



2018 REA Scholarship Recipients

Highlights of the Annual Meeting

Over 800 REA members attended the Runestone Electric Association Annual Meeting at the Alexandria Area High School on Thursday, April 19. During the business meeting, Board President Barbara Johnson and CEO Kristin Dolan gave reports on the activities and financial condition of the cooperative. The Cooperative reported assets of over \$90 million with over 14,000 accounts at the end of 2017.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of eighteen scholarships to high school seniors.

Congratulations to the following future REA members (scholarship recipients) and their parents!

- **Samantha Christensen**
Daughter of Robert & Pam Christensen, Miltona
- **Hunter Haggenmiller**
Son of Jerome & Nancy Haggenmiller, Miltona
- **Allison Sturges**
Daughter of Mike Sturges & Paula Faber, Brandon
- **Merissa Reed**
Daughter of Nathan & Toni Reed, Garfield
- **Ross Anderson**
Son of Jacki Anderson, Hoffman
- **Allie Satterlie**
Daughter of Eric & DeAnn Satterlie, Evansville
- **Brianna Hawkins**
Daughter of Dale Schumacher & Deborah Hawkins, Andover
- **Dawson Staples**
Son of David & Amy Staples, Kensington
- **Hunter Engelbrecht**
Son of Darren & Tara Engelbrecht, Alexandria
- **Lindsey Knoll**
Daughter of Dan Knoll & Lisa Knoll, Alexandria
- **Nicole Marie Vonderharr**
Daughter of Kevin & Valerie Vonderharr, Alexandria
- **Abigail Bartosiewski**
Daughter of Christopher & Kristin Bartosiewski, Alexandria
- **Kiara Hensley**
Daughter of Darrin & Becky Hensley, Osakis
- **Olivia Mikkelson**
Daughter of Tracy & Karla Mikkelson, Alexandria
- **Anna Vold**
Daughter of Brad & Suzanne Vold, Glenwood
- **Amanda Drechsel**
Daughter of Scott & Jolene Haack, Kensington
- **Alyssa Boysen**
Daughter of Loren & Tracy Boysen, Lowry
- **Naomi Dahloff**
Daughter of Garrett & Camilla Dahloff, Cyrus

New Annual Meeting Format Huge Success!

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association



Kristin Dolan, CEO

Wow, what an amazing turnout for our 82nd annual meeting, we were so excited to see the large crowd of members in attendance, over 800 of you! Our members learned about our programs such as our new standby generator solution and heard industry updates from wholesale power supply to electric vehicles.

We also talked about community and how it is stronger when we work together. The best example is REA.

The formation of REA and our

continued existence along with other cooperatives just like us is a significant achievement. We did what no one else would, we brought electricity to the rural countryside. Today electric cooperatives cover 75% of the land mass while serving only 12% of all business and residential consumers. This incredible fact describes how much of a challenge it was to bring power to the rural areas in this nation.

REA supports our community in many ways and one significant way is through our Operation Round Up program. The best example of the impact of Operation Round Up on our community is recipient Jan and Dave Arneson and their organization Pope County Families In Need. Jan Arneson teaches responsible living to those in need. What an amazing force Jan is, such drive, determination and most of all such love and care for her community. Pope County Families In Need is another wonderful example of success when a community comes together.

REA supports our community of member-owners by delivering on our mission statement every day. "To serve our members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity and related services." We support our members in several other ways also. We patronize our members as you saw in this year's annual meeting gift as one example. We help promote our member businesses by featuring them at the Member Advisory Council and in REA's publication Newsline. We were honored to distribute eighteen \$1,000 scholarships to area students in our service territory. I got the chance to visit with several of them and each one I know will do great with furthering their education and their career.

I told the crowd a secret that evening and it was this. REA isn't in the electric business, we are actually in the services business, our product

just happens to be electricity. This means that we are here to support our members achieve their electric energy needs. We continue to work smart to deliver reliable electricity with an ever-present mind on safety first and affordability for our members. Most importantly we work smart to provide you our members with choice and options so you can best manage your individual electricity needs. And actually, this secret isn't much of a secret, as you see it front and center in our mission statement, as you will note it starts with, "To Serve our Members."

The cooperative business model provides our employees with great purpose. You see we are so very proud to serve our member-owners. Our primary goal is and always will be to serve our members at our very best.

Thank you to our director candidates who ran for director positions in District 2 and District 5. Congratulations to Directors Barb Johnson and newly elected Director Mike Lokken. We thank Bill O'Brien for his many years of service to REA. Thank you to Patricia Ferguson for running for director. It is nice to see our democratic process in action.

Please attend our upcoming member events. On Saturday May 5th join us at the ATCC for an electric vehicle test drive event from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. On Thursday May 10th come out that evening to the cooperative to learn about renewable energy, the event starts at 6:30 p.m. See you at our next events!



REA Energy Management Lead Technician Josh Thoennes visits with members about the new standby generator program at the annual meeting.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - March 2018

- Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for February 2018. Mrs. Nelson highlighted several items including energy sales for February were 4% over budget; REA received a Heartland Security dividend; miscellaneous income was recorded from the sale of a retired line truck, and our construction work plan loan had been cleared for advance of funds.
- CEO Dolan reported on a recent legislative town hall meeting she attended.
- Great River Energy (GRE) CEO David Saggau attended the meeting providing an update on a variety of issues related to GRE. GRE is REA's wholesale power provider.

- A representative with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, presented the 2017 Audit Report. CliftonLarsonAllen issued an unqualified audit opinion for the year ended December 31, 2017.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on May 29, 2018.

April Heating Degree Days

2018	.....	942 (estimate)	2016	.....	605
2017	.....	563	2015	.....	551

THANK YOU to everyone that attended the annual meeting.

It was a great night to celebrate the cooperative difference!

Annual meeting continued page 1...

Additional speakers at the meeting included REA Director Audrey Hjelle who represents REA on the Great River Energy Board of Directors; Vice President & Chief Transmission Officer Priti Patel with Great River Energy; and the MN Touchstone Energy Community Award Winner Jan Arneson with Pope County Families in Need. Ms. Patel also presented a \$1,000 donation from Great River Energy to President Johnson for the Operation Round Up® program.

Director election results were announced: District 2 – Barbara Johnson and District 5 – Mike Loken.

Immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the board of directors held a re-organizational meeting. Board officers are: Barbara Johnson from District 2, President; Clif Patrick from District 6, Vice President; Gary (Andy) Anderson from District 1, Secretary; and Ron Holm from District 4, Treasurer. Other directors on the board include Audrey Hjelle, Steve Pederson, and Mike Loken.

O'Brien recognized for 36 years of service on REA Board of Directors



Celebrating 36 years of serving on the REA Board of Directors, Bill and Darlene O'Brien are pictured above with the newly elected board (back row from left to right): Barbara Johnson, Mike Loken, Andy Anderson, Clif Patrick, Steve Pederson and Ron Holm. Audrey Hjelle was unable to attend.

Two special guests joined the REA Board of Directors for lunch on April 24th - Bill and Darlene O'Brien. The couple came to REA to celebrate Bill's 36 years of service as District 5 Director on the REA Board of Directors .

"Bill was first elected to the director role in 1982 and served your cooperative well over the next 36 years," commented REA CEO Kristin Dolan. "He held many leadership roles not only at REA but also with our power supplier, Great River Energy. In the words of Bill himself and Rick Banke, REA's retired CEO, Bill had a love for the electric coop and it is from this core that he operated from in his decision making."

Everyone at REA thanks Bill for his years of service. We wish Bill and Darlene the very best!



**District 2
Barbara Johnson**



**District 5
Mike Loken**



Members of all ages enjoyed the ice cream treats following the meeting.

CEO Dolan (below) presented the financial report during the annual meeting.



REA Community Solar will be one of the many options discussed at Renewable Energy seminar May 10

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Board of Directors

Barbara Johnson, President
Clif Patrick, Vice President
Ron Holm, Treasurer
Gary (Andy) Anderson, Secretary
Audrey Hjelle, Director
Steve Pederson, Director
Mike Loken, 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.

**REA is an equal opportunity
provider and employer**

Exploring Renewable Energy Options

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

REA members considering adding renewable energy, such as wind or solar on-site, need to include REA at the start of the process. *Exploring Renewable Energy Options* is a seminar for REA members considering renewable energy. **Please RSVP by calling (320) 762-1121 or email: rea@runestoneelectric.com.**

Call Gopher State at least 48 Hours before you dig!

If you are planning a digging project more than one foot in depth, it is **YOUR** responsibility to notify Gopher State One Call **at least 48 hours before** you dig. Gopher State will notify all parties that may have underground facilities in the area. Simply call, **1-800-252-1166** or requests can be made on-line at **www.gopherstateonecall.org**.

The Gopher State One Call Notification Center will take the responsibility of notifying all affected utilities within 48 hours of your call.

Member-Owned Wires

The Gopher State One Call System will take care of all utility-owned underground facilities, but you are responsible for locating your own underground facilities. REA will locate all wires up to the metering point. All wires from there to your home and out buildings are your property, and other provisions must be made to locate these. Your electrical contractor or a line locating service is able to locate your lines for you.

**A list of private facility locators can be found at:
<http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators>**

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- Who is doing the digging and their phone number?
- For whom is the work is being done?
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- Street address or township, section and quarter

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