

Save the date for the
2020 Annual Meeting:
April 16, 2020

NEWSLINE

February 2020

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Take Control of Your Account Using Smarthub

Runestone Electric Association's SmartHub online and mobile app provides many features that help you manage your account. Available through your computer, smartphone or tablet, you'll be able to pay your bill, view your energy usage, contact customer service and get the latest Co-op news. It's a great tool to help you access your account information on the go!

With SmartHub, you can select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging. View your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks.

You'll see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month, or even the previous year, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll also be able to view your actual energy usage. You can even set usage thresholds so that you'll know when you're using more energy

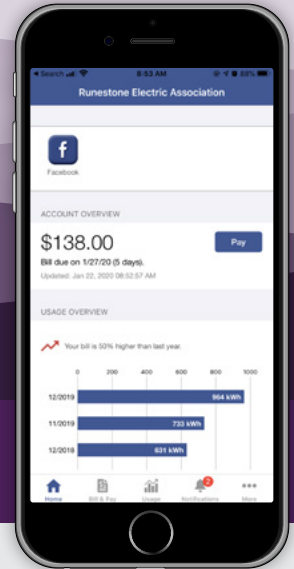
than you'd like, helping you keep your electricity bill as low as possible.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

SIGN UP NOW

Access SmartHub by visiting www.runestoneelectric.com or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices). Manage your Runestone Electric account simply, quickly and easily with SmartHub.

**Smart Management.
Smart Life.**



With SmartHub's new upgrade, you can take control of your Runestone Electric account like never before.



**THERE'S STILL
TIME TO APPLY!**

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

There is still time to apply for one of **ELEVEN \$1,000** scholarships available through a random drawing.

Visit www.runestoneelectric.com for details and applications.

Deadline to apply is **March 2, 2020**



Kristin Dolan, CEO

A Note from the CEO: Energy that's clean, without the added cost

Kristin Dolan, CEO, Runestone Electric Association

Your electricity comes with more renewable energy and lower carbon emissions than ever before – all while remaining safe, reliable and affordable.

This month we welcome a guest columnist to Newsline, David Saggau, President and Chief Executive Officer. Great River Energy is one of REA's wholesale energy providers, and is a not-for-profit cooperative owned by its members, including Runestone Electric.



David Saggau

GRE President and Chief Executive Officer

Twenty years ago, Great River Energy (GRE) began receiving electricity from three wind turbines in southern Minnesota. Today, there are nearly 350 turbines spinning to provide you emission-free electricity.

Now, Great River Energy is striving to serve Runestone Electric with energy that is 50% renewable by 2030. We are ahead of schedule, too, reaching 30% this year.

Meanwhile, Great River Energy's average wholesale electric rates have remained flat.

Great River Energy and its 28 member-owner cooperatives are committed to providing clean energy that is as affordable and reliable as ever.

Carbon emissions are declining

Great River Energy has long sought strategic ways to reduce the carbon emissions on its system, and we have made real progress.

We exited two contracts for coal-based electricity and closed a long-running coal power plant. Those decisions were made for economic benefit while also providing for reductions in carbon emissions.

Using electricity in new ways

Electricity is improving so rapidly that it has become a favored energy source for transportation, which is currently the state's largest source of carbon emissions.

Minnesota is encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions because they have

no tailpipe emissions. Members are drawn to them because they require no stops at the gas station and very few trips to the mechanic.

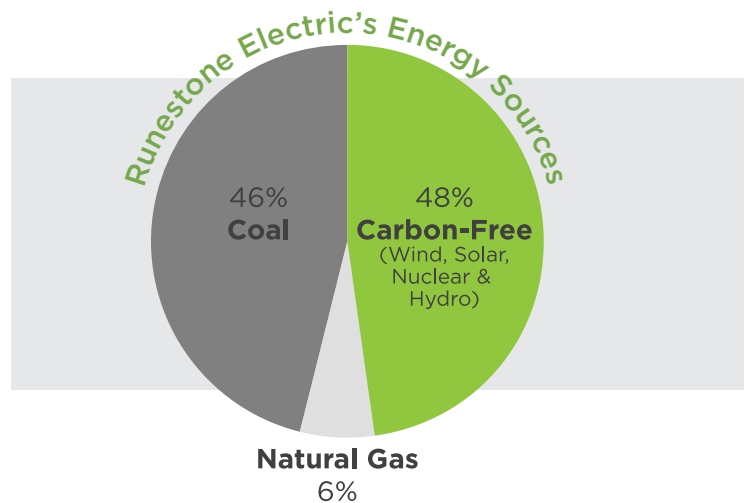
Your cooperative has programs that make it easier to purchase an electric vehicle and at-home charger, as well as other efficient electric devices such as air conditioners, water heaters and heat pumps.

Remaining focused on our members

The electricity you receive is improving because of you, the cooperative membership. Our research shows that members strongly believe adding more renewables is a good idea and support our efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Cooperative members want electricity that is affordable, reliable and clean. As your wholesale power supplier, that is what we will continue to provide.

David mentioned our electric programs available, please don't hesitate to give us a call or visit our website to learn more. REA's second power supplier is Western Area Power Administration or WAPA, a hydroelectric power supply. This resource combined with Great River Energy's (GRE) power supply portfolio enables REA to provide our members with energy that is 48% carbon-free. This percentage will continue to increase as GRE evolves their generation portfolio. We at REA are committed to serving our members and providing them with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.



REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - December 2019

- » Mrs. Nelson reviewed the Financial Report for November 2019 and noted energy sales were very strong for the month of November, with electric revenue up 16% from budget. For the year, the gross margin is ahead of budget and expenses are under budget. Although expenses are expected to catch up to budget before year-end, the REA margin will be more than was budgeted for the year.
- » Mrs. Nelson presented the 2019 list of Uncollectible Accounts noting efforts are made to continue to collect on accounts even after the account has been written off.
- » CEO Dolan reviewed the Mid-West Electric Consumers Annual Meeting.
- » Director Staples reviewed the CFC Financial Workshop.
- » Approved the 2020 Budget as presented.
- » Approved revisions to C-04 Equal Employment Opportunity and C-05 Harassment, Offensive Conduct, and Workplace Violence Policies.
- » Approved additional language be added to the Distribution Line Extension Cost Sharing section of M-06 Line Extension Policy stating the service must remain active for the entire 5-year period.
- » Approved revised mission statement: *To serve our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.*
- » **The regular February Board Meeting will be February 25, 2020.**

2020 Residential Rebates

Heating & Cooling

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)

Space Heating & Room Storage Heating
\$50/kw up to \$5,000 or 100kw

Geothermal Heat Pumps

\$400

Quality Installation Program

Air Source Heat Pump

SEER 14.5: \$480

SEER 15: \$580

SEER 16+: \$630

Air Conditioner

Seer 14.5+: \$50

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

\$200

Air Source Heat Pump Paired with Plenum Heater or Boiler

Efficiency Rebate
\$100

Plenum Heater or Boiler

Plenum heater must be designed to heat the loss of the home

\$25/kw up to \$500 max

Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)

Many of today's high-efficiency furnaces include an ECM that would qualify for this rebate.

\$25

Smart Thermostat

\$25

Appliances

Must be purchased or recycled after 1/1/2020

Clothes Washer

\$25

Clothes Dryer

\$25

Recycling of a Refrigerator or Freezer

\$50

Dehumidifier

\$25

Electric Vehicle

Qualifying Uncontrolled EV Charger

\$250

Qualifying Controlled EV Charger

\$500

All rates and rebates are subject to change
Contact REA for more information

Matching Grants Awarded to Local Groups

Runestone Electric Association's Christmas Open House provided the perfect setting to reward three local organizations for their hard work. Utilizing the matching grant program provided by CoBank, one of REA's lenders, REA was able to award \$1,000 grants to Douglas County Car Care, Elder Network, and Let's Go Fishing. These three organizations were also 2019 Operation Round Up recipients.



Let's Go Fishing Representatives Ron Fenelon and Dave Morgan are pictured with REA Board President Barbara Johnson and REA Board Member Mike Loken.



Elder Network Executive Director Wendy Hyatt is pictured with REA Board Member Dave Staples and REA CEO Kristin Dolan.



Douglas County Car Care Executive Director Kris Chisholm (in orange) is pictured with REA Board Member Mike Loken, REA Board President Barbara Johnson and REA CEO Kristin Dolan.

Space heaters can dramatically increase your electric bill

Use the formula below to determine what the monthly cost of operating a space heater will be before you plug it in.

Example for a 1,500 watt space heater:

$(\text{wattage divided by } 1,000) \times \text{hours used} \times \text{cost per kWh} = \text{cost per day}$

Example: $(1,500 \text{ watts} \div 1,000) \times 24 \text{ hours} \times 11.18¢ \text{ (REA's rate Sept - May)} = \4.02 per day

To calculate a monthly cost multiply your cost per day by number of days in the month.

$\$4.02 \times 30 \text{ days} = \120.74 . This is your cost per month.

Bottom line: space heaters are convenient, but expensive to use!



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: Cliff Patrick, Vice President
- District 7: Brad Burklund, Director

Editorial Staff

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

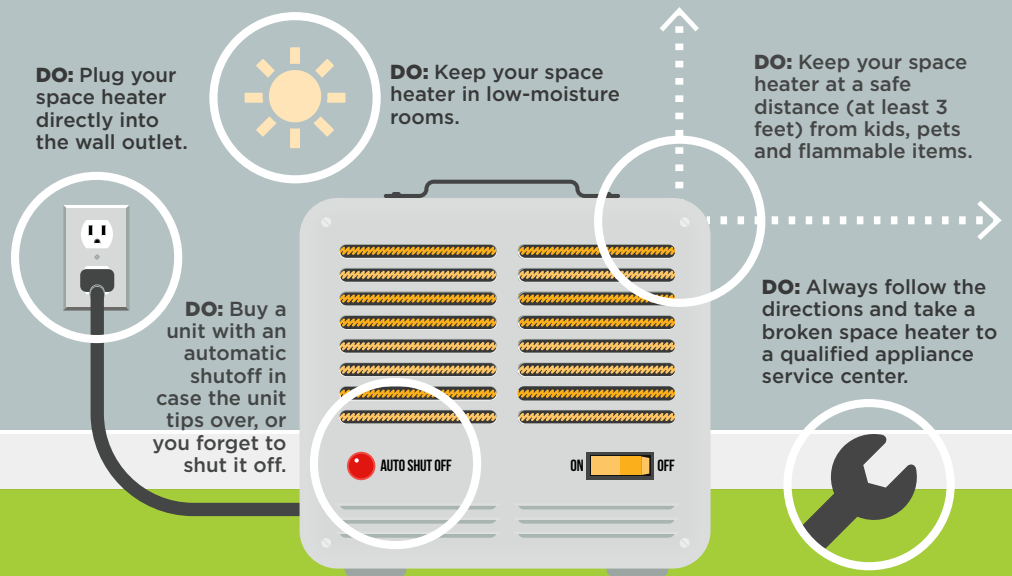
In Case of a Power Outage

- » 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 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

Space Heater Safety Tips

Use the tips below to keep your home safe



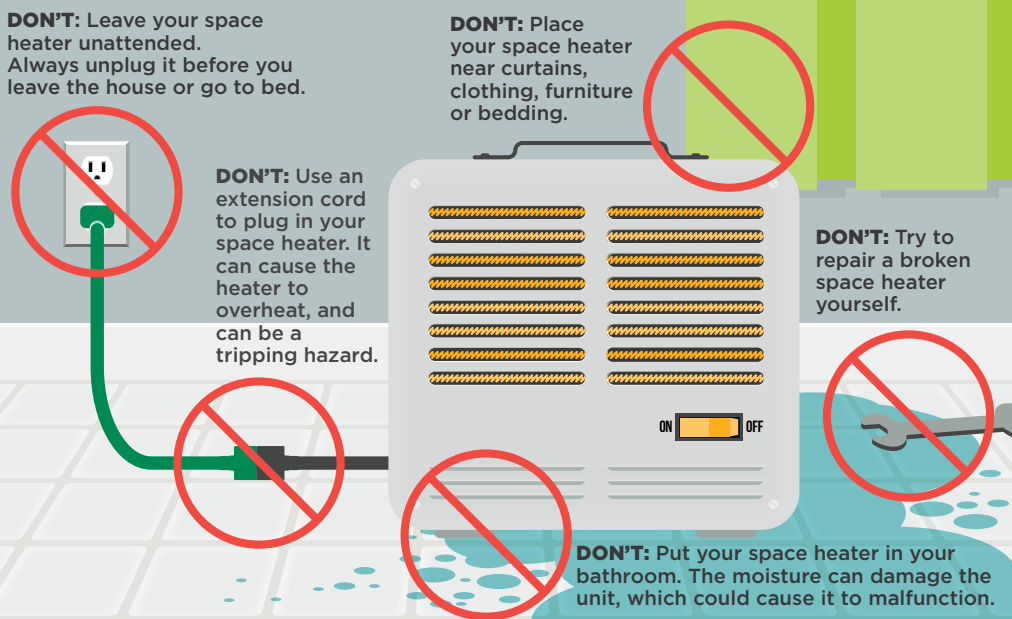
DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.

DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.

DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.

DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to overheat, and can be a tripping hazard.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.

DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.

DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.

This Month's Safety Tip...

Be careful when piling snow near pad-mounted transformers and beneath power lines where children might reach them. Just a quick look up is all it takes to make sure it is safe!

