



25th ANNUAL PANCAKE FEED



Member Appreciation Pancake Feed August 18 | 7AM to 12:30PM

Celebrating 25 Years of Flippin' Fun

This year marks the 25th anniversary of our Annual Member Appreciation Pancake Feed. Our very first Pancake Feed occurred on August 27, 1994 and we've been serving up pancakes for our members once a year since.

We invite you to bring your family for a fun morning of flipping flapjacks. Come for the cakes and stay for celebration. The Pancake Feed is a great opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and what we have to offer you. We look forward to seeing you on August 18th at the REA Operations Center!



**Directions to:
REA Operations Center
6875 Co Rd 28 SW
Alexandria, MN 56308**



Reliability is part of our mission to serve you

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association



Kristin Dolan, CEO

Reliability is a very important component in our mission of serving you our member-owners. Reliability encompasses many aspects to keep the electric grid that delivers your power operational. When unplanned events intervene with this goal, the employees of REA are there to restore power safely and as quickly as possible.

Unplanned events include items such as storms, accidents or even animals.

On July 20th we experienced an outage at our Hudson Substation. At 10:00 a.m. a small bird got into an area affecting all three phases of the substation, causing arcing within the substation. Electricity always seeks the path of least resistance and arcing is a strong visual of high voltage electricity finding a new path when it has been interrupted. Specialized equipment detected the arching and shut down the substation as it is designed to protect substation equipment from further damage.

I mentioned that our employees react safely and quickly to restore power. The 1,282 members affected by this outage had their power restored in about an hour of the substation shutting down. We can accomplish this by delivering the electricity from other areas of our system as electrical loading conditions allowed. We refer to this system flexibility as back feeding. We were then able to make the necessary repairs in the substation and had it back online by 3:30 p.m. that same day.

Runestone Electric plans extensively to provide you with reliable power. This includes the design of the system, construction planning, proactive maintenance programs, energy management programs and contingency planning. We design the distribution grid to provide back feeding contingencies. We utilize this strategy as

described in the substation outage above and also use it for planned outages as we work on system upgrades or maintenance projects.

We have several proactive maintenance programs in place such as tree trimming, pole testing, and yearly line patrols. Maintenance programs work to prevent potential outages by identifying needed equipment and infrastructure replacements in advance of failure. Tree growth is removed on fifteen feet of either side of the overhead electric line to prevent outages, and more importantly provide a safe environment. Over 300 poles that are split and deteriorating are replaced each year.

We are proud to provide our members with a very high level of reliability. Even with all of this planning, outages are still experienced. Please see page 3 of this month's Newsline for an exciting opportunity available to our members. We have a standby generator solution available and a financing program to go along with it to help you with your energy needs. We are here to serve you, and we are proud to be your trusted energy provider. We are excited to provide solutions and choice for your energy needs.

Pancake Feed – August 18

Nothing says summer like county fair time and the 25th Annual REA Pancake Feed! I enjoy the opportunity to visit with our members and hear about your energy needs. Make sure to stop by and enjoy pancakes on your way to the Douglas County Fair. I hope to see you there!



Proactive maintenance such as replacing old poles, increases service reliability to our members.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - June 2018

- Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for April 2018, reporting higher power cost, caused primarily by high system coincidental demand, which produced a negative variance in the gross margin for the month. The REA year to date margin remains significantly above budget.
- Mr. Haman presented the June Safety Report and the May Operations Report. Mr. Haman explained NRECA's new national safety initiative, *Commitment To Zero Contacts* program designed to help electric cooperatives eliminate injuries and fatalities.
- CEO Dolan provided a progress report of the 2017 – 2019 Strategic Plan.
- Mr. Rooney gave the Energy Management Report noting the Demand Response Unit (DRU) project for irrigation accounts is nearing completion.

Almost all irrigation pivots have been converted to the new DRUs and the Cooperative is seeing great results in early season control and will closely watch the performance of the system the remainder of the irrigation season

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on August 28, 2018.

REA will be closed Monday, September 3, for Labor Day. Office hours will move to 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday on Tuesday, September 4. If you experience an outage on Labor Day, please call 800-473-1722.

July Cooling Degree Days

2018 184	2016 182
2017 172	2015 197

Standby Generators from REA

Peace of mind from your trusted energy provider

Several years ago when Greig and Karen Manthei converted their Lake Victoria cabin into a full-time home, Greig tried to find a generator that would suit their needs. The additional wiring and labor required made it cost prohibitive. Last summer when he learned about REA's new standby generator program, he was impressed with the clean installation at the meter, and most importantly, the price. He was also pleased that no additional wiring was required.

The Manthei's had several reasons why they felt they needed a standby generator at their home. Greig said the money spent on their 12 kW generator (installation averaging \$5,700 - \$6,000 including tax and labor) was far less

than what they would spend on frozen or broken pipes in the winter should there be an extended power outage. "A few summers ago, we had a houseful of company and experienced a power outage," explained Karen. "No power meant no water – no showers and no toilets. Our son had to run down to the lake to get buckets of water for the toilets. But now with our generator, we won't ever have to worry about that again."

REA's standby power systems are designed to provide peace of mind and keep your life uninterrupted. Lights stay on, the water pump works, the sump pump keeps running, and your furnace or AC keep your family comfortable.

"When the power goes out, the generator automatically starts up right away to warm up, and within a minute the entire house is energized," Greig said. "We appreciate there is no flicker or blinking of our lights when the power is restored." The unit is scheduled to exercise (run) for 20 minutes once a week. "I was walking out to the mailbox the other day, and it startled me when it started up," exclaimed Karen. "I like that it takes care of itself without us having to worry about it."

"When the power goes out, the generator automatically starts up right away to warm up, and within a minute the entire house is energized." REA Member Greig Manthei



Karen and Greig Manthei of Alexandria are pictured with their standby generator available exclusively to REA members.

In addition to REA's new standby generator program, the Manthei's also participate in REA's Dual Fuel program with an electric boiler and heat their water with an electric Marathon Water Heater. Their home is protected by Heartland Security, a subsidiary of REA.

"We still need to reset our clocks if the power goes out, but that's okay with the peace of mind we gain from our generator!"

Affordable Financing for Standby Power Systems from REA

Financing example

Purchase Price	\$5,700.00
Less Downpayment	\$2,280.00
Amount Financed	\$3,420.00
Annual Percentage Rate	6% (example)
Term (# of years)	3*
Monthly Payment	\$104.04

** Terms and financing can vary*

Contact REA at 800-473-1722 or rea@runestoneelectric.com for more information on the generator program or financing details.





Unclaimed capital credit checks

If you know the current address of anyone listed, please contact REA at (320) 762-1121, (800) 473-1722 or email: rea@runestoneelectric.com. The complete list is also available on our website homepage www.RunestoneElectric.com.

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 ANDERSON OLGA M ASHBY MN
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To be continued next month

Official monthly publication of
Runestone Electric Association

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In case of a power outage

- 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.

▶ (651)454-0002 ▶ (800)252-1166

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 Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Gopher State locates utility-owned underground facilities. REA will locate wires to the main meter. Wires from the meter to home and out buildings are private property and need to be located by a private contractor. **Private locators list:**
<http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators>

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