

New Appliances for a New Year

New rebates for ENERGY STAR® Washers and Dryers



6 Ways To Save Money & Energy in 2018

REA has the tools to help you save!

- 1.** Clean or replace furnace filters monthly or quarterly (depending on the filters)



- 2.** Install a programmable thermostat to lower your heating and cooling bills

Smart Thermostat
Rebate - \$25



- 3.** Replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR® appliances

Save with rebates from REA

NEW

Clothes Washer	\$25
Clothes Dryer	\$25
Replacement refrigerator or freezer with recycling of old unit	\$50
Recycling only of refrigerator or freezer	\$50

- 4.** Replace your old water heater with worry-free water heating from REA

Lifetime tank warranty
Up to .90 Energy Factor
Stable rates
No venting required

Make REA your first call when you need a water heater



- 5.** Install an Air Source Heat Pump for heating and cooling year round

Competitive, low rates plus high-efficiency operation year round.

Rebates from \$50 - \$630



- 6.** Increase heating & cooling efficiency

For a specific evaluation of your home to determine your return on investment stop by REA or call 800-473-1722.





Kristin Dolan, CEO

Contact REA First! *Beneficial Electrification, part 3*

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association

We all appreciate the warmth of our heating systems in the winter, but at times wish the costs for that comfort were less. There are options available to you today that provide savings.

The Investment Decision and Efficiency

We have all heard that you can save money by replacing windows, doors, and insulating the home. An insulated home reduces your energy losses, thereby increasing your home's efficiency, saving up to 10% on your energy bill. This example is easy to relate to in understanding investing in efficiency. The value of efficiency is the energy cost savings you experience over the life of the asset. The electric industry provides consumers with even more choice when it comes to investing in efficiency, creating those energy savings you are after.

Imagine increasing your savings to heat your home by up to 50%. Consider an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP). Unlike traditional heating systems that burn fuel to generate heat, a heat pump moves heat into or out of your home. This transfer of heat, rather than combustion, makes heat pumps a highly efficient option for heating or cooling your home. Newer cold climate heat pumps can provide heat down to -16 degrees making it a great option for our climate.

Not all presents come in big packages

The ASHP compliments your existing heating system and provides you choice in energy source consumption. It also replaces the air conditioning unit creating year-round savings. As you can see below, REA's off-peak programs provide the member maximum energy savings. Air source heat pumps provide significant savings over the alternatives. Make sure to factor the efficiency of the unit along with energy price to determine optimal savings for you.

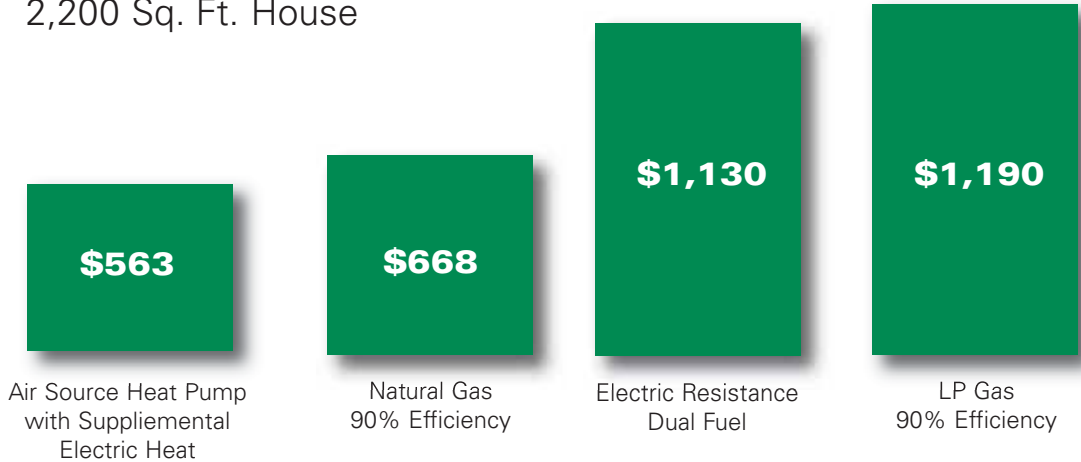
Air source heat pumps provide similar benefits to a ground source heat pump without the large upfront price tag. For a smaller upfront investment, significant savings are experienced through reduced energy consumption with the ASHP.

Contact the energy experts at REA first!

Runestone has the energy expertise and tools to assist you in finding your optimal savings. Each home and circumstance is unique, and we can work with you to demonstrate real savings that provide a quick return on your investment. Don't hesitate to contact REA to be your asset in your energy decision. Tip #6 on the front page, "My Total Energy Investment Worksheet," is one of the many tools available to assist you. We are your company; you are a member-owner of REA. We are here to serve you, living intentionally in our mission statement; "To service our members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity and related services.

Yearly Heating Cost Comparison

2,200 Sq. Ft. House



An Air Source Heat Pump is the best way to heat and cool your home!

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - November 2017

- Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for October 2017. Mrs. Nelson noted October kWh energy sales were down compared to last year October and were 3% under budget.
- Mr. Haman presented the November Safety Report and the October Operations Report. Mr. Haman reported that outages are below the five-year average and that the number of new services is on track to exceed 200. The cooperative has not experienced this level of growth since before 2008.
- The board approved a capital credit refund \$550,000 with \$275,000

going to the oldest membership allocation (a portion of 1990 capital) and \$275,000 going to members receiving service in 2016.

- Mrs. Nelson and CEO Dolan presented the 2018 Draft Budget. The proposed budget has \$4.2 million in capital distribution plant additions and an REA operating margin of just over \$1 million.

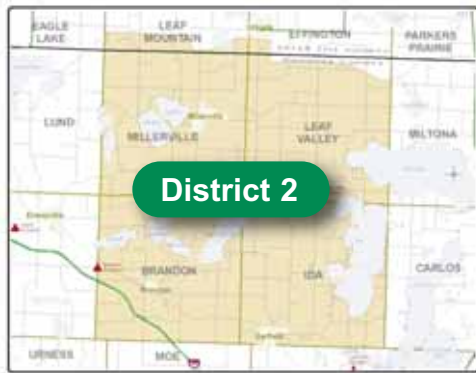
The next Regular Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

December Heating Degree Days

20171,543	20151,183
20161,464	20141,262

Come to the District Meetings in January

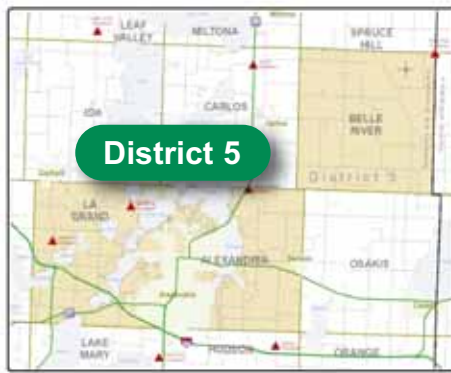
All members are welcome to attend the District Meetings. A member nominating another member as a district director must be from the district, and any member nominated for the position of director must actually reside within the boundaries of the district. Director candidates may also be nominated by petition by fifteen or more members within fifteen days of the district meeting date.



District 2

District Two

Monday, January 22, 2:00 pm
Garfield Community Center
101 Sanstead Street East
Garfield, MN



District 5

District Five

Tuesday, January 23, 2:00 pm
Alexandria Senior Center
414 Hawthorne Street
Alexandria, MN



Attention high school seniors! REA is awarding eighteen \$1,000 scholarships. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior whose parents or legal guardians are members of REA. Students attending public, private, parochial or home school are eligible to apply.

These 18 scholarships will be randomly selected. The only requirement is that you are a member of Runestone Electric Association and wish to further your education.

The scholarships are funded through REA's unclaimed capital credits. This is money that would otherwise be claimed by the state of Minnesota.

The deadline to apply for the REA scholarships is March 1, 2018. Winners will be recognized at REA's Annual Meeting on April 19, 2018, at Alexandria Area High School.

Applications can be found at www.runstoneelectric.com/news or call REA for an application: 1-800-473-1722.

January's Helpful Tip

AutoPay, Stored Cards & Scheduled Payments



AutoPay - pay your bill on the Due Date using a credit card or bank account

- To setup go under *Billing & Payments* and select *Auto Pay Program*

Stored Cards - store your payment information so you don't have enter it every time you pay your bill

- To set up go under *My Profile* and choose *Manage My Stored Payment Accounts*
- To update the expiration date choose *Manage my Stored Payment Accounts*

Scheduled Payments - schedule your payment on the date of your choosing

- To schedule a one-time payment at the date of your choosing select *other date* when paying your bill

Sign up today!

- Visit www.RunestoneElectric.com
Select "See My Account" or Click on SmartHub Login
- Click on "New User"
- New User Registration**
To register as a new user, please enter the following information

REA Account Number

Last Name or Business

E-Mail Address



Need Help? Help is available at www.runstoneelectric.com or by calling REA at 800-473-1722



\$50,000 awarded in 2017!

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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.

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



The following 46 organizations shared \$23,400 in grants from Operation Round Up:

Fire Departments - First Responders

- Barrett Fire Department (\$1,000)
- Garfield First Responders (\$1,000)
- Alexandria Fire Department (\$750)

Food Shelves:

- Hearts & Hands Food Shelf (\$175)
- Hoffman-Kensington Food Shelf (\$175)
- Outreach Food Shelf (\$175)
- Long Prairie Food Shelf (\$175)
- Grant County Food Shelf (\$175)
- Stevens County Food Shelf (\$175)

Youth

- Marine Corps League Toys for Kids (\$500)
- Brandon-Evansville Trap Team (\$200)
- Alexandria HS Senior Party (\$200)
- Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool (\$250)
- LOVE INC of Douglas County (\$750)
- Junior Achievement of Alexandria (\$250)
- Osakis Post Prom (\$200)
- Brandon-Evansville Post Prom (\$200)

Community

- Senior Mission Quilters (\$250)
- Douglas County Sheriff's Posse (\$500)
- Pope County Historical Society (\$500)
- Birthright of Alexandria (\$1000)
- Brandon History Center (\$400)
- St. Lukes Cemetery Association (\$300)
- Ecumen Bethany Community (\$300)
- Pope County Families in Need (\$1000)
- Alzheimer's Assoc Fergus Falls Office (\$400)
- Honor Quilts (\$500)
- Indherred Lutheran WELCA (\$200)
- True Friends (\$500)
- Red Willow Arts Coalition (\$500)
- City of Cyrus-Playground Committee (\$500)
- Alex Area Uncompensated Care Plan (\$1000)
- Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County (\$750)
- Jingle Bells Foundation (\$1000)
- Alexandria Area YMCA (\$1000)
- Someplace Safe (\$950)
- Pioneer Public Television (\$250)
- Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota (\$1000)
- Lakes Area Gymnastics (\$500)
- Bethel Memorial Cemetery Association (\$250)
- Evansville Community Club (\$250)
- Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra (\$200)

Seniors:

- Knute Nelson Foundation (\$500)
- Alexandria Senior Center (\$500)
- Central Minnesota Elder network (\$1000)
- Santa for Seniors (\$500)

Representing some of the organizations receiving Operation Round Up® grants in December (front row l to r): Deb Shae & Ruth Plaster (Brandon History Center); Lois Croonquist (Santa for Seniors); Molly Comer (Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County); Jan Arneson (Pope County Families in Need); Chris Harris (Knute Nelson Foundation) and Ruth Nagel (Alexandria Area Uncompensated Care Plan). (middle row l to r): Jeff Way (Garfield First Responders); Sandy Spartz (Honor Quilts), Michelle Wencil (Red Willow Arts Coalition), Ina Larson (Bethel Memorial Cemetery Association), Linda Hinstad (Alexandria Public School-Junior Achievement of Alexandria), Carol Radil and Gwen Flynn (Alexandria Senior Center), Shirley Zemke (Hearts & Hands Food Shelf); Tami Boushek (Love INC of Douglas County); Wendy Hyatt (Central Minnesota Elder Network); Caryn Jacobson (Brandon-Evansville Post Prom) and Julie Rutter (City of Cyrus-Playground Committee). (back row l to r): Jim Dyrdahl (St. Lukes Cemetery Association); Grant Haugen (Marine Corps League; Runestone Detachment 1409); Matt Fischer (Ecumen Bethany Community); Kelli Wendel (Lakes Area Gymnastics); Lynn Veppelin (Evansville Community Club); Cheryl Gephardt (Brandon-Evansville Trap Team); Vern Lorsung (Operation Round Up Board); Gina Pohlen (Alexandria High School Senior Party); Rod Borden (Operation Round Up Board); Dennis Lipp (Alexandria Area YMCA); Randy Hansen (Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County) and Scott Allyn (Garfield Fire & Rescue).

REA's Operation Round Up® board was pleased to present a record-setting 46 grants at a special check distribution event in December. Over \$50,000 was distributed to local organizations in 2017. Thank you to all members who participate in Operation Round Up. Your small change changes lives!

The deadline for the next round of funding is **February 12**. Application forms are available by calling Runestone Electric at (800) 473-1722 or downloaded at www.RunestoneElectric.com.