

# Newsline

★ Touchstone Energy\* Cooperative

**Electricity Powers Innovation** 

August 2018

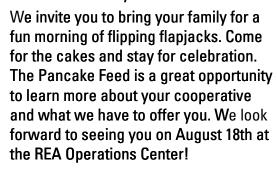


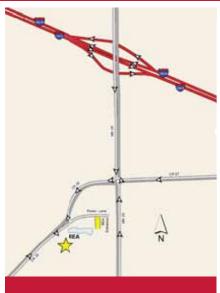
# Member Appreciation Pancake Feed August 18 | 7AM to 12:30PM



# Celebrating **25 Years** of Flippin' Fun

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





















# 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!



## 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

"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

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."

# Affordable Financing for Standby Power Systems from REA

Financina 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     |

<sup>\*</sup> 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.



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



# 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**.

ANDERSON LISA MONTEVIDEO MN ANDERSON MORRIS MORRIS MN ANDERSON OLGA M ASHBY MN ANDERSON PATRICIA K GLENWOOD MN ANDERSON PAUL J STARBUCK MN ANDREEN TERRI ALEXANDRIA MN ARTHUR EDWARD L EVANSVILLE MN AVERY MITCHELL J EXCELSIOR MN BALDWIN CLARK INTERNATIONAL FALLS MN BAUKOL PEDER MJR DETROIT LAKES MN BEARSON RUBY ALEXANDRIA MN BEARSON TODD A CARLOS MN BERGES WANETA E GLENWOOD MN BETHKE SANDRA J MESA AZ BIGGAR CINDY SAINT CLOUD MN BITTNER VERNON J MOUND MN **BOEHLAND VICTORIA ALEXANDRIA MN BOLTON JOHN D ELBOW LAKE MN** BRIDGING THE GAP, INC ELBOW LAKE MN BRUGGEMAN JOHN H SLEEPY EYE MN CAREY MICHAEL J BETHEL MN CARSTENS WALTER MORRIS MN CEYNAR JANE SAINT CLOUD MN CHRISTENSEN LAKE ACCT VALLEY CITY ND CLEVELAND BRUCE D CARLOS MN CLOW STEVEN C FERGUS FALLS MN COLVIN DONALD L MINNEAPOLIS MN CONN GORDON B ROGERS MN COOPER JASON A ALEXANDRIA MN CORDER JANEE G LEXANDRIA MN DAHL BRIAN BRICELYN MN DAILEY DENNIS D AVON MN DALBOL GOARDON T STACY MN DEASON LARRY J BRANDON MN DEGIER MICHELLE M CARLOS MN DEGROOT NICK B MINNEAPOLIS MN DEVRIES RICHARD H OSAKIS MN DRAYNA RANDY G PILLAGER MN **DVORAK LEO S MINNEAPOLIS MN** EDDY LYLE ALEXANDRIA MN EISCHENS TAMALA L LONG PRAIRIE MN EISENBRAUN LEE MILTONA MN EITTREIM STEPHEN P EDEN PRAIRIE MN ELLERBUSCH DONALD WARREN MN ENGLUND MARILYN ALEXANDRIA MN FAHLIN CAROL J ASHBY MN FELD BENEDICT F WAITE PARK MN FIEBELKORN HAROLD W ALEXANDRIA MN FIERKE ALLEN MILL CREEK WA FLOBERG MICHELLE CLITHERALL MN FLOEN BRIAN D VILLARD MN FREICHELS DEL ROY WAHKON MN FUGLEBERG FERN J PORTLAND ND GILBERTSON BARBARA GLENWOOD MN GILSRUD GORDON W MONTEVIDEO MN **GOSCH MARCELLA ALEXANDRIA MN GOULET FRANK S ALEXANDRIA MN** GRUEN MARK A LEXINGTON KY HAAG DANIEL J BURNSVILLE MN HAIJ ELSIE A KENSINGTON MN HANSON LAWRENCE J SAINT PAUL MN HANSON ROY CLARKFIELD MN HASS TOM J FARWELL MN HATCHER STEVEN W MINNEAPOLIS MN HAUGEN JAMES L BRANDON MN HAUGLIE DE L HORACE ND

HAYES RICHARD A MINNEAPOLIS MN HAYES ROBERT K BILLINGS MT HENNEMAN ORVIN E FRIDLEY MN HENSTEIN HAROLD MONTEVIDEO MN HIDDEN VLY PRIVATE LODGE EDINA MN HINTERTHEUR HOWARD R SAINT PAUL MN HUBBARD BRUCE K ELBOW LAKE MN HUKRIEDE DARIN E MENOMONIE WI ISELY WYATT K GILBERT AZ JARVIS JERRY MINNEAPOLIS MN JENSEN RHONDA L DALTON MN JERZAK DANIEL P MINNEAPOLIS MN JESSUP CHARLES W STARBUCK MN JOHN ROGER KENSINGTON MN JOHNSON JAMES R ASHBY MN JOHNSON SHEILA DEER LODGE MT JORGENSON MICHELLE HOFFMAN MN JOSE EDWARD L PARKERS PRAIRIE MN KASTE RAY R GOLDEN VALLEY MN KASTJAGA INC BALATON MN KIMBRELL DEBRA L WELLS ME KLIER KENNETH A UNDERWOOD MN KOENIG KATHLYN M MOORHEAD MN KOLSTAD DAVID LONG PRAIRIE MN KRUIZE MILDRED J FERGUS FALLS MN KRUMREY CATHERINE S OLIVIA MN KUST JAMES R NAVARRE MN LAMM AL ALEXANDRIA MN LANDMARK ALLEN M CLEAR LAKE MN LARSEN DONNIE D HALL MT LAUZON RICHARD G BUFFALO MN LAWLER JEANNE P ALEXANDRIA MN LINDSTROM CAROLYN M WELCH MN LORDALEN CARLOS J SAINT CLOUD FL LUCIUS DONALD B ALEXANDRIA MN LUOMA ANSEL W NELSON MN LUTES STEPHEN D CLARKFIELD MN MARCZAK DONAVIN E GLENWOOD MN MARTIN JAMES EDINA MN MATTON DONALD W CHANDLER AZ MCFEELY OLGA MAPLE GROVE MN MCLAUGHLIN KAY MORRIS MN MEYER GARY B COKATO MN MILLER DONALD L ANKENY IA MILTERSEN DARWIN P CROSSLAKE MN MN BAIT EXPORT CO ALEXANDRIA MN MOELLMAN SCOTT C ELBOW LAKE MN MOONEYS INC GRANITE FALLS MN MROZKA RONALD J LAKE PLACID FL MUETZEL MYRON A MARSHALL MN NELSON BRADLEY W EDEN PRAIRIE MN NELSON ELMER B ALEXANDRIA MN NELSON JAMES LJR ALEXANDRIA MN NELSON LEROY O MINNETONKA MN NELSON TOM D BERTHA MN NEUMAN JAMES R ASHBY MN NINNEMAN JAMES MAYNARD MN NORDQUIST STACY HOFFMAN MN O'DELL JANIE LOWRY MN OBERG LYNN GARFIELD MN OELTJEN JEANNE M GLENWOOD MN OLSON GERALD A MADELIA MN OLSON RANDALL C PRIOR LAKE MN OLSON RICHARD V MINNEAPOLIS MN

To be continued next month



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**Summer Office Hours** 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mon - Fri

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

#### **Board of Directors**

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Kristin Dolan, CEO Sue Lundeen, Editor

#### 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. Alway call to report an outage.



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/privatefacility-locators

This institution is an equal opportunity provider