

OCTOBER IS

# CO-OP MONTH

## NEWSLINE



October 2021

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### OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH, AND REA IS CELEBRATING!

October is Cooperative Month! A whole month dedicated to celebrating cooperatives. So, what even is a cooperative, and what makes it different than other electric providers? Well, the short answer is a cooperative is owned and governed by the members it serves. (THAT'S YOU!) Electric co-ops like REA were created by the members for the members, so serving you is our #1 priority! Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable power. However, there are lots of other great perks of being a co-op member, like capital credits!

Other things you can look forward to this Co-op Month are Trivia Tuesdays on Facebook, where we will be giving away a \$10 bill credit every Tuesday just by commenting on our post. No Facebook? Earn a chance at a \$10 bill credit below! Also, we'll be hosting a drive through member appreciation event - read more to the right.

### MEMBER APPRECIATION



**TUESDAY, OCT 19, 2021**



MAP TO REA

Celebrate Cooperative Month with Milk + Cookies at REA! Travel to the REA headquarters south of Alexandria to drive through our parking lot and pick up a pint of Stoney Creek 2% milk and a Country Blossom Farm cookie for each person in the car. This event will take place Tuesday, October 19 from noon to 3:30PM.

REA's Address: 6839 Power Lane SW, Alexandria, MN 56308

*Cookies and milk are while supplies last, and only available on October 19, noon to 3:30PM. Must be present in the car to receive milk and cookie. (No early or late pick-up - sorry for any inconvenience.)*

## CO-OP MONTH TRIVIA

REA will be hosting Trivia Tuesdays on Facebook, where we ask a question, and all you have to do is comment your answer to be put in a drawing for a \$10 bill credit. No Facebook? No problem! Enter for your chance to win a \$10 bill credit by cutting out this portion of your newsletter and sending it in with your bill.

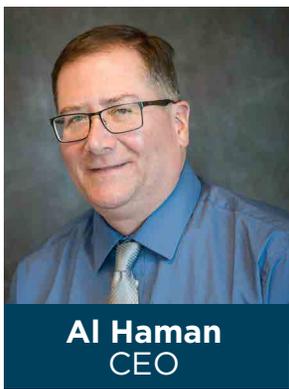
**What was REA's original name when incorporated in 1935?**

Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



**Al Haman**  
CEO

# A Note from your CEO

## Celebrating the Cooperative Way of Doing Business

The November 21, 1935, Park Region Echo told of a meeting held at the high school in Alexandria: *Rural Electrification Plan in Douglas County Okayed by Mass Meeting. 350 Farmers Ask Government Aid for Farm Lines.* That headline summarized the farmer's feelings at the time, and they expressed their desire for

electricity by signing a petition for a cooperative line in Douglas County.

Douglas County Light and Power Association was incorporated on November 30, 1935, and in early 1936, the cooperative began its campaign to sign up farmers for electricity. By June 1949, the name of the cooperative was officially changed to Runestone Electric Association (REA), recognizing the cooperative's expansion beyond Douglas County.

Today REA serves parts of seven counties with 3,000 miles of line. Much has changed in the past 86 years, but your electric cooperative continues to operate by the original founding principles.

This month I will touch on two of the seven Cooperative Principles - Open & Voluntary Membership and Democratic Member Control. We will feature the other principles in future issues of the newsletter.

**Open & Voluntary Membership** - Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances. REA exists to serve our 15,000 accounts with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

**Democratic Member Control** - Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively set policies and make decisions. REA members elect seven board members to represent each of the seven districts. The directors are accountable to their members. Each member receives one vote. This is in contrast to other corporations or investor-owned utilities, where the number of shares owned determines voting power.

I hope you can stop by REA on Tuesday, October 19, from noon - 3:30 p.m. to help us celebrate Cooperative Month. It's hard to beat a delicious cookie from Country Blossom Farm and a cold pint of milk from Stoney Creek Dairy!

Celebrating co-ops in October also reminds me of the fall harvest currently underway. I wish all area ag professionals a safe harvest. Remember to look up, plan your work in advance, and keep a safe distance from power lines. If you contact a power line, remain in your equipment, immediately call 911 or REA, and tell bystanders to stay away. We want everyone to stay safe around power lines!

## SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES TO BE CONTINUED...



## 1 OPEN & VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

## 2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

### REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - August 2021

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for July 2021. Due to the hot, dry summer, July had the highest summer monthly sales on record for REA. Power cost kW demand was also high, offsetting the increase in revenue from sales. We see an increasing trend in our number of electric service accounts. The REA margin for the year is ahead of budget, primarily due to expenses that are yet to be incurred.
- » CEO Haman presented the August Safety, Reliability and Service Quality Report and answered questions from the Board. In the first half of 2021, REA added 163 new accounts, considerably more than in previous years.
- » Approved new Member Advisory Council Members - Jim and Kristie Stratton (District 5) and Lori Sommers (District 3).
- » Determined the date for the next Annual Meeting - Thursday, April 28, 2022.
- » Approved a senior (age 80 and over) capital credit refund request. REA policy requires board approval for senior refunds over \$10,000.
- » **The regular October Board Meeting will be October 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**

# PROPANE VS ELECTRIC HEAT

✓ THE BEST VALUE FOR YOUR HOME ✓

BETTER OPTION

↑↑↑  
**Propane**  
\$1.44/gal.  
(and up)  
↑↑↑

✓  
**REA's Dual Fuel Rate**

BEST OPTION!

↑↑↑  
**Propane**  
72¢/gal.  
(and up)  
↑↑↑

✓  
**Air Source Heat Pump**  
on REA's Dual Fuel Rate

## MUST know information before purchasing an air source heat pump!

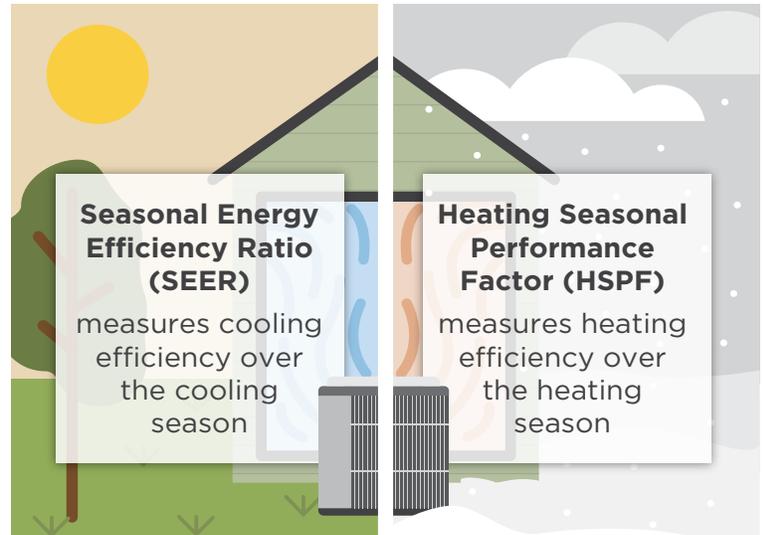
When sized appropriately, today's cold-climate air source heat pumps can provide 100% of a home's heating needs down to temperatures as low as zero degrees, which is roughly 90% of all heating hours in Minnesota. If properly set, an air source heat pump can serve as your primary source for a good part of our Minnesota winters.

Since heat pumps provide heating in the winter and cooling in the summer, you should be aware of at least two heat pump energy efficiency ratings. The **Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER)** measures cooling efficiency over the cooling season, while the **Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF)** measures heating efficiency over the heating season. (See graphic on right)

HSPF is a standardized rating used to compare energy efficiencies. HSPF is used by all heat pump manufacturers to indicate efficiency ratings. Like miles per gallon for your car, **the higher the HSPF number, the more efficient the system.**

### What is the balance point?

The balance point of your heat pump is the outdoor temperature at which your home HVAC system switches over to its backup heating system, likely set by your installer. If your heat pump can keep your home warm down to 10 F, but your balance point is set to switch over to your backup heat at 20 degrees then anytime the temperature is between 10 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit, you'll be paying more than you should for heat.



An Air-Source Heat Pump works as a more efficient central air conditioner during the warmer months and provides heating in all other seasons.

**Combine REA Rebates with heat pump efficiencies to start saving today!**

For more information on heat pump technologies and rebates available, please contact the energy experts at REA - (800) 473-1722, email [rea@runestoneelectric.com](mailto:rea@runestoneelectric.com) or visit [www.runestoneelectric.com](http://www.runestoneelectric.com).

**Don't Wait For a Disaster!**  
Order a generator **now** for spring installation



There are many good reasons to install an automatic Briggs & Stratton generator that can power an entire house or farm. REA is pleased to offer this turn-key installation and maintenance service.

**FINANCING AVAILABLE!**

**For more information Call REA 800-473-1722 or visit [www.runestoneelectric.com](http://www.runestoneelectric.com)**



# REA Members Support Their Communities

## Operation Round Up Distributes \$12,600 in September



### NEWSLINE

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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, Vice President
- District 4: Dave Staples, Director
- District 5: Mike Loken, Treasurer
- District 6: Clif Patrick, Director
- District 7: Matthew Mattson, Director

#### Editorial Staff

- Al Haman, CEO
- Sue Lundeen, Editor
- Ally Koudela, 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

Sign up to get text messages from REA on control days! Simply text #loadcontrol to 22300. *Msg and data rates apply.*



**Representing some of the organizations receiving Operation Round Up® grants in September** (Front row from l to r): Doris Weispfennig, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery; Crystal Schroeder, The Village Family Service Center; Tasha Olson, Runestone Area Education District; Renee Hills, Lake Mary Cemetery Association; Kim Kortuem, Osakis Trapshooting Team; Terri Shatek, Radiothon to End Child Abuse; Janet Johnson, Operation Round Up Trust Board; and Joyce Burghardt, St. Mary's Mission Quilting Group. (Back row from l to r): Loris Weispfennig, West Lake Amelia Cemetery; Rod Borden, Operation Round Up Trust Board; Georgia Wahlberg, AAUW - Alex Area Branch; Travis Middendorf, Osakis Fire Department; Cheryl Gebhardt, Brandon-Evansville Trapshooting Team; Quinto Lotti, Kalon Prep Academy; Mary Yaw, Titus II, Inc.; and Bill Sugden, Experimental Aircraft Association.

Through the contributions of REA's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved \$12,600 to assist local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

The trust board, a voluntary board of seven REA members, reviewed and considered 28 grant applications and distributed funds to 22 projects and programs this past quarter. Since the program's inception in 2003, more than \$1 million has been allocated to community-based projects and programs. Grant recipients by category include:

#### Fire Departments & First Responders

- Alexandria Fire Department (\$1,000)
- Osakis Fire Department (\$1,000)

#### Youth

- Osakis Trapshooting Team (\$200)
- Kalon Prep Academy (\$1,000)
- Runestone Area Education District (\$1,000)
- Brandon-Evansville Trapshooting Team (\$200)

#### Community

- Experimental Aircraft Association (\$500)
- Lake Mary Cemetery Association (\$250)
- Radiothon to End Child Abuse (\$2,000)
- Donnelly Community Club, Inc. (\$500)
- Tri-State Manufacturers Association Foundation (\$500)
- St. Mary's Mission Quilting Group (\$200)
- Elk Lake Beach (\$250)
- St. John's Lutheran Cemetery (\$250)
- West Lake Amelia Cemetery (\$250)
- Titus II, Inc. (\$750)
- Alexandria Area Chamber of Commerce (\$500)
- United Communities Advocating Non-Violence (\$1,000)
- AAUW - Alex Area Branch (\$200)
- Zionsborg Cemetery Assoc. (\$250)
- The Village Family Service Center (\$500)

The deadline to apply for the next round of Operation Round Up grants is **November 5, 2021**

Application forms can be completed online at [www.RunestoneElectric.com](http://www.RunestoneElectric.com)

#### HARVEST SAFETY TIP

If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.