

LOOK UP AND LIVE!

Be aware of your surroundings this harvest season. This little reminder could save you time, money, and even **your life!**

REA wishes area farmers a safe and successful Harvest!

NEWSLINE

October 2025

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OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

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!

In celebration of co-op month, REA will have cookies from Country Blossom Farm and apple cider in the REA lobby all month long! Be sure to stop by for a treat!

JOIN US AT REA FOR
COOKIES & CIDER
IN CELEBRATION OF

CO-OP MONTH

ALL OCTOBER LONG!

Be Sure to Use Your Annual Meeting Gift Certificate

If you attended the REA Annual Meeting in April and received a gift certificate, please remember to redeem your certificate at one of the participating REA businesses listed below **before 12/31/25**.



Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center
320-762-1124

Beau Coffee Company
320-239-2078

Blairview Saddle Shop
320-762-5664

Brother's Market: Carlos
320-852-7331

Brother's Market: Miltona
218-943-3333

Burr Vineyards
651-726-4397

Carlos Creek
320-846-5443

Chet's Lakeside Inn
218-943-2471

Country Blossom Farm
320-334-1620

Diamond Waves & Wags Car Wash
320-759-8040

Doraisamy Farm
320-524-2513

Hardwood Hills Golf Course
320-886-1400

Jim & Judy's
320-852-7604

Kadejan Market
320-460-8710

Lake Miltona Golf Club
320-852-7078

Lake Reno Bar & Grill
320-283-5030

L'Etoile du Nord Vineyard
320-298-4686

Long Lake Lodge
320-808-3426

Miltona Greenhouses
218-943-3601

Rolling Forks Vineyards
320-634-7655

Selective TV
320-763-5924

Stivland Gardens
320-283-5227

Taylor's Market
320-805-0405

Tipsinah Mounds Golf Course
218-685-4271



Al Haman
CEO

A Note from the CEO

The evolution of the REA truck

For many of you, when you think of REA, you probably think of our big trucks, especially when they were bright yellow. The transition of our fleet to white trucks began about 15 years ago to increase resale value.

Our trucks play a crucial role at REA, enabling our employees to work safely and efficiently year-round, regardless of the weather. For instance, today's versatile digger derrick truck can dig

holes with an auger, set poles, lift transformers, transport cable reels, and pull trailers loaded with poles or a trencher.

As you've heard me mention before, the past five years have been a period of rising costs for the electric utility industry. Supply chain challenges, state mandates, increased labor costs, higher interest rates, and other factors have contributed to higher electricity rates.

For example, we ordered a chassis for a new digger truck in 2021. It took three years for the chassis to be delivered. We are now waiting for the aerial device to be installed. Hopefully, this truck will be in service in 2026. We have never experienced a five-year process to replace a truck. Hopefully, this will not be the norm.

The delay is one thing. The cost increase is another. Unfortunately, the price tag of the new truck is about \$150,000 more than what we paid for the 14-year-old truck it will replace.

From the first 1/2 ton to today's heavy-duty trucks, REA's fleet and the dedicated employees that operate the equipment are here to serve you with safe and reliable electricity.



REA's first truck (pictured above) was a 1937 International 1/2 ton pickup. With a price tag of \$740, the truck was used by the first service man hired by the co-op in 1938.



REA crews replacing a pole using a pressure digger truck. The Co-op spent \$48,000 on this truck in 1974.



Today's multi-purpose digger derrick and bucket trucks cost nearly \$400,000.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - August 2025

- » Reviewed the July Disbursement Report. The July Financials will be available at the September Board Meeting.
- » As part of a discussion on the warehouse facilities, the Board directed CEO Haman to research recent construction projects at other electric cooperatives to gather information on designs, costs, and consultants, to help determine the life expectancy of the current buildings.
- » Mr. Rooney presented the Energy Management Report, providing a summary of GRE load controls over the past twelve

months, MISO compensation for load control, and an update on the load controller project, including costs and inventory levels.

- » Approved Jay Sieling and Deb Dittberner - District 2, to serve a three-year term on the Member Advisory Council.
- » Reviewed the MREA New Director Orientation and the MREA Energy Issues Summit.
- » **The regular October Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

REA Members Support Their Communities

Operation Round Up Distributes \$11,550 in September!



Representing some of the organizations receiving REA Operation Round Up® grants in September include: First row l to r – Cassie Mead and Quill, Mid-Minnesota K9; Kathy Jacobs, Gobblers of Glacial Ridge; Abby Strom, Elk Lake Area Improvement Association; and Deb Hadley and Denise Hadley, KT Humble Hearts. Second row l to r – Joanne Nettetstad, United Communities Advocating Non-Violence (UCAN); Julie Desautels, Life Connections; Loris and Doris Weisphennig, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery and West Lake Amelia Cemetery; Linda Meizhsner, Zion Lutheran Quilters; Lee Becker, Alexandria Branch – American Association of University Women; and Pat Soberg, Operation Round Up Trust Board. Third row l to r – Rich Duncan, Operation Round Up Trust Board; Bernice Wimmer and Stu MacKechney, Outreach Food Shelf; Jim Erickson, Aeneas Cemetery Association; and Shirley Ross, Hudson Cemetery.

Through the contributions of Runestone Electric Association's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved **\$11,550** to assist local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

REA's Operation Round Up Trust Board, a voluntary board of seven REA members, reviewed and considered 31 grant applications and distributed funds to 24 projects and programs this past quarter. Community-based projects and programs have received nearly \$1.3 million since the program's inception in 2003. On average, participating REA members contribute **\$6.09 for the year**. Proof that small change adds up. Best of all, 96% of all funds collected are distributed as grants.

Fire Departments & First Responders:

- » Osakis First Responders – Medical equipment (\$500)

Community:

- » KT Humble Hearts – Totes for the grieving (\$1,000)
- » Gospel Light Schoolhouse Hymnsing Group – Painting project (\$300)
- » Zion Lutheran (Quilters) Church – Quilting supplies (\$300)
- » Ever Bless Quilters Peace Lutheran Church – Quilting supplies (\$300)
- » Alexandria Branch of AAUS – Project Bookself (\$250)
- » Lakes Area DAC – Accessible bathroom (\$1,000)
- » Minnewaska Lutheran Church Quilters – Quilting Supplies (\$300)
- » United Communities Advocating Non-Violence (UCAN) – Domestic abuse and violence awareness (\$1,000)
- » Life Connections – Buckle Up Baby project (\$1,000)
- » Elk Lake Area Improvement Association – Digital speed sign (\$1,000)
- » Mid-Minnesota K9 – Canine search specialist training (\$500)
- » West Central Area Charities FMSC Committee – Food packing event (\$500)

The following cemeteries received \$300 for maintenance and improvements:

- » Nora Lutheran Cemetery
- » Aeneas Cemetery Association
- » Hudson Cemetery
- » Lake Mary Cemetery Association
- » St. John's Lutheran Cemetery
- » West Lake Amelia Cemetery
- » Ness Cemetery Association.

Youth:

- » Minnewaska Trap Club – Supplies (\$250)
- » Gobblers of Glacial Ridge – Kids Event (\$250)

Food Shelf:

- » Outreach Food Shelf – Food supplies (\$1,000)

The deadline for the next round of funding is **November 7, 2025**. Application forms can be completed at **www.RunestoneElectric.com**



Runestone Electric
ASSOCIATION

Winter Prep Starts Here: Dual Fuel Checklist



Schedule a tune up for both electric & fuel back-up systems

Summer storms can damage equipment controls within heating systems. Testing the systems to ensure they're functioning correctly avoids surprises when winter comes.



Sign up to be notified of control events

To get text messages on control days:
text #loadcontrol to 22300



Check the value of off-peak vs propane



Familiarize yourself with off-peak control

- » During the heating season, the electric heat portion of your dual fuel system is controlled and your back up keeps your space comfortable.
- » You can expect at least 4-5 control events per month during the heating season.
- » Control times can vary from morning to evening.
- » Control will not exceed 12 hours per control event.
- » Off-peak may be controlled up to a maximum of 400 hours, however this is rare.



Plans to escape the cold this winter?

Stop and read **BEFORE** turning off your water heater at your electrical panel

Turning off your water heater during a long trip can save energy—but only if you do it the right way. Follow these tips to avoid losing your off-peak energy savings:

1. Check the Breaker First

Don't turn off the breaker if:

- » You see a yellow sticker (like the one shown in the photo), or
- » Your electrical panel shows the water heater is connected to an off-peak meter and controller. Turning off the breaker in this case will stop power to the off-peak meter—and you'll miss out on off-peak savings while you're gone.

2. Use a Disconnect Switch

Ask your electrician to install a disconnect switch next to your water heater. This lets you turn off the water heater itself, while still keeping power flowing to the off-peak meter and controller.

Still have questions?

Feel free to contact REA.

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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!

Simply text #loadcontrol to 22300
Msg and data rates apply



Call 811 or visit
gopherstateonecall.org
before you dig