down to the day.



## What can you do?

If there are power lines on your property, avoid planting trees that could grow into them. Plants you can have below and near lines include perennial flowers, vegetable gardens, pollinator habitats with native flowers and grasses, or low-growing shrubs.

Keep in mind you should never plant in the right of way of a power line. If an emergency were to occur, our employees use that corridor to make repairs. If you aren't sure what is allowed, you can always give us a call at 800-421-9959. ■

## RECIPE CORNER OATMEAL BROWNIES



From the Kitchen of:  
**Helen Steel,**  
Grand Rapids



- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 2 cups oatmeal
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- ½ cup raisins

Beat butter and sugar until mixed. Add eggs and vanilla. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix. Pour into a greased cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768, or e-mail [journes@lcp.coop](mailto:journes@lcp.coop). If your entry is printed in Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account.

# Thank you, members, for your patience this summer

## Industry protocol for outage restoration: More members, less time

It's been a long start to the summer for many of Lake Country Power's valued members.

The month of June served the co-op with an early deluge of severe storms and prolonged power outages, most recently the week of June 20, when more than 16,000 members lost service. Areas near Burntside Lake and Ely took the brunt of that storm system, with about a mile of line and 20 poles keeping power off for multiple days in the area.

Lake Country Power and its board of directors fielded a number of calls and messages related to the storm and we are thankful for members expressing their support and showing patience while line crews were out in the field performing the vital work of doing repairs to restore service.

Large-scale outages are tough on everyone in the co-op family, but Lake Country Power – like other electric utilities – has a plan and system in place to restore service during these disruptive events.

### How power is restored

Line crews work long, hard hours to safely restore the greatest number of members in the shortest possible time.

That work starts with transmission lines that supply power to substations, where outages can impact thousands of members at once, and must be repaired before distribution lines and individual homes can be reached.



By Jason  
**LONG**  
District 1  
Director

Next, crews move to distribution substations that serve hundreds to thousands of members, where they inspect feeder lines, the substation itself or determine if the issue is down the line further.

Main distribution lines are checked next, which typically carry power to large groups in rural communities or housing developments. If local outages are still ongoing, supply lines or "tap lines" are inspected at transformers, poles or pads for underground services, businesses, schools and homes.

Lastly, crews investigate individual home outages to see what may need to be repaired at your residence if everyone else has power except you. We call these "individual outages" which usually take the longest to receive service.

Restoring large outages challenge the co-op and line crews, with employees working long hours to serve members and make repairs. Your patience in these situations is very much appreciated, and remember, stay away from downed power lines during storms and make sure your generators are properly installed and

operating outside the home.

Don't forget, you can call Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959, press #1 to report an outage or use your SmartHub application for the fastest and easiest way, and utilize the outage map at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) during storms.

### How does the Outage Map work?

The gray area of the map represents the service territory covered by Lake Country Power. Lighter areas are not serviced by the co-op. On the right, in the key, is information about the outages marked by colors and symbols, representing the extent of a certain outage, whether it was verified or not and if a crew has been assigned, signified by a hard hat.

When a verified outage is on the map, for example a red circle indicates a verified outage affecting 200-499 members, users can click on the icon to see information such as when



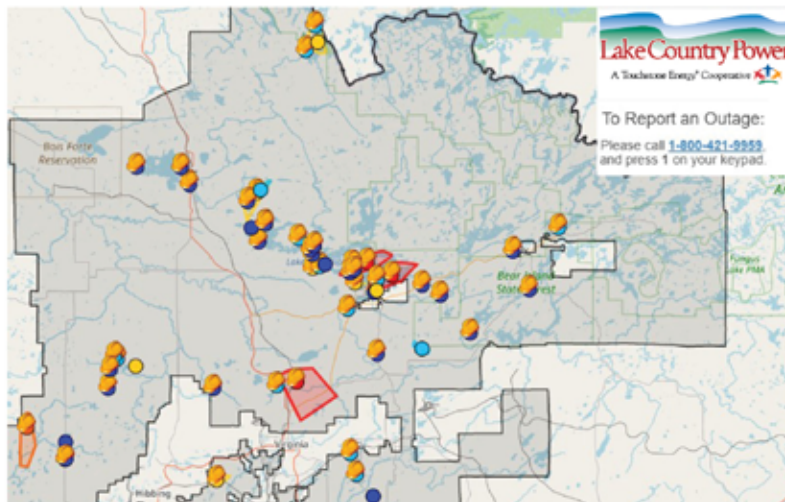
the outage began, how many members are impacted and more.

If a hard hat icon is on an outage point, that means a crew has been assigned, but isn't necessarily there working on the problem yet. Crews could be in route or completing work at another point, but an assigned crew means the outage point is on the schedule.

As a reminder: Line crews initially focus on restoring the largest number of members in the shortest amount of time. Some outages on remote taps or further from the substation may take longer as crews work down the line.

It is also good to note that line crews typically clear nearby outages in an area they're already working before moving on to another part of the service territory for efficiency reasons. So, it isn't uncommon for hard hat icons to be assigned to individual outages in the same area as larger ones before moving on from the large-scale outage point. ■

Jason Long was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 1. He can be reached at [jloug@lcp.coop](mailto:jloug@lcp.coop) and 218-240-9611.



## May 24, 2022 • Regular Monthly Meeting

### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported about several conversations with members during the month, mostly related to outages and storm damage.

General Manager Bakk attended the May Great River Energy member managers meeting and reported that the committee is reviewing and proposing revisions to the 5% Renewable Member Resources option within the power supply contract.

Bakk also reported that the Minnesota Rural Electric Trust awarded Lake Country Power an "Excellence in Safety" award. LCP recently purchased a safety demonstration trailer to help provide electrical safety education to school children and community groups.

Dave Kooda, LCP manager of information technology, presented to the board about

cyber security and measures being taken at the co-op for compliance and protection of assets and data.

### THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

The 2023 Lake Country Power Annual Meeting was approved for Thursday, April 20, 2023, at Cromwell-Wright School.

Changes to Policy 602 were approved that include increases in the contribution in aid of construction, temporary services are billed a minimum of one year, load management upgrade charges, charges for extension of facilities in difficult to build areas, etc.

**Editor's Note:** These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a printed copy.



▶ Bonnie Nygaard of Aurora was taking a morning paddle when she spotted this eagle sitting by the lake. Her image appears in August on the 2022 co-op calendar.



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Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not oversee day-to-day LCP operations. Administration of maintenance, electric service and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff.

**Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.**

## Newsline

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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup. Source: Department of Energy

Find out more about the Where's Willie? contest by visiting [www.lakecountrypower.coop/wheres-willie](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop/wheres-willie)

## Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — May 2022

	2022	2021
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 47,847,492	\$ 39,938,132
Cost of Purchased Power	27,411,425	21,148,044
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	7,231,397	5,970,426
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,716,773	1,604,150
Administrative and General Expense	2,996,150	2,950,550
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	6,689,391	6,636,819
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>46,045,136</b>	<b>38,309,988</b>
Net Electric Operating Margins	1,802,356	1,628,144
Non-Operating Margins	716,995	748,768
Total Margins before Subsidiaries	2,519,351	2,376,913
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	781	1,028,276
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 2,520,132</b>	<b>\$ 3,405,188</b>
<b>TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)</b>	<b>357,470,664</b>	<b>278,017,319</b>

**Editor's Note:** These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a copy.