

Members Gathered at Long Lake Lodge for the District 4 Meeting



NEWSLINE

March 2022

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Members Nominate Director Candidates at District Meetings

District Meetings were held in preparation for the 85th REA Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022.

Members of District 1 and District 4 gathered in February to nominate director candidates, hear updates on the cooperative, and to visit with neighbors. Nomination results were as follows:

District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson (Incumbent), Parkers Prairie

District 4: Dave Staples (Incumbent), Kensington
Dave Lemmon, Farwell

Members of District 4 may vote for the candidates at the Annual Meeting or by using the mail ballot included with the Annual Meeting materials they will receive in early April. As of the printing of the newsletter, the director election in District One is uncontested. No ballot will be mailed, and the candidate will be elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting. Candidate profiles can be found on page 3.



REA CEO Al Haman explains the process of nominating director candidates at the District 1 Meeting held at the Miltona Community Center.

April 28, 2022

REA ANNUAL MEETING

Alexandria Area High School

4 - 5 P.M. - Registration
5 P.M. - Annual Meeting



Back by popular demand!

Attend the Annual Meeting and Receive a

\$25 Gift Certificate

(1 per membership)

Gift certificates are redeemable at a variety of REA Businesses. Must be present at Annual Meeting to receive a gift certificate.





Al Haman
CEO

A Note from your CEO

Update on the sale of Coal Creek Station

Let me begin by thanking the members of District 1 and District 4 that attended the District Meetings held in mid-February. The meetings were well attended and offered a chance to visit with neighbors

while hearing what's happening at the co-op.

As you may have heard over the past year or so, Great River Energy, REA's wholesale power supplier, is in the process of selling Coal Creek Station. Although the sale is not finalized as of yet, Great River Energy's member cooperatives have approved an updated agreement for the sale of Coal Creek Station to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC and the high voltage direct current (HVDC) system to Nexus Line, LLC. A purchase power agreement was also approved with Apex Clean Energy for the 400-megawatt Discovery Wind Project in McLean County, N.D.

Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line are affiliates of Rainbow Energy Marketing Corporation of Bismarck, N.D. Apex Clean Energy is based in Charlottesville, Va.

With the Discovery Wind Project, Great River Energy will more than double its wind energy by the end of 2025 and remains on track to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80% by 2025, achieving Minnesota's emissions target decades ahead of schedule.

Good news for Great River Energy employees

Rainbow Energy Center plans to operate Coal Creek Station with current plant employees. Great River Energy will operate and maintain the HVDC system for Nexus Line using existing Great River Energy transmission employees under a 20-year contract. Discovery Wind will deliver renewable energy across the 436-mile HVDC system from North Dakota to Minnesota.

The sale of Coal Creek Station and the HVDC system is expected to close later this year. The Discovery Wind project is expected to reach commercial operations in 2025.

Changes to the Fixed Charge

Last month my article focused on changes ahead for the monthly fixed charge. A cost of service study indicated a general service account (residential or seasonal) requires monthly revenue of \$50.34 to cover the minimum expense for lighting one light bulb. Currently, our monthly fixed charge is \$29.25 per general service account, which covers a portion of the \$50.34. The remaining \$21.09 is built into the cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity and collected through sales volume.

I asked for member input on two options to align the monthly fixed charge more closely with the cost of serving each REA account - increase the fixed charge in smaller steps over a period of years, or increase the fixed charge in one step.

I have received phone calls, letters and emails from members. This has given me a chance to listen to our member's concerns and to explain why the change is needed. No decision has been made. We're in the process of gathering input and trying to make everyone aware of the issues we're facing. Please contact me personally at 320-762-1121 if you wish to offer comments on either option or email at rea@runestoneelectric.com. We plan to keep our members informed as we move forward.



Located north of Bismarck, ND, Coal Creek Station and the HVDC power line system are set to be sold later this year.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - January 2022

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for December 2021. 2021 REA margin is close to budgeted. There will be changes before we finalize for audit and annual reporting, but they should not be significant. kWh sales for the year were right on budget and 1.5% over last year.
- » CEO Haman presented the January Safety, Reliability and Service Quality Report. He noted we finished the year with 254 new accounts staked. This is the most new accounts in many years, with many new residential and agricultural-related accounts.
- » Voted in favor of changes to Great River Energy's transaction changes to sell Coal Creek Station and HVDC system and the wind energy power purchase agreement.
- » REA's Attorney, Paul Johnson, announced he will be retiring on April 8, 2022.
- » Mr. Rooney provided the annual Energy Management Rate Review, updating Peak Alert Service and Cogeneration rates.
- » **The regular March Board Meeting will be Tuesday, March 29 2022 at 9:00 a.m.**

Director Candidate Biographies

Learn more about director candidates in District 1 and District 4. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on April 28, 2022.

District 1

District 1 Townships: Parkers Prairie, Eastern, Wykeham, Miltona, Spruce Hill, Burleene, and Carlos.

ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION: As of the printing of the newsletter, the director election in District One was uncontested, therefore no ballots will be mailed. Candidate will be elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting.



Gary (Andy) Anderson

Gary (Andy) Anderson

Gary (Andy) Anderson (Incumbent) was nominated at the District 1 meeting. A resident of Miltona Township and an REA member since 2000, Andy and his wife Kathy have two married daughters and four grandchildren.

Andy was appointed to the REA Board in 2015 and has served as board secretary for the past five years. Andy is an NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director. Andy and Kathy have served on the REA Member Advisory Council.

Andy has been in the communication business for 44 years and is also employed by Alexandria Technical & Community College as a Fire Program Manager. Andy & Kathy are business owners of Advanced Fire Training & Asbestos Inspections.

Currently, Andy is a member of the Parkers Prairie Fire Department and First Lutheran Church in Parkers Prairie. He is also a past member of the Miltona Township Board and past mayor of Parkers Prairie.

District 4

District 4 Townships: Brandon, Moe, Solem, Holmes City, and Lake Mary.

ELECTION BY BALLOT: As of the printing of the newsletter, there are two candidates running in District Four, therefore ballots will be mailed to the members in District Four.



Dave Staples

Dave Staples

Dave Staples (Incumbent) was nominated at the District 4 meeting. Dave and his wife, Amy, along with their four children reside in a rural home near Kensington where they have been REA members for over 21 years.

Dave was elected to the REA Board in 2019 and has completed the National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director training.

Dave attended college at Moorhead State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He worked for the Minnesota Department of Transportation for 21 years. He owns and operates a grain farm near Kensington where he has farmed for 28 years.

Dave currently serves on the Douglas County Corn and Soybean Growers Committee, the Alexandria Technical College Farm Business Advisory Committee, and has served on various church boards over the years. Dave is also an active community member; volunteer coach for youth sports and many school activities.



David Lemmon

David Lemmon

David Lemmon was nominated at the District 4 meeting. David and his wife Dee have lived south of Holmes City for the past twenty years. The couple farms vegetables, honey and maple syrup and are managers of the Holmes City Farmers Market at Trinity Lutheran Church.

David has an MBA in business and a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of MN. David has worked in the cooperative system for 40 years and prior to starting his own cooperative consulting business, David worked for two of the largest cooperatives in the country, CHS and Land O Lakes. He has also consulted for US Aid for International Development, starting 2 new cooperatives in Poland and Jamaica.

David currently serves on the REA Member Advisory Council and was previously a board member for Trinity Lutheran Church in Holmes City, school board chairman for Zion Lutheran School in Alexandria, and various other youth activities.

David feels his cooperative background, experience and knowledge of the cooperative system will help meet the challenges REA faces in the future.

Move Over When Passing Crews at Work



Help us keep our employees safe by remembering Minnesota's *Ted Foss Move Over Law*. The law requires drivers to move one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights activated, including ambulances, fire trucks, squad cars, and maintenance and construction vehicles. The law was named in honor of the State Patrol trooper who was killed while on the shoulder of I-90 near Winona in 2000.



2004 Felling Trailer For Sale

Bids are being accepted to sell a 20' long, 8' wide 2004 Felling Trailer with air brakes. Trailer comes with a 5' beaver tail ramp. The trailer may be viewed at REA's Operation Center from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday until April 1, 2022. The equipment will be sold "as is" and "with all faults." REA's Purchase Agreement form will need to be signed by the buyer prior to closing. Cash payment required, no checks please. REA reserves the right to accept or reject any and all offers.

Deadline for submitting a bid is April 1, 2022.



Include your name, phone number, and bid in a seal envelope and submit to:

REA Trailer Bid
6839 Power Lane SW
Alexandria, MN 56308

Cogeneration Notice

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules relating to Co-generation and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Runestone Electric is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualified facility. Runestone Electric has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative. For more information on cogeneration please visit: www.runestoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/renewable-energy

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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 will use reasonable diligence to furnish adequate and dependable electric service, but it cannot and does not guaranty continuous and uninterrupted service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Sign up to get text messages from REA on control days!

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Msg and data rates apply.

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