



Available from REA - Residential Standby Generators

NEW! Standby power systems from your trusted energy provider

A standby generator from REA is designed to provide peace of mind and keep your life uninterrupted. Lights stay on, the sump pump keeps running, and your furnace or AC keeps your family comfortable.

- ✓ Intelligently powers your whole house
- ✓ Automatically starts when the power goes out
- ✓ Runs on LP or natural gas
- ✓ Easily installs using existing wiring in most cases
- ✓ Sold, installed, and maintained by REA
- ✓ From Briggs & Stratton - trusted American-made brand



Contact REA at 800-473-1722 or rea@runestoneelectric.com for more information.

REA Annual Meeting - Thursday, April 19

Thursday, April 19

Alexandria Area High School
 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. - Registration
 6:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting
 Douglas County Dairy Association
 milk shakes following the meeting

Attend the Annual Meeting and receive a \$25 gift certificate
 1 per membership - Redeemable at one of the following REA member businesses:

Lake Cafe at Arrowwood
 Burr Vineyards
 Carlos Creek Winery
 Gas Mart of Carlos
 Gas Mart of Miltona

Chet's Lakeside Inn
 Jim & Judy's
 Lake Reno Bar & Grill
 Country Blossom Farm
 Erickson's Petting Zoo

Long Lake Lodge
 Miltona Golf Club
 Tipsinah Mounds Golf Course
 Nordic Trails Golf Course
 Selective TV

Emiciency - Rethinking how we measure emissions efficiency

Beneficial Electrification, part 5

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association



Kristin Dolan, CEO

We have been discussing the concept of beneficial electrification since last November. The discussion has focused on why consumers prefer electricity over other energy sources such as natural gas, propane, fuel oil or gasoline. Factors of monetary savings for the consumer, increasingly efficient electrical equipment and electricity being a cleaner energy choice through declining carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions drive the selection of electricity as the

preferred energy choice by consumers.

I would like to introduce another relatively new term in the electric industry – **emiciency**. Emiciency is emissions efficiency. It is the maximizing of greenhouse gas reductions through the electrification of the economy. Research suggests electrification through space heating, water heating and transportation is needed to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example, water heaters and electric vehicles can be charged when low-cost or renewable energy is available. As the electric grid continues to become greener, the electrification of the economy enables less CO₂ emitted into the environment each year.

As consumers we have more choice today as technology and the electric industry continues to evolve in a beneficial way. Choice is



REA's power supplier, Great River Energy, met Minnesota's renewable energy standard of 25% percent renewables in 2017, eight years ahead of the goal, contributing to greenhouse gas reductions of approximately 30% compared with 2005. In addition, markets are driving investments in wind and solar due to more favorable pricing of renewable energy. Owned by Great River Energy, Lakefield Junction Station (pictured) is near Trimont, MN.

very important to all of us, it put us in the driver's seat. I had the opportunity recently to literally & figuratively experience this. Ryan Rooney, REA's Manager of Energy Management and Business Development and I test drove the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid. Depending on the route to your destination (town vs. country driving) you have the option to maximize your savings and driving experience. The Pacifica has a range of 84 MPGe (Miles Per Gallon Equivalent) and the battery has a range of 33 all-electric miles. If your daily commute is under 33 miles, theoretically it may be a long time before you need to fuel up with gasoline. With a 566 mile range, you can get to the Twin Cities and back from Alexandria twice without having to refuel. The purchase price of the Pacifica Hybrid is comparable to the combustion engine counterpart after tax incentives. The acceleration of the vehicle was also very responsive making even a van fun, and dare I say, cool to drive.

Events

We have a few events of interest coming up soon at REA. First our Annual Meeting will be April 19th. We will have our energy experts on hand to answer your questions. We are busy planning an electric vehicle test driving event on May 5th. We will share more details as the event approaches. I am very excited that you will also be able to experience the same test drive opportunity and have experts on hand to answer your questions. Please see the last page of this issue of *Newsline* for an informational event to explore your renewable energy options. On May 10th REA is hosting this interactive event to provide the information you need to make a fully informed decision when it comes to renewable energy choice.

On other note, REA is hosting a safety training event for area emergency response personnel on April 2nd. Always remember to stay away from downed power lines. Be safe and stay in your vehicle until the utility company gives the all clear. If it is not safe to stay in your vehicle hop, don't step, away from your vehicle.

New Services

We are excited to formally launch our new standby generator program. This is a turn-key installation/easy to maintain solution for the members of REA. REA is proud to offer installation and maintenance of the generators with our certified Briggs and Stratton employees. See page 1 for more details on this program.

We are busy at REA this spring as you can see – all for your benefit. Make sure to attend our exciting events coming up! We are proud to serve you, our members. At REA we follow our mission statement each and every day – "To serve our members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity and related services."

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - January 2018

- Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for November 2017 noting energy sales for December were up from budget and kWh sales for the year 2017 were .5 % over 2016, but 1.5% under budget. She also presented the 3rd qtr REDLG Summary.
- CEO Dolan reported Capital Credit Checks will be mailed the end of February.
- Mr. Rooney reviewed the 2018 Energy Management rates noting a reduction in the Air Source Heat Pump (with automatic backup) Rate from 7.46¢/kWh in 2017 to 7.20¢/kWh in 2018.

- Adopted Corporate Policy C-25 Cogeneration and Small Power Production Dispute Resolution Rules in accordance with Minnesota Statute 216B.164, Subd.11(a).

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2, 2018.

February Heating Degree Days

2018 1,562 (estimate)	2016 1,262
2017 1,112	2015 1,611

REA Board of Director Candidate Profiles

Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on April 19



Barbara Johnson

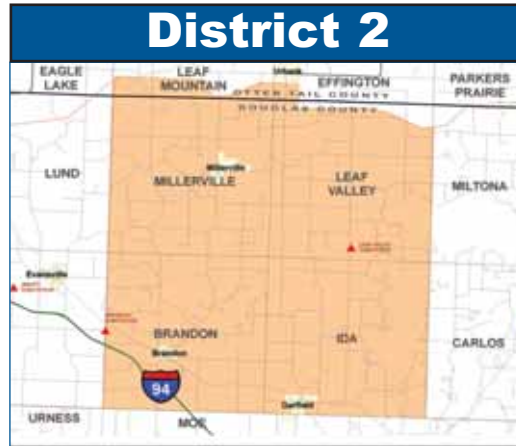
(incumbent director) was nominated at the District Two meeting in Garfield.

An REA member since 2000, Barbara and her

husband, LeRoy, live in Leaf Valley Township on Lake Miltona. They have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Barbara has served on the REA Board of Directors for nine years, and for the last two years has been the board president. She is a certified Credentialed Cooperative Director through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Barbara holds a degree in Math from the University of North Dakota – Grand Forks and worked as a computer programmer, systems designer and later as a bookkeeper.



District 2 Townships: Leaf Mountain, Effington, Millerville, Leaf Valley, Brandon, and Ida

Patricia (Pat) Ferguson

was nominated at the District 2 meeting in Garfield.

Pat lives in Miltona and has been an REA member since 1999, first as a seasonal homeowner, then as a full time resident since 2014.

Pat holds both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters of Business Administration. She has held various leadership positions in the electric utility industry for over 20 years in Minnesota, South Dakota and Alaska. She has

completed the specialized rural electric training, Management Internship Program, through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Pat is currently the Director of Human Resources for a local hospital system.

Pat is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Miltona, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Lake Miltona Lake Association.



Bill O'Brien

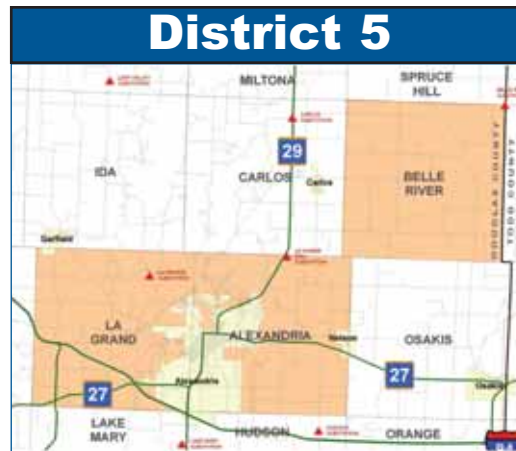
(incumbent director) was nominated at the District 5 meeting in Alexandria. Bill and his wife, Darlene, along with their son, own and operate a beef

and grain farm near Nelson. Bill and Darlene have been members of REA for over 40 years.

Bill is a certified Credentialed Cooperative Director through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Bill served as president of the REA Board of Directors for 22 years.

Bill served on a steering committee which was instrumental in the formation of Great River Energy (GRE) – a consolidation of Cooperative Power Association (CPA) and United Power Association. Bill served on the CPA and GRE boards for twenty years – serving on the executive committee two different times during his tenure.

Bill served on the Nelson Creamery Board for 27 years, and the Farm Service Agency Community Committee and County Committee for 20 years, serving as chairman of the County Committee. Bill is currently the president of the Nelson Community Association.



District 5 Townships: La Grand, Alexandria, and Belle River

Mike Loken

was nominated at the District 5 meeting in Alexandria. Mike and his wife, Ginny, reside on a small acreage which was part of the farm where he grew up in La Grand Township.

Mike worked in computer systems management for life insurance companies in the Twin Cities. He retired in 2002 from Lutheran Brotherhood in Minneapolis where he managed a staff of 350 people who were

responsible for computer hardware and systems.

Mike and Ginny have 7 grown children and 15 grandchildren. The Loken's belong to First Lutheran Church in Alexandria where he has served on several boards and committees and is currently a member of the building committee.

Mike has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity of Alexandria and served on its fund development committee. He was a member of the founding board of directors of LoveINC of Douglas County and continues to serve on their fund development committee. He also volunteers during tax season preparing free income tax forms for low income clients.





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Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon - Fri

**24-hour outage &
emergency service: (800) 473-1722**

Underground cable locations

Gopher State One Call
(800) 252-1166

Board of Directors

Barbara Johnson, President
Audrey Hjelle, Vice President
Ron Holm, Treasurer
Gary (Andy) Anderson, Secretary
Clif Patrick, Director
Steve Pederson, Director
Bill O'Brien, Director

Editorial Staff

Kristin Dolan, CEO
Sue Lundeen, Editor

In case of a power outage

- Make sure the problem is not on your side (Members may be billed for service calls if the problem is caused by their own equipment).
- Check your own fuses and circuit breakers in your home and by the meter pole (Call us for help if you are unsure of the location of your breakers).
- Check with your neighbors to see if their power is off and if they have reported the outage.
- If the trouble is not on your wiring, please call (800) 473-1722 for 24-hour service. Please report any tree branches in lines, twisted wires, broken poles and if your neighbors are also out of power.
- Be sure to have one corded phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.
- Program the number above into your cell phone for easy access.
- Never assume we know you are without power. Always call to report an outage.

You're invited to attend...

Exploring Renewable Energy Options

Thursday, May 10, 6:30 p.m. REA Headquarters

If you're considering adding renewable energy, such as wind or solar, on your site, please include Runestone Electric at the start of the process.

REA staff can help by reviewing annual usage reports, explain any service upgrades and associated costs and provide you with the paperwork required to interconnect to our system. As your trusted energy advisory, we want to help our members make informed decisions.

Sometimes REA members discover their property is not suited for on-sight energy generation, or they prefer not to deal with the maintenance and other worries; yet they still want to utilize renewable energy. REA has several options included Community Solar, Wellspring Wind Energy and Wellspring Solar Energy.

In an effort to help members make informed decisions on the various options available for renewable energy, REA will be offering a seminar called Exploring Renewable Energy Options on Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at REA's headquarters. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Please RSVP by calling (320)762-1121 or email: rea@runestoneelectric.com.

Make plans to take the Coal Creek Tour

June 27 - 29, 2018 Sign up today!

This year will mark the 45th Annual Coal Creek Tour hosted by Runestone Electric Association. The educational, fun-filled tour fills up fast. Call today to register for the 2018 Coal Creek Tour departing for Bismarck, ND, on Wednesday, June 27 and returning Friday, June 29. The cost is just \$150 per member for double occupancy or \$200 for single occupancy. This amount is applied toward the cost of the transportation, lodging, four meals and all tours. Other meals and expenses are "on your own."

Stops on the tour include:

- North Dakota Heritage Center
- Coal Creek Station
- Blue Flint Ethanol Plant
- Falkirk Mine
- Garrison Dam & Fish Hatchery
- Jamestown Frontier Village

For more information, or to sign up, call the REA office at (320) 762-1121 or (800) 473-1722 or email rea@runestoneelectric.com

Take a peak inside the boiler at Coal Creek Station, the largest power plant in North Dakota. See first hand how power is generated and delivered to REA members.

