

# NEWSLINE

July 2019

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## Director Vacancy to be Filled in **District 7**



Due to the death of REA Director Steve Pederson, a vacancy exists on the REA Board of Directors in District 7 (see map above).

According to the Bylaws, the Board is able to appoint a member to serve as District 7 Director until the Annual Meeting in April 2020. This director, as well as other candidates, may choose to run in the election for the District 7 director seat that will serve a three-year term from 2020 - 2022. Director candidates can be nominated at the District 7 meeting in January 2020.

Members who are interested in the director position vacant in District 7 (please review the criteria on right) are encouraged to complete a director candidate application available at [www.RunestoneElectric.com](http://www.RunestoneElectric.com) or by calling REA at 320-762-1121 or 800-473-1722.

**Completed applications must be received at the REA office by July 24, 2019.**

### To do a competent job, a director is expected to:

1. Attend all regular monthly board meetings, special meetings, district meetings and the annual meeting of the cooperative.
2. Read and be familiar with information, data and reports received from national, state and local associations.
3. Work in harmony with the board for the good of all REA members.

## Requirements of an REA Director

The Bylaws of Runestone Electric Association establish certain qualifications that must be met in order to become a director

1. Must be a member of REA.
2. Must be a bona fide resident of his or her district.
3. Must not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise.
4. Must not have been found guilty of a felony within 5 years preceding or during service on the REA Board of Directors.
5. Must not have been an employee of REA within 5 years preceding nomination to the board.
6. Must not have been an employee of a statewide association of electric cooperatives, an electric generation and transmission cooperative, or any other entity in which an electric cooperative is a member with in 5 years preceding a director candidate's nomination.
7. Within five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination or during his or her term if elected, was or becomes employed by a labor union which represents, has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employee of the cooperative;
8. Is not a close relative\* of an incumbent director who is not up for reelection at that time.
9. Is not a close relative\* of an employee of REA.
10. Is not a full-time employee or agent of another REA director.
11. Must have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts.
12. Must not be absent from 3 or more regular board meetings during any consecutive 12-month period, unless excused for good cause. If a director participates in more than one regular meeting during any consecutive 12-month period by electronic communication, that director shall be considered absent from that meeting for purposes of determining the number of the director's Unexcused Absences, unless approved for good cause by the Board.

*\*Close relative: is by blood, law, or marriage (including half, step, foster, and adoptive relations) a child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling); or is a spouse or resides in the same residence.*



CEO, Kristin Dolan

# A Note from the CEO: Helping members reduce their carbon footprint

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association

It seems news stories come out every day about renewable energy, battery technology, electric vehicles, or environmental concerns. Whatever your area of interest, as your cooperative, we want to help you make a confident decision in how you can participate in today's

ever changing world.

Renewable energy has been a hot topic in recent years. In conversations with members, we have learned that interest in renewable energy tends to fall into one or all of these areas: cost savings potential, environmental benefits, and hands-on experience. We strive to be your trusted energy advisor, providing you with the information needed to confidently navigate the energy news and information presented every day. To promote an informed membership, we have taken a few steps to enhance member education on the topic of renewable energy.

We are offering an "Explore your Renewable Options" class July 25th to provide information on options available to members to participate in renewable energy, from owning your own system, to REA's Community Solar program, to the Wellspring Energy program. We will review what steps Great River Energy, REA's power supplier, is taking to de-



crease its carbon footprint, as well as discuss some of the latest battery and heat pump technologies that can offer efficiency and cost savings for your next appliances and transportation purchase.

### NOVA Portal

Another example of keeping our members informed is the NOVA Power Portal, a new innovative tool on our website created for our members to provide a simple online resource. Members can research REA's interconnection guidelines, make an interconnection application and track its progress. The Nova Power Portal can be found at [www.runestoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/renewable-energy](http://www.runestoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/renewable-energy).

### SAVE THE DATE - 2019 Pancake Feed

Plans are underway for the 26th Annual Member Appreciation Pancake Feed on Saturday, August 17. We will be serving from 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the REA Operations Center. Bring your family for breakfast and enjoy visiting with fellow co-op members!

## Exploring Renewable Energy Options Seminar Thursday, July 25 6:30 p.m. REA Headquarters

*Exploring Renewable Energy Options* is a seminar for REA members considering renewable energy for their home or business. Every member's opinion on renewable energy is personal and there is no one size fits all approach. REA is here to inform and work with our members for a solution that aligns best with your goals.

**Please RSVP** by calling  
(320) 762-1121 or email:  
[rea@runestoneelectric.com](mailto:rea@runestoneelectric.com)



Member-Owned Generation



Community Solar



Wellspring Wind & Solar

### REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - May 2019

- » Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for April 2019. Both electric service sales and net power cost were 1.2% over budget for the month. Distribution plant operations were under budget due to the timing of expenses. Load management program expenses are behind budget through April. The Annual Meeting was over budget with the additional costs related to updating the bylaws this year. We have had an increase in the growth of electric service accounts, with the total up 169 accounts from last April.
- » CEO Dolan reviewed the Great River Energy power bill explaining the various components including demand, transmission, energy, special programs, and other factors that affect the monthly power bill we receive from GRE.
- » Appointed Ron and Carol Rutten, Alexandria (District 5) to the Member Advisory Council.
- » STAR Energy Services Manager of Rates & Regulations Kristi Robinson, PE, provided an overview of line loss and discussed tools used to lower line loss, including efficient, quality equipment (i.e., transformers), the size of conductor (wire), and tree trimming. She noted rural areas experience more line loss than more population dense areas.
- » The regular July Board Meeting will be July 25, 2019.

# The Advantage of Heating with an Air Source Heat Pump

So often we take air conditioning for granted. When it's hot outside, we simply step into our comfortable air conditioned homes or businesses. However, when our air conditioner is not working – that's a problem. Whether you are looking for a new air conditioner because yours is broken, or if you are simply upgrading your older, inefficient system, consider an air source heat pump.

ASHPs act like a central air conditioner in the summer time, but they can also provide heating and cooling in one efficient and economical package that looks like a central air conditioning unit.

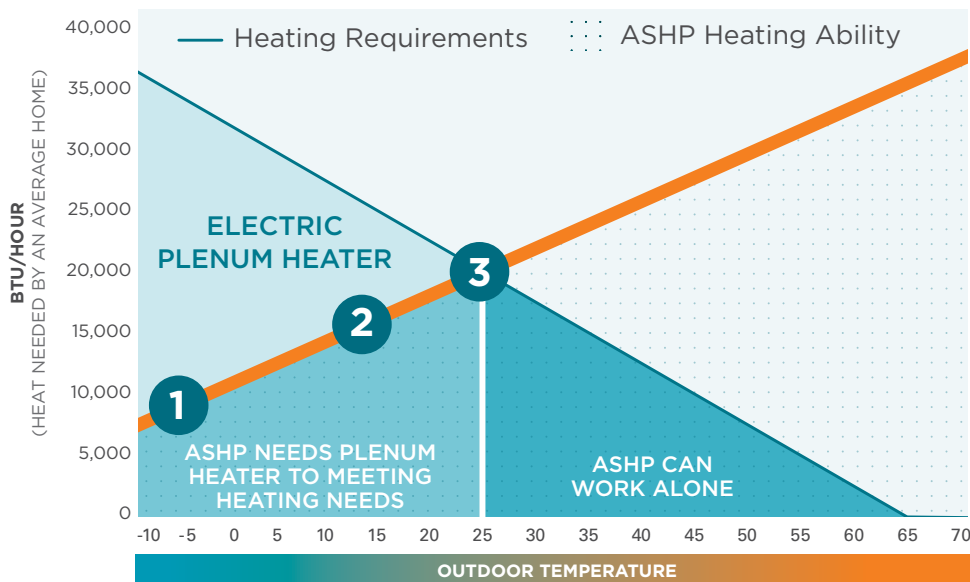
When properly installed, in the winter, an ASHP can deliver 1 1/2 to 3 times more heat energy to a home than the electrical energy it consumes.

In the summer, ASHPs operate like a central air conditioner. In the winter, ASHPs can heat your home by transferring heat energy from the outside air and bringing it indoors.

## See Rates and Rebates

Contact REA for more information on air source heat pumps or visit [www.RunestoneElectric.com](http://www.RunestoneElectric.com).

### ADVANTAGES OF AN AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP (ASHP)



1. At -5°, an ASHP still 100% efficient
2. ASHP is 200% efficient and 1/2 price of LP at 15°
3. At 25°, an ASHP is nearly 250% as efficient as traditional heat options

# Cooling Rates & Rebates

## Rates

**Air Source Heat Pump**  
With automatic back-up ..... 7.24¢/kWh  
*(Or lower depending on complimentary dual fuel system)*

**Geothermal heat pump**  
With automatic back-up ..... 6.04¢/kWh

*With off-peak heating, off-peak rates may apply to electric water heating.*

## Rebates

### Quality Installation Program

**Air Source Heat Pump:**

- SEER 14.5 ..... \$480
- SEER 15 ..... \$580
- SEER 16+ ..... \$630

**Central Air Conditioning:**

- SEER 14.5 ..... \$50
- SEER 15 ..... \$50
- SEER 16+ ..... \$50

**Ductless Air Source Heat Pump**  
(Must be Energy Star® Rated) ..... \$200

**Geothermal Heat Pumps** ..... \$400

**Air Source Heat Pump Paired with Plenum Heater or Boiler**  
Efficiency Rebate ..... \$100

**Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)** ..... \$25

**Smart Thermostat** ..... \$25

**Air Conditioner Tune-up** ..... \$25

**Cycled Air Conditioning**  
Bill credit in June, July and August ..... \$7.50

*All rates and rebates are subject to change.*



**COMBINE REA REBATES WITH HEAT PUMP EFFICIENCIES TO START SAVING TODAY!**

Air Source Heat Pump



## Summer Home Check List Dehumidifier Basics

Using a dehumidifier to suck moisture out of the air can cost more than \$100 a year on electric bills. Consider replacing a standard dehumidifier with an energy efficient Energy Star® model. Replace your old dehumidifier with an Energy Star unit and receive a \$25 rebate from REA.

Contact REA at 800-473-1722 for a rebate form or visit [www.RunestoneElectric.com](http://www.RunestoneElectric.com).

## Is Your Electric Heat still on?

REA recommends checking boiler and baseboard heating systems to ensure they are turned off. This easy step can prevent a battle between your cooling and heating system, especially in basements.

Save money and energy this summer by turning off the heat!



# REA Members Support Their Communities



**Representing some of the organizations receiving Operation Round Up® grants in May** (front row l to r): Stan Stark (Aeneas Cemetery Association); Don McCollor (Hoffman Public Library); Dale Buchholz (Let's Go Fishing-Alexandria); Kjersten Cook (Science Seekers); Dianne Johnson (Hoffman Economic Development Authority); Ruth Marti, Barb Steidl, Barb, Anne & Bob Friederichs (Friends of Nordic Meadow, Inc.); Georgia Reemts (Cardinal Soccer Boosters); Kelli Wendel (Lakes Area Gymnastics); Lola Anderson (LifeSource); Jake Siira (Cardinal Soccer Booster); Michael Schatz (Northern Lights Council of the Boy Scouts of America); Cindy Townsend (Alexandria Area High School Clay Target Team); Lynn Evans (Habitat for Humanity); Marian Wrolson (Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery Association); Wendy Hyatt (Central Minnesota Elder Network); Kathryn LaBrasseur (Douglas County Senior Service & TRIAD) Kris Chisholm (Douglas County Car Care); Joyce McIntosh & Clarence Wolf (Douglas County Senior Service & TRIAD); Gallen Norris (Alexandria Composite); Janet Johnson (Operation Round Up) and Kristin & Lilly Reichmann (Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park).

Runestone Electric Association's Operation Round Up® has distributed over \$951,000 in grants to community-minded groups and organizations throughout the REA service territory since its inception in 2003. Over 64% 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-three area organizations shared \$13,800 in grants from Operation Round Up.

**Youth:** Alexandria Area High School Clay Target Team (\$200); Glacial Hills Elementary (\$300); Northern Lights Council of the Boy Scouts of America (\$300); Brandon Summer Rec (\$300); Cardinal Soccer Boosters (\$250); Youth Outdoor Day (Viking Sportsmen, LLC) (\$500); Prairie Rivers Baseball Association (\$300); Miltona Science Magnet School (\$250); Science Seekers (\$300) and RUSC Kinship Mentoring (\$300).

**Community:** Vikingland Band Festival (\$500); Alexandria Composite (\$250); Thorson Memorial Library (\$300); Garfield Community Club (\$250); Friends of Glacial Lakes State Park (\$250); Brandon Community Club (\$250); Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery Association (\$250); Friends of Nordic Meadow, Inc. (\$500); Alzheimer's Association (\$250); Relay for Life of Douglas County (\$250); Lakes Area Gymnastics (\$500); Salvation Army of Douglas County (\$1000); Aeneas Cemetery Association (\$250); Hoffman Public Library (\$200); Hoffman Economic Development Authority (\$500); Douglas County Car Care (\$1000); LifeSource (\$500); Elk Lake Beach (\$300); Habitat for Humanity (\$750) and Minnewaska Drum Line (\$250).

**Seniors:** Douglas County Senior Services & TRIAD (\$500); Let's Go Fishing-Alexandria (\$1000) and Central Minnesota Elder Network (\$1000).

**Calling all non-profit organizations!** Area organizations are encouraged to apply for Operation Round Up grants. The deadline for the next round of funding is August 9, 2019. Application forms are available by calling Runestone Electric at (320) 762-1121 or (800) 473-1722. Applications can be downloaded from the REA website: [www.RunestoneElectric.com](http://www.RunestoneElectric.com).

## NEWSLINE

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**Office Hours:**  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon- Fri.

**Memorial Day to Labor Day:**  
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon- Fri.

### Board of Directors

- District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson, Secretary
- District 2: Barbara Johnson, President
- District 3: Audrey Hjelle, Director
- District 4: Dave Staples, Director
- District 5: Mike Loken, Treasurer
- District 6: Clif Patrick, Vice President
- District 7: Open

### Editorial Staff

- Kristin Dolan, CEO
- Sue Lundeen, Editor
- Ally Coleman, Communications Specialist

### 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 a corded phone or a charged cell phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.
- » Program the number above your 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**



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[vist.gopherstateonecall.org](http://vist.gopherstateonecall.org)  
before you dig.

