

ELECTRICITY POWERS INNOVATION



REA Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 19

6:00 p.m. - Registration Opens

6:30 p.m. - Meeting Begins

Alexandria Area High School - 4300 Pioneer Rd SW, Alexandria

Join us for the 82nd Runestone Electric Association Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19th, at Alexandria Area High School. Members have received the Annual Meeting packet including the 2017 Annual Report, registration card and ballot (if you are in a voting district). Please bring your registration card and ballot with you to the Annual Meeting or return the ballot in the envelope provided. Directors seats in Districts 2 & 5 will be determined.

**ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING AND
RECEIVE A \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE** *1 per membership*



*Redeemable at one of the following
REA member businesses:*

Burr Vineyards
Carlos Creek Winery
Chet's Lakeside Inn
Country Blossom Farm
Eagleview Winery
Erickson's Petting Zoo

Gas Mart of Carlos
Gas Mart of Miltona
Jim & Judy's
Lake Cafe at Arrowwood Resort
Lake Miltona Golf Club

Lake Reno Bar & Grill
Long Lake Lodge
Nordic Trails Golf Course
Selective TV
Tipsinah Mounds Golf Course

**Sign up for the Coal
Creek Tour today!**



2018 Coal Creek Tour

Wednesday, June 27 - Friday, June 29

\$150 per person for double occupancy

\$200 for single occupancy

Included: transportation, lodging,
four meals and all tours

Sign-up today for this fun,
educational mini-vacation

To sign up call the REA office
(320) 762-1121, (800) 473-1722 or
email: rea@RunestoneElectric.com
Space is limited

The Future is Bright for Electric Vehicles

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association



Kristin Dolan, CEO

Over the past few months we have been discussing the value of beneficial electrification. This is an important accomplishment our industry provides for consumers. The electric industry has achieved this strategic vision by working in a responsible manner to provide you with an affordable and clean energy resource now and in the future.

In November we reviewed REA's power suppliers, Great River Energy and Western Area Power

Administration. Both providers work with REA to meet our energy needs in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. In December and January we discussed investing in efficiency, specifically with air source heat pumps that provide significant savings and reduced energy consumption. Storage water heaters that heat at night when wholesale power produced by wind and hydropower is cheaper, was featured in the February article. Finally, in March I talked about efficiency – maximizing greenhouse gas reductions through the electrification of the economy, namely electrification through space heating, water heating and transportation to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This month we will take a look at the future, specifically electric vehicles. While I describe this as the future, electric vehicles are a reality today. It is the adoption rate of electric vehicles that becomes the future, and thereby further contributing toward the exciting time of our industry.

Electrifying transportation is not a new concept

The first known electric car was developed in 1837, and over time interest in electric cars blossomed in the late 1890s. As roads improved and became more extensive, demand for greater range emerged.



But the rapid expansion of the country and the limitation of electricity to major cities and towns spelled the end of the electric car. The world wanted to be mobile and electric cars simply did not have the range required.

Fast forward to modern times and electric vehicles are dominating the automotive news. Thanks to the electric cooperative movement eighty plus years ago, electricity is available everywhere in the U.S., and environmental concerns are increasing awareness of the benefits of electric vehicles.

Over the next few months, my goal is to share more information about electric vehicles or EVs as they are called. Although the concept of electrically-powered vehicles was pioneered over a century ago, the appeal of EVs is clearly gaining momentum.

Test Drive an EV May 5th

The best way for you to learn more about EVs is to actually climb inside one and look under the hood. We are excited bring you the Electric Vehicle Learn & Drive Event set for Saturday, May 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the ATCC (see details below). This will be a fun event, with a panel discussion, and experts on hand to answer your questions on EVs. Like most that have driven an EV, I'm sure you'll be impressed and surprised by the performance. Add to that the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and the future of electric vehicles looks very bright!

Annual Meeting - Thursday, April 19

The Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. I hope you will all consider attending the Annual Meeting as we celebrate REA. It is another great opportunity to engage with your electric cooperative. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming member events!

SAVE THE DATE

ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEARN & DRIVE EVENT

Box lunches provided

SATURDAY MAY 5TH, 2018
10AM - 1PM

Alexandria Technical & Community College
Law Enforcement Training Center

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - February 2018

- Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Post Closing Financial Report for 2017. The cooperative ended 2017 with a net of 85 new members. The cooperative's margin and ratios are strong for year 2017.
- Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for January 2018. Mrs. Nelson noted electric sales were above budget and above last year January. Cold weather played a role in that, as well as a change to the timing of recording meter readings for billing.
- Mrs. Lundeen informed the board that 94 students applied for the new REA

Scholarship Program. The directors randomly drew 18 names for the \$1000 scholarships. Scholarship recipients and their parents/guardians will be recognized at the 2018 REA Annual Meeting.

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

March Heating Degree Days

2018 1,160 (estimate)	2016 844
2017 1,093	2015 1,038

Small change makes a difference in our communities!



REA's Operation Round Up® has distributed over \$873,000 in grants to community-minded groups and organizations throughout the Cooperative's service territory since its inception in 2003. Over 65% of REA's members allow their bills to be rounded up to the next dollar with the average yearly contribution of \$6.

The following thirty-two area organizations shared \$12,150 in grants from Operation Round Up.

Fire Departments - First Responders

- Kensington Fire & Rescue (\$650)
- Leaf Valley Fire Department (\$500)
- Villard First Responders (\$500)

Food Shelf

- Long Prairie Emergency Food Pantry (\$300)
- HK Area Food Shelf (\$500)
- Hearts and Hands Food Shelf (\$500)
- Outreach Food Shelf (\$500)
- Stevens County Food Shelf (\$300)
- Grant County Food Shelf (\$500)

Youth

- Browerville Post Prom (\$100)
- WCA Post Prom (\$200)
- Millerville Summer Rec (\$250)
- Boy Scout Troop 418 (\$100)
- Nick Lundeen-Eagle Scout Project (\$200)
- Youth Outdoor Activity Day (\$500)
- Osakis Trap Team (\$200)
- Windmill Project (\$300)
- Kid's Water Festival (\$500)

Community

- OSTML Quilters (\$200)
- Selective TV (\$500)
- Douglas County Car Care Program (\$1000)
- City of Farwell (\$500)
- Rock Prairie WELCA (\$200)
- Spruce Hill Foundation (\$300)
- The Caring & Sharing Room (\$500)
- Lakes Area Quilt Guild (\$200)
- Wendell Legion & Auxiliary (\$200)
- Habitat for Humanity PL (\$500)
- The Salvation Army HeatShare (\$500)
- Brandon Community Club (\$250)
- Monday Quilters Osakis L Church (\$200)
- Pope County Humane Society (\$500)

Participation in Operation Round Up is strictly voluntary. If members want to opt-out of the program, they simply call REA to be removed from the program.

The deadline for the next round of funding is **May 7**. Application forms are available by calling Runestone Electric at (800) 473-1722. Applications can be downloaded at www.RunestoneElectric.com.



Representing some of the organizations receiving Operation Round Up® grants in March (front row l to r): Mary Pooler (Pope County Humane Society); Nick Lundeen (Eagle Scout Project); Danielle Anderson & Jerry Haggemiller (Kid's Water Festival). (middle row l to r): Tim Olson (Douglas County Pheasants Forever); Lolly Stein (Hearts & Hands Food Shelf); Dawn Hanson (Douglas County Care Care Program); Karen Kuhnau (Spruce Hill Foundation); Jeni Koket (Millerville Summer Rec); Janet Johnson & Deborah Anderson (Operation Round Up); Jessica Albertsen and Nathan Reinbold (Kid's Water Festival) and Vicki Bump (Outreach Food Shelf). (back row l to r): Matt Christensen (Kensington Fire & Rescue); Gene Sullivan (Douglas County Pheasants Forever); Lonnie Wing, Jim Borgrud & Tim Hayes (Selective TV); Jerry Larson (Habitat for Humanity PL) and Vern Lorsung & Ron Tschaeokfske (Operation Round Up).

Spotlight on Grant Recipients

Selective TV is a non-profit organization providing over 50 channels to West Central Minnesota.

Selective TV provides over the air television not only to viewers in their homes but also to folks who are out in their fish house, or at their cabin, making Selective TV important not only to people who live here year round but also to the thousands who vacation and recreate in our area. For many local citizens alternative modes of television reception such as cable, satellite, and internet television simply are not affordable. Selective TV provides an essential service of delivering news, weather, entertainment, educational programming, and emergency information.



Support Selective TV by sending in your \$120 annual contribution today!

Selective TV
2308 South Broadway, Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-5924 selectivetv@alexmn.net

Pope County Families in Need Winner of Minnesota Touchstone Energy Community Award

REA CEO Kristin Dolan congratulates Jan and David Arneson on receiving the 2018 Minnesota's Touchstone Energy Community Award. Jan is the founder of Pope County Families in Need, of Glenwood, MN



Pope County Families in Need, of Glenwood, was named the 2018 winner of Minnesota's Touchstone Energy Community Award. Pope County Families in Need received the award, March 16, during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Annual Meeting in St. Paul.

"Runestone Electric Association's Operation Round Up board selected Jan Arneson and her organization, Pope County Families in Need, for this very special award," said Kristin Dolan, Runestone's CEO. "Just as Operation Round Up is able to change lives through the small change of our members, organization like Pope County Families In Need are making a difference in our communities across Minnesota. Jan provides a lasting impact to everyone she serves by helping the individual learn self-sufficiency, less dependence on government programs, improved self-esteem through meaningful work and having basic needs met. Families helped by Pope County Families in Need establish a life-long relationship with a faithful friend and mentor in Jan Arneson."

Congratulations to the Arnesons and thank you for all you do!

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

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.**

Updated Cogeneration Notice

In compliance with Runestone Electric Association adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Runestone Electric Association is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Runestone Electric Association is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements.

All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility.

Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by

Runestone Electric Association. Interested members should contact

Runestone Electric Association, 6839 Power Lane SW, Alexandria, MN 56308 or call 800-473-1722.

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6839 Power Lane SW
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www.runestoneelectric.com
email: rea@runestoneelectric.com

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**