



Kilowatts & Brats

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Come for a **Brat**,
Learn about **YOUR Co-op!**

This is the time to *nominate your district directors*

NEWSLINE

January 2020

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Attend Your District Meetings in February

Since it worked so well last year, we're following the same format for the District Meetings this year. REA District Meetings will be held at night to allow members working during the day to attend. We'll be serving brats and talking kilowatts!

District Meetings offer REA members an opportunity to have a meal, nominate one or more candidates for the office of director, learn more about their electric cooperative, talk with their elected representatives, and visit with neighbors. In addition, all members in attendance will have their name entered in a drawing to win door prizes. We look forward to seeing you!

Please RSVP by calling REA at 800-473-1722, emailing rea@runestoneelectric.com, or on our Facebook event.

What is required to be a REA 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 within 5 years preceding a director candidate's nomination.
7. Must not have been or becomes employed by a labor union which represents, has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employee of the cooperative within 5 years preceding a director candidate's nomination or during his or her term if elected.
8. Is not a close relative of an incumbent 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 (unexcused absences) during consecutive 12 month period.

District Three



District Three Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2020
Barrett Community Center
109 Barrett Ave, Barrett
5:30 p.m. Bratwurst Meal
6:00 p.m. Meeting

District Six



District Six Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Canary Beach Resort
17405 Co Rd 28, Villard
5:30 p.m. Bratwurst Meal
6:00 p.m. Meeting

District Seven



District Seven Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2020
Starbuck Community Center
307 E 5th Street, Starbuck
5:30 p.m. Bratwurst Meal
6:00 p.m. Meeting



CEO, Kristin Dolan

A Note from the CEO: Co-ops work because the member is the owner

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association

It all starts with a vote. When you become a cooperative member, you receive the right to vote for the fellow members you want to serve as stewards of the cooperative.

While other types of businesses must produce returns for investors and other stakeholders, as an

electric cooperative, we focus only on our members. As an electric cooperative member, you are an owner of the company. You have a vote in board elections and a financial share in the cooperative's success.

Guided by seven principles

The seven cooperative principles guide cooperatives by outlining the right way to serve their members: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

Independent and self-governed

Cooperatives are locally governed by directors who are elected to look out for the long-term needs of their members.

The structure is so effective that cooperatives are largely left alone by the governmental bodies that oversee electric providers. Instead of being regulated by state or county governments, cooperatives are effectively managed by independent boards of directors.

REA's election process

Runestone's service territory is divided into seven districts and is governed by seven directors. One director is elected from each of the seven districts. Once elected, each director serves a three-year term and then an election is held for that district once their term is expired. An incumbent can run again if they choose at the end of their term.

Runestone holds a nomination process in which qualified candidates are nominated for their names to be placed on the ballot. The nomination process happens at our District Meetings. Please see page 1 for details on District Meetings planned in February. Once the nomination pro-

cess is complete, we then mail ballots to the members of the district. Members can vote by mail or cast their vote by bring their ballot to the Annual Meeting.

This year we have Districts Three, Six, and Seven up for election. We encourage all interested members who are qualified to consider running for the director position within your district. Please see the list of qualifications that appear on page one.

What does it mean to be a director?

The director represents the members of not only their district but also the membership as a whole and they govern your Cooperative. They attend monthly board meetings held during the day and set the policy, rates and strategic initiatives that we the employees, in turn, carry out on your behalf.

In addition to monthly board meetings, there are training opportunities and other meetings that the director, from time to time, will attend. The Credential Cooperative Director (CCD) program consists of courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership.

If you aren't quite sure you want to commit to running as a director but are interested in learning more about your Cooperative, we have other opportunities available for you. Consider serving on our Member Advisory Council or the Operation Round Up Trust Board. It's as easy as calling REA to express your interest. We will place your name on the list and let you know when an opening is available.

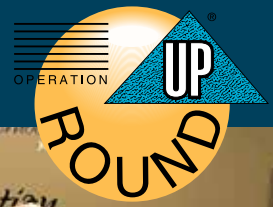
All of us wish you a very Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the District Meetings in February.



Participate in director elections at the District Meetings in February.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - November 2019

- » Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for October 2019 and noted electric sales revenue is close to budget for the year. Margin is exceeding budget and is expected to still be ahead of budget at year-end. The board agreed to support REA's participation in NRECA's RC3 on-line cybersecurity self-assessment license program.
- » Approved funding a loan application utilizing the REA Revolving Loan Fund.
- » CEO Dolan provided an update on Heartland Security, noting Runestone's initial investment of \$80,000 in 1998 has returned \$162,500 in distributions.
- » Approved the purchase of the GroShed indoor agriculture demonstration project.
- » Mrs. Nelson and CEO Dolan presented the 2020 Draft Budget and answered questions from the Board.
- » Director Hjelle gave the Great River Energy Report highlighting details on committees for which she serves and other subjects discussed at the GRE November Board Meeting.
- » Director Patrick reviewed the Cooperative Network Annual Meeting.
- » **The regular January Board Meeting will be January 30, 2020.**



Representing some of the organizations receiving Operation Round Up® grants in December (front row l to r): Nahiomy Negron, Brianna Diaz, and Beatriz Hadler (Life Connections); Chris Harris, Kalee Morhman and Emily Geris (Knute Nelson Foundation); (middle row l to r): Ina Larson (Bethel Cemetery); Irene Shervey (Ever Blessed Quilters); Joe Korkowski (Jingle Bells); Megan Hermanson (DAC); Sherry Tolar and Robin McNamer (Grant County Human Society); Ardie Piper (Garfield First Responders); Kendall Brickweg (United Way); Gail Schulz (Ebenezer Cemetery); and Kathy Withers (Osakis Senior Citizens). (back row l to r): Rod Borden (Operation Round Up Board); Kyle Nichtern (Lowry Fire Department); Jim Dyr Dahl (St. Lukes Cemetery); Wendell Woyke (Osakis Senior Citizens); Mike Cleary (Brandon History Center); Vern Lorsung (Operation Round Up Board); Georgia Wahlberg (AAUW); Glen Eblen (Lands Cemetery); Ray Wille (American Legion); Tom Hayes (Selective TV); Al Glaeseman (HRA); Ruth Nagel (Uncompensated Care Plan); Lonnie Wing (Selective TV); and Janet Johnson (Operation Round Up Board).

Generosity of REA members impacts area organizations

REA members participating in Operation Round Up® have collectively donated over \$978,000 to community-minded groups and organizations throughout the Cooperative's service territory since its inception in 2003. Over 64% of REA's members allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar, with the average yearly contribution of \$6.

Through the generosity of REA members, the following thirty-one area organizations shared \$15,350 in donations.

Fire Departments & First Responders: Garfield First Responders (\$500); Lowry Fire Department (\$500); and Brandon Fire Department (\$500).

Community: United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties (\$500); Inspiration Peak Post #527 American Legion (\$300); Honor Quilts (\$1,000); Alexandria Area Branch of AAUW (\$200); Douglas County HRA (\$500); Lakes Area Quilt Guild (\$250); Grant County Human Society (\$700); Ever Blessed Quilters - Peace Lutheran Church (\$250); St. Lukes Cemetery Association (\$250); Nora Lutheran Church Health Kits (\$250); Red Willow Arts Coalition (\$500); Lake Leven Cemetery (\$250); True Friends (\$500); Ebenezer Cemetery Association (\$250); Life Connections (\$250); Selective TV (\$500); Brandon

History Center (\$400); Douglas County Developmental Achievement Center (DAC) \$750); Titus II, Inc. (\$750); Evansville Community Club (\$250); Jingle Bells Foundation (\$1,000); Lands Cemetery (\$250); Bethel Memorial Cemetery Association (\$1,000); and Rotary Club of Alexandria (\$500).

Seniors: Osakis Senior Citizens Meals (\$500); and Santa for Seniors (\$500).

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 February 7, 2020. Application forms are available by calling REA at (800) 473-1722. Applications can be downloaded from the REA website: www.RunestoneElectric.com.

Unsure if you participate in Operation Round Up?

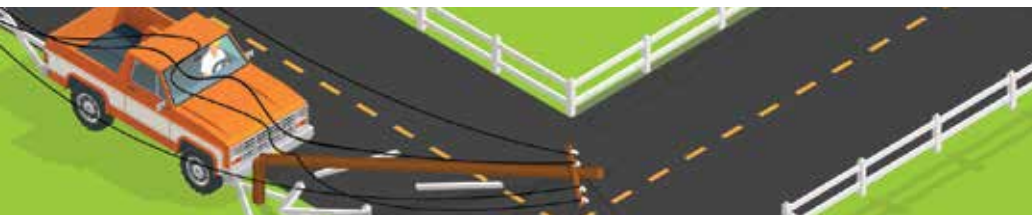
Look for it on your bill or give REA a call 800-473-1722 and we can look for you!

ATTENTION High School Seniors: Time to Apply!

Apply for one of eleven \$1,000 scholarships available through a random drawing.



Scholarship applicants must be a graduating high school senior whose parents or legal guardians are members of REA. Students attending public, private, parochial or home school are eligible to apply. The deadline to apply for the REA scholarships is **March 2, 2020**. Winners will be recognized at REA's Annual Meeting on April 22, 2019, at Alexandria Area High School. **Applications can be found at www.runstoneelectric.com or call REA for an application: 1-800-473-1722.**



Know how to stay safe if your car crashes into a power pole

In traumatic situations, it may be instinctive to flee as soon as possible. A car accident is a good example of this. However, if you are in a car accident with a power line, the safest place is often inside your car.

When a car crashes into a power pole, the pole may fall down, lines may fall on your car or nearby, and the area around your car may become charged with electric energy. If you stepped out of the car in this scenario, your body would become the path to ground for the electricity, and you could be electrocuted.

Unlike what you might see in the movies, downed power lines rarely show they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity. Since you can't see, hear or smell electricity, power lines can be live and just as lethal, even though they might appear de-energized.

Stay in your vehicle if you are in a car accident with a power pole. Warn those who try to come near your car that they must stay far away. Call 911 for help and wait until a professional from the electric utility tells you it is safe to leave the car.

The only exception to this rule is if your car is on fire. In that case, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then shuffle away with feet together. This way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which could give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

If you witness a car collision with a power pole, do not approach the accident. By trying to help, you will put your own life at risk. The best thing to do is contact emergency responders and stay far away from the accident.

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: Brad Burklund, Director

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



Recycle your old Christmas lights & power cords at the Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Recycle Center, ALP, REA or Ace Hardware Glenwood & Alexandria. *Accepted until 1/31/20*

