Join us for the 26th Annual Member Appreciation Pancake Feed

Saturday, August 17, 2019 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. REA Operations Center - see map below

NEWSLINE

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Get Smart about Electric Vehicles

EVs are becoming more popular everyday due to innovative technology, lower sticker prices and longer driving range. Learn more about EVs using the websites below:

Visit REA's Electric Vehicle page at:

www.runestoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/electric-vehicles/

Visit Energy Wise MN's Electric Vehicle page at: www.energywisemn.com/electric-vehicles

EV Rebates

\$250 Rebate for qualifying uncontrolled EV chargers

\$500 Rebate for qualifying controlled EV chargers

EV Rates

Controlled: Electric Vehicle Charging Rate*: 4.69¢/kWh

Runestone Electric

August 2019

Uncontrolled: General Service Rate: 11.8¢/kWh

*Available to members with a plug-in electric vehicle. An 8-hour charge between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is available for controlled chargers.



What is an EV?

An EV is short for **Electric Vehicle.** When we talk about EVs we are talking about plug-in battery storage electric vehicles. Learn more about EVs on our website.

After you purchase your electric vehicle come try out the EV charger at the REA Office!



What is ENERGY WISE # MN

Energy Wise MN is a program created by our power supplier Great River Energy to help our members use electricity wisely. They offer online tools for electric vehicles, heating, cooling, lighting solutions and more. The new Energy Wise MN Online Store, makes purchasing energy saving products and electric vehicle chargers easy and affordable by offering instant rebates. Visit energywisemn.com to learn more.

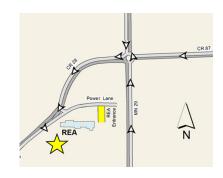
Save some Serious Green with this offer from the Energy Wise MN Online Store.

Buy an EV charger and save up to \$800. Energy Wise MN is taking the guesswork out of purchasing an EV charger. We've narrowed it down to our top three models, and we'll help you find the one that best fits your lifestyle. Plus, if you're one of the first 200 buyers, you can receive our limited-time offer of a discount up to \$800. Shop now: energywisemnstore.com/electric-vehicle-chargers

COMPOSTABLE EVENT

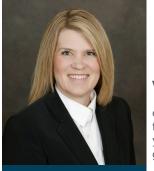


With the help of Pope-Douglas Solid Waste we're doing our part to put waste in it's place. The Pancake Feed with be a fully compostable event!



Map to the Pancake Feed

REA Operations Center 6875 Co Rd 28 SW Alexandria, MN 56308



CEO, Kristin Dolan

A Note from the CEO: **Understanding the Fixed Charge**

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association

/e receive questions from members regarding line items included in their monthly bill. I wrote the following article a couple of years ago to help explain this. It is good to share it with you again.

Have you ever wondered how you are billed for energy delivery and consumption? Compare this to the

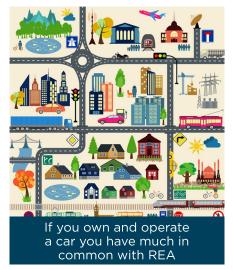
cost of owning and operating an automobile.

Your vehicle is readily available to you when you need it. Whether you drive your vehicle or if it is in your driveway, there are fixed costs you experience. Insurance, financing and depreciation are items incurred regardless of how much you use the vehicle. Equate your vehicle to the substations that regulate your power delivery. The substations must also be financed and insured like your vehicle.

What about the utility poles, wires, transformers, and other equipment that connects your home to the energy distribution grid? Think of the roads, bridges, and highway signs that you see as you travel along the road. Energy too needs an established path or transport system to arrive at its destination. The taxes you incur to build roads and bridges have both a fixed and variable cost. Roads are financed through vehicle taxes (fixed) and fuel taxes (variable depending on your fuel consumption).

Just like your vehicle needs maintenance and repair, so does the distribution grid. REA conducts proactive right-of-way maintenance programs such as tree trimming and line patrol to keep your distribution grid in reliable working order.

We've talked about several costs associated with the delivery of your energy, but we haven't touched on consumption. The fuel you consume to operate your vehicle is measured at the gas station pump. The meter in your yard does this same task for measuring your energy consumption. Energy is measured in kilowatt (kWh) hours and billed at the current energy rate. The fixed charge on your energy bill recovers a portion of the cost of our substations, poles, wires, utility vehicles equipment needed to connect your home the distribution grid along with the required maintenance to maintain the distribution system. The energy rate recovers not only the cost of purchased power or fuel, but also a portion of the cost of the distribution grid, similar to the tax structure in place to pay for our roads and bridges.



REA is a cooperative owned by you the member. One aspect of the cooperative business model is that the amount you pay for energy is at cost. Our mission is To serve our members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity and related services. The Board of Directors and the employees take great pride in serving you, our members.

Stock Refund

Speaking of the line items on the bill, there will be a special item that appears on the August bills. The bylaw change approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting in April transitioned REA from a stock cooperative to a membership cooperative. We are refunding this stock originally paid by members. If this refund applies to you, the refund will be listed as an "adjustment" on your bill.

See you at the Pancake Feed!

Lastly, I hope to see you at the Pancake Feed on August 17th. Come out, have some fun and meet with our energy experts to answer your questions. I hope to see you there!

The **Fixed Charge** helps pay for...











REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - May 2019

- » Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for May 2019. The contract tree clearing expense had been behind the Y budget and has now caught up, which caused the monthly May margin to be negative. The YTD margin is ahead of budget due to higher kWh sales and other income recorded from the sale of general plant assets (vehicles).
- » Ms. Nelson reviewed the forms of payment used by REA members. Approximately 4,500 accounts (4,000 customers) have created SmartHub accounts, and 1,700 accounts participate in the paperless billing plan. Payment methods include approximately 35% using ACH (automatic payments), 1/3 send in a check, 1/3 use other methods (i.e., credit card, bill
- paying service such as a bank), and 5% pay in the REA office.
- » A part of the Operations Report, Mr. Haman shared results of an unannounced Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) inspection. Overall REA was found to exhibit a strong performance or satisfactory performance in all categories and exceeded requirements in many areas.
- » The Board reviewed the 2019 Great River Energy (GRE) Annual Meeting. Director Hjelle was reelected to another term of secretary on GRE Board of Directors.
- » The regular August Board Meeting will be August 29, 2019.

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

Names are listed alphabetical by LAST name. If you know the current address to anyone listed below please call 800-473-1722 or email rea@runestoneelectric.com. The list is also available at www.RunestoneElectric.com.

AALDERKS, JERRY R PHOENIX AZ AANERUD, DEAN LISBON, ND ADAMS, ARTHUR E FREMONT, NE ADAMS, MICHAEL E VERNDALE, MN AHLQUIST, JERRY L NEVADA, IA ALLEN, H DONALD APACHE JUNCTION, AZ ALVSTAD, CARL BARRETT, MN AMBORN, HARVEY L SHERBURN, MN AMUNDSON, CALVIN FARGO, ND AMUNDSON, ERWIN C ALEXANDRIA, MN ANDERSEN, GLADIVA O MINNEAPOLIS, MN ANDERSON, CHRIS HAMEL, MN ANDERSON, DARLENE EVANSVILLE, MN ANDERSON, DAVID A LITCHFIELD, MN ANDERSON, ELLEN ASHBY, MN ANDERSON, LEROY E HOFFMAN, MN ANDERSON, LORRAINE ALEXANDRIA, MN ANGEN, RALPH CROSBY, MN ANGEN, SCOTT C ALEXANDRIA, MN ARMBRUSTER, DONALD SAINT CLOUD, MN ARMSTRONG, GORDON J HANCOCK, MN ARMSTRONG, JOEL L GLENWOOD, MN ASLESON, DAVID A CASPER, WY BAIN, CARL E ALEXANDRIA, MN BAKER, JESS G SAINT MICHAEL, MN BAKER, LARRY L CEDAR RAPIDS, IA BAKKE, STANLEY ALEXANDRIA, MN BARRETT, DUANE PJR ALEXANDRIA, MN BARSNESS, BURDEL MORRIS, MN BARSNESS, CHESTER GLENWOOD, MN BARTLETT, WILLIAM M EAGAN, MN BATTERTON, DALE E SPENCER, WI BECKWITH, TERRY L STARBUCK, MN BEEBE, MARSHALL C MOTLEY, MN BENEKE, NOEL ALEXANDRIA, MN BERGQUISTI, FLORENCE M ALEXANDRIA, MN BEYER, MARY M SAINT PAUL, MN BINGER, ARTHUR L MINNEAPOLIS, MN BLAHOSKY, GERALD A AITKIN, MN BLAKESLEY, PAUL HOFFMAN, MN BOEDDEKER, TIM C ELBOW LAKE, MN BOLGREAN, TIMOTHY D HOFFMAN, MN BORCHARDT, CHARLES OJR PERRIN, TX BOURNE, KAREN OSAKIS, MN BOUTIN, KENNETH R OSSEO, MN BOWMAN, LAWRENCE L ALEXANDRIA, MN BRAATEN, OBERT L MORRIS, MN BRATLAND, KELMAR L SAINT PAUL, MN BRAUN, DUANE ALEXANDRIA, MN BRAUNINGER, LA VERNE COLUMBIA HEIGHTS. MN BRECHBIEL, NORVAL CARLOS, MN BRITTEN, EMMETT E ALEXANDRIA, MN BROCK, LEO VILLARD, MN BROUGHTON, CAL A PARK RAPIDS, MN BROWN, WENDELL E EVANSVILLE, MN BRUESKE. ART GARFIELD. MN BRUNNER, KENNETH L SAINT CLOUD, MN BRYCE, WALTER J STAPLES, MN BUSCH, ADOLF A ALEXANDRIA, MN BUSCH, MARVIN ALEXANDRIA, MN BYE, RUDOLPH STARBUCK, MN CALVERT, DONALD A EAGLE GROVE, IA CARLQUIST, EUGENE NELSON, MN CARLSON, EDNA EVANSVILLE, MN CARLSON, GOTHE J MINNEAPOLIS, MN CARLSTEN, ELDON CLITHERALL, MN CARTER, LEONARD L ALEXANDRIA, MN CARVER, MICHAEL E MINNEAPOLIS, MN CHAN, LEONARD GLENWOOD, MN CHRISTENSON, KAREN STURGEON BAY, WI CLARK, DONALD M PALMER, AK CLARK, DOUGLAS L ALEXANDRIA, MN CLICK, WM ROCHESTER, MN

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NEWSLINE

The Official Monthly publication of Runestone Electric Association.

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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.

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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



Know whats below. Call before you dig.

Call 811 or
visit gopherstateonecall.org
before you dig

