



February 2022

Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS February 22 ■ March 29

LakeCountry Power

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy that Powers Our Lives

IN THIS ISSUE

Co-ops: Designed for member service

Working with local legislators

Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner

2023 calendar contest opens

Online auction available to members Retired LCP fleet vehicles up for bid

Lake Country Power is partnering with North Auctions of Hibbing to hold another online auction on fleet the co-op is liquidating, including four pickup trucks, one snowmobile and more. The online auction will be similar to how people submit bids through eBay and other online auctions.

"The online auction is only for all currently active Lake Country Power members," said Wade Gould, an area supervisor at LCP. "The member who purchases the vehicle must be the same member who picks up the vehicle and signs the title in their name."

Any interested and current co-op members can view the auction using this link: www.k-bid.com/auction/41490. This auction is password protected, you can access the auction inventory using this password: Lake Country

You will be required to register for an account on www.K-BID.com. A credit card is required upon registration to verify identity and may be used for payment should you be the winning bidder.

The auction is open exclusively for active members of Lake Country Power and will be open Tuesday, March 1 and end Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Registration and bidding is free, only



winning bidders will be required to pay for the items they've won. Winning bidders may pick up their items with proof of purchase from one of Lake Country Power service centers in either Cohasset or Kettle River, depending on the location of the auction item.

For further questions, please contact Greg at North Auctions at 218-969-3834.



How to register

1. Go to www.k-bid.com/auction/41490
2. Click "Login" at the upper right corner of the website (login is above the "search" tool)
3. Click the "Sign Up" button in the box to the right that says "Not registered yet?"
4. Enter your user and location information. Click to check the box that says "I accept the Terms and Conditions." Next click "Save."
5. The next screen is where you will need to enter your credit card information. The credit card is used for verification purposes only and will be tied to the email you provide. One bidder per email.
6. Next, you'll be required to verify a telephone number on the account. Once registered, you will be able to start bidding.
7. The next time you want access to the site, you will click login and the left box that says "Login to your account." You can login using your email address or the bidder ID given to you and the password you set up.
8. For more questions on K-BID and bidding, visit this page: www.k-bid.com/page/NewUser



K-BID
ONLINE AUCTIONS

Auction Items

- 2015 Ford Escape (153,575 miles)
- 2006 GMC Sierra (221,857 miles)
- 2006 Dodge Van (95,169 miles)
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado (202,500 miles)
- 2011 Chevrolet Silverado (268,670 miles)
- 2012 Chevrolet Silverado (213,950 miles)
- 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD
- 2006 SkiDoo Skandic 550F Snowmobile (1,730 miles)
- 1993 Rice Pole Trailer
- 1995 Trail-Eze Tag Trailer
- 1995 20' Northwood Pontoon (40 horsepower)
- Pontoon Trailer

New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center wins Touchstone Energy® Community Award

Lake Country Power selected New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center of Grand Rapids and Deer River, Minn., as the winner of its annual Touchstone Energy® Community Award. The co-op chose this organization for the vital community services they provide the region.

As winner of the Touchstone Energy® Community Award, the pregnancy care center was awarded a plaque and \$500 that will go toward its community giving efforts.

"I'm so excited, I just want to jump for joy!" said Lee Ellies, who submitted the application to Lake Country Power. "Communities benefit from our services as children are cared for right from conception. Parents have an opportunity to learn how to develop a safe and loving home and those who have been hurt by prior choices gain skills to cope."

New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center equips expectant parents to have healthy pregnancies and strengthen families through a variety of free and confidential services. Some of the many services include pregnancy and parenting education, community referrals, personal support, limited obstetric ultrasounds,

counseling, pregnancy tests, a boutique, support and training for fathers, and fetal development instruction.

Lake Country Power is one of several Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in Minnesota providing a local award to encourage and recognize

local community contributions. New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center will compete with winners from other Minnesota-based electric cooperatives in February for statewide recognition and \$1,000. ■



► Representatives from New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center in its Deer River facility were honored to accept this year's Touchstone Energy Community Award from Lake Country Power. (L-R): Amanda Jo Grovenburg, executive director; Amanda Wheelock, nurse manager; Trudy Hasbargen, site coordinator; and Jerry Meyer, project manager.

LCP sells Lake State Tree Service, Lake States Construction

Lake Country Power Holdings, Inc., on January 1, 2022, closed on the sale of subsidiary assets Lake States Tree Services, Inc. (LSTS) and Lake States Construction, Inc. (LSC). Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

LSTS assets were purchased by Zielies Tree Service and LSC by the newly-formed Lake State Construction, LLC. Both companies will maintain a presence in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and service Lake Country Power, while retaining employees who wish to remain after the sale.

The asset sales will allow Lake Country Power to focus on its core business and explore other opportunities to benefit its membership going forward.



Co-ops: Designed for memberservice

Just like you are a member-owner of Lake Country Power, Lake Country Power is a member-owner of Great River Energy, which provides wholesale power to 28 electric cooperatives and more than 700,000 members in Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin.

All of these cooperatives work together to provide electricity at cost and reinvest in the communities they serve. While other types of businesses must produce returns for investors and other stakeholders, cooperatives focus on doing what's best for their member-owners.

Over time, the membership evolves and



directors change, but the structure of cooperatives ensures that the values of the membership guide the company.

Before a decision is made by a cooperative, it undergoes several levels of analysis – with the last step being a vote by a board of democratically elected directors.

Members are encouraged to stay informed about their cooperative, vote in co-op elections and get involved wherever possible. After all, the cooperative belongs to the membership. ■

People Powering You

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

Years served: Since October 1998 (23 years)

Brief overview of my job: My role is to plan, develop and administer the co-op's information and public relations programs for key audiences including employees, members, media and the general public. Members may know me from hosting bus tours to learn about their energy supply, or at the annual meetings, district member meetings and member appreciation days, etc. Some of my key responsibilities are coordinating member events, youth events, being a media liaison and marketing our Energy Wise heating and cooling programs.

Why I enjoy working at LCP: I enjoy working here because we are truly co-op family. We care about one another very much. Some of my dearest friends work in the electric cooperative industry, whether they're here at LCP, Great River Energy or across the nation at other cooperatives. When you feel part of an organization, supported and respected, it makes you love the work you do, and it motivates you to work hard and give it all you've got for your employer and the co-op members we serve. That's the other part I love about LCP – our members! The friendships and acquaintances I've made while working on various projects like the co-op calendar contest, bus tours, annual meetings and district meetings are so enriching to my life. You all mean a lot to me and always will! So, thank you.

Family: Married to Robert Zaun, and we have one precious fur baby named Bella.

Community Involvement: I've been in the Grand Rapids Rotary Club for over 20 years where we do fun community projects and fundraisers for scholarships, etc. I serve as a board member on the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and serve as secretary of the Alliance Church ministry board.

Tami Zaun

Public Relations Coordinator

Hobbies:

I love traveling to places near and far to experience life there, see new places, and have fun soaking it all in. Spending time on the lake, paddle boarding, snowmobiling, music and just loving all four seasons in the Midwest are all favorites too.

One random fact of interest about yourself: Did my first tandem skydive on August 2, 2009 in Wisconsin – 13,000 feet and a 120 mph free fall before he pulled the parachute. Second jump was with my brother in Fargo. It's fun!

Before I worked for the co-op? I worked in Grand Forks, ND for Disaster Outreach, a program funded through FEMA right after the devastating flood of April 1997.

Education/training/background: University of North Dakota, Bachelor of Arts with a major in communication (emphasis in public relations).



Co-op calendar contest opens

The 2023 co-op calendar contest is officially open for members to begin submitting their beautiful scenic entries. The deadline to submit is Monday, August 1.

The calendar will showcase the photography talents of LCP's membership. Your photography should be scenic, capturing the beauty of northern Minnesota's four seasons. The photos are not required to include power lines but may if you choose.

A panel of judges will select the winning photos in "round one" of the judging process. During "round two," members will select the finalists through a contest on LCP's Facebook page.

Winners will receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill and will be notified in October.



Photo Contest Guidelines

1. Dimensions must be 3600 x 2400 = 12" x 8" high-res print photo, or 5400 x 3600 = 18" x 12" high-res photo. Adjust your camera settings to ensure these high-quality dimensions. Cell phone photos are often not acceptable quality for print. A quality digital camera is best for good photography.
2. Photos must be 300dpi (dots per inch). Photos under 1 MB will be labeled as KB, and are too small for print application and should not be entered.
3. Separate emails are required per entry. Attach the photo file to your email, include a photo description for the entry, and remember to include your name and the phone number on your account as well.
4. Horizontal/landscape photos only; no vertical shots for design reasons.
5. Only Lake Country Power members may enter the contest. (LCP employees and their immediate families and spouses are not eligible to enter the contest.)
6. Hard copy photos cannot be accepted; only electronic files please.
7. Photos should capture the beauty of northern Minnesota. You may submit photos taken in spring, summer, fall and/or winter. All photos must be taken by you, not someone else.
8. One membership (household) may submit up to 10 photos and will be limited to one winning entry per membership.
9. Please do not submit close-ups of people.
10. Winning photographers automatically give Lake Country Power permission to use winning photos in the calendar, in other publications, member presentations or electronically online.
11. Photos must be e-mailed to tzaun@lcp.coop. All entries must be received by August 1, 2022.

2022 ENERGY (kWh) RATE INCREASES

There will be no increase to the Service Availability Charge in 2022.

	March 2022	2021	Change
Single Phase Service			
Summer Energy (June - Aug)	\$ 0.1503	\$ 0.1336	\$ 0.0167
Winter Energy (Dec, Jan, Feb)	\$ 0.1403	\$ 0.1236	\$ 0.0167
Shoulder Energy (Mar - May, Sept - Nov)	\$ 0.1303	\$ 0.1136	\$ 0.0167
Dual Fuel Interruptible			
Energy Charge	\$ 0.0665	\$ 0.0635	\$ 0.0030
AC/ASHP Dual Fuel Interruptible			
Energy Charge	\$ 0.0665	\$ 0.0635	\$ 0.0030
Interruptible Water Heating - 8 Hour			
Energy Charge	\$ 0.0655	\$ 0.0625	\$ 0.0030
Interruptible EV Charging - 8 Hour (Suspended Rate)			
Energy Charge	\$ 0.0655	\$ 0.0625	\$ 0.0030
Commercial Ground Source Heat Pump			
Energy Charge	\$ 0.1150	\$ 0.1100	\$ 0.0050
Freedom Heating Interruptible (closed to new members/accounts)			
Energy Charge	\$ 0.0785	\$ 0.0765	\$ 0.0020
Peak Shave Water Heating (closed to new members/accounts)			
Energy Charge	\$ 0.0785	\$ 0.0765	\$ 0.0020
Heat Pump (closed to new members/accounts)			
Summer Energy (June - Aug)	\$ 0.1453	\$ 0.1286	\$ 0.0167
Winter Energy (Dec, Jan, Feb)	\$ 0.1353	\$ 0.1186	\$ 0.0167
Shoulder Energy (Mar - May, Sept - Nov)	\$ 0.1253	\$ 0.1086	\$ 0.0167
Whole House Heat Pump (closed to new members/accounts)			
Summer Energy (June - Aug)	\$ 0.1453	\$ 0.1286	\$ 0.0167
Winter Energy (Dec, Jan, Feb)	\$ 0.1353	\$ 0.1186	\$ 0.0167
Shoulder Energy (Mar - May, Sept - Nov)	\$ 0.1253	\$ 0.1086	\$ 0.0167
Commercial Three-Phase (closed to new members/accounts)			
Summer Energy (June - Aug)	\$ 0.1450	\$ 0.1440	\$ 0.0010
Winter Energy (Dec, Jan, Feb)	\$ 0.1320	\$ 0.1270	\$ 0.0050
Shoulder Energy (Mar - May, Sept - Nov)	\$ 0.1220	\$ 0.1170	\$ 0.0050

2022 LIGHTING and DEMAND INCREASES

	March 2022	2021	Change
Security and Street Lighting			
LED Fixture	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.50	\$ 1.50
100 W HPS Fixture	\$ 12.00	\$ 10.50	\$ 1.50
Commercial Demand & Residential Three-Phase			
Summer Demand Charge (June - Aug)	\$ 18.50	\$ 16.50	\$ 2.00
Demand Charge (non-summer)	\$ 14.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 2.00
Fully Interruptible Commercial & Industrial			
Demand Charge (non-coincidental)	\$ 7.50	\$ 6.50	\$ 1.00
Partially Interruptible Commercial & Industrial			
Demand Charge (non-coincidental)	\$ 7.75	\$ 6.50	\$ 1.25



How to play:

Find the three Willie Wirehead mascot images in each edition of Newsline (not including the one attached to this story). Circle Willie and bring the newsletter to any of the three LCP service centers (Cohasset, Mountain Iron, Kettle River) and receive a gift.

- Giveaway begins January 2022 and continues monthly
- Must present newsletter in person to one of three service centers
- One winner per household per year
- LCP reserves the right to modify or cancel promotion at any time.

Where's
Willie?

Working with local legislators

"All politics is local." This observation by the late Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local governance.

It's critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that has the potential to impact the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That's why it's important to work closely with local elected officials. After all, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, with the mission is to help our community thrive.

Lake Country Power is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, there's historically deep roots here that listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. LCP's leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community, and collectively strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to the area.

Providing industry guidance and expertise

As a practical matter, most legislators are "generalists," yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why Lake Country Power is in a position to

provide guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who've been in the energy industry for many years.

Today's energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Co-op experts provide briefings and background on issues of importance to legislators, committees and staff, and offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because they're involved in economic development and know local community leaders, they can provide insight on how



By Steve
RAUKAR
District 3
Director

issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

Representing your best interests

The Lake Country Power Board of Directors strives for the co-op to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs, and are committed to continue to look after the long term. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our members. This means Lake Country Power is able to cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust the co-op, because it's advocating on behalf of our mutual constituents and the greater community.

Lake Country Power is proud to power your life and bring good things to the community, and hope you'll continue to advise Lake Country Power on matters of importance so it can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all. ■

Steve Raukar was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 3. He can be reached at 218-966-0298 or sraukar@lcp.coop



RECIPE CORNER WISCONSIN CRANBERRY NUT PIE

From the
Kitchen of:
Judy Sturm, Nisswa



- 1 frozen deep dish pie crust
 - 4 cups fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed
 - ½ cup packed brown sugar
 - ½ cup chopped nuts (I used walnuts)
 - 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1 egg
 - ½ cup granulated sugar
 - ½ cup all-purpose flour
 - ⅓ cup butter, melted
 - Ice cream or whipped topping (optional)
1. For filling: In a large bowl, mix cranberries, brown sugar, nuts, 3 tablespoons of flour and cinnamon. Spoon mixture into pastry shell.
 2. In a mixing bowl, beat egg until thick. Gradually add granulated sugar and beat until well combined. Beat in ½ cup flour and melted butter. Pour batter over cranberries. To prevent overbrowning, cover the edge of the pie with foil.
 3. Bake in a 375-degree oven for 25 minutes, remove foil. Bake for 20 to 25 more minutes or until the top is golden. Serve with ice cream or whipped topping.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768, or e-mail jburnes@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.

smart hub Tip

Q: Do you need the total amount of your annual energy usage and payments for tax purposes?

A: To find this information for your tax filing, log into your SmartHub account. Then click "Billing & Payments" from the blue banner. A drop-down menu will open – click "Billing History" to navigate through your service account(s). Another hyperlink should be visible so you can look at each month's energy usage and payments. You can print the files from SmartHub to organize for your accountant.

November 30, 2021 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

Chief Operating Officer Derek Howe noted the work of LCP's construction crews highlighting the miles of line they completed and the cost savings to the cooperative.

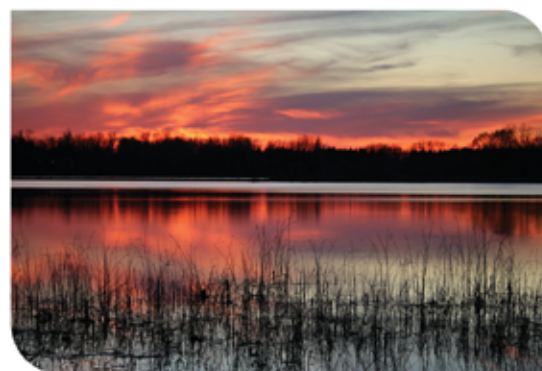
General Manager Bakk reported about GRE's proposed plan to refund their excess margins to members as a bill credit. He also commented about the approved 2022 all-requirement rates to GRE members, GRE rate forecast, Northland Connect, LCP's contract negotiations with IBEW Local 31, LCP's plan for potential federal vaccine or masking requirements, etc.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved an amendment to the Next Era Resources, LLC Buffalo Ridge Wind Purchase Agreement.

Approved additional purchase quantity under financial settlement and capacity purchase agreement with Rainbow Energy Center.

Approved 37 capital credit estate retirements processed in October 2021 for \$52,627.93; year-todate estate retirements total \$826,807.37. ■



► Bernard Matlock of Cohasset took this photo of a beautiful sunset on Big Jay Gould Lake, which is the featured photo for February on the 2022 Co-op Calendar.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at 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.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: energy.gov

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — November 2021

	2021	2020
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 85,142,097	\$ 80,924,751
Cost of Purchased Power	46,417,022	41,310,833
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	13,093,265	13,713,148
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	3,092,137	3,519,831
Administrative and General Expense	5,671,545	5,884,981
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	15,425,199	14,999,676
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	83,699,168	79,428,469
Net Electric Operating Margins	1,442,929	1,496,283
Non-Operating Margins	1,076,788	872,183
Total Margins before Subsidiaries	2,519,717	2,368,466
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	1,791,371	987,490
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 4,311,088	\$ 3,355,956
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	561,969,833	544,110,730

Editor's Note: These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at 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.

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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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PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

Cybersecurity Basics

- Enable multi-factor authentication: Multi-factor authentication (MFA) adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to one of your accounts.
- Use strong passphrases/password manager: This may seem obvious, but all too often securing strong passphrases/password managers is overlooked.
- Perform software updates: Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait - update.
- Do your research: Before downloading any new learning app on your device, make sure it's authentic by checking who created the app, what the user reviews say, and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.
- Check your settings: Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware who can access your documents.

DON'T FALL VICTIM TO UTILITY SCAMS

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for members to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utility companies.



HERE ARE A FEW REMINDERS ON HOW TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TARGETED BY A SCAMMER:

- Take your time. Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- Be suspicious. Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- Confirm before you act. If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent Lake Country Power or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at 1-800-421-9959 to verify the situation.

800-421-9959 • lakecountrypower.coop

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