



**Scan to view video of the Annual Meeting**

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# NEWSLINE

May 2026

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## Members Gather for the Annual Meeting

### Directors Re-elected

#### DISTRICT 3



**JON WINTER**  
*INCUMBENT*

#### DISTRICT 6



**JOEL SEELA**  
*INCUMBENT*

#### DISTRICT 7



**MATTHEW MATTSON**  
*INCUMBENT*

Runestone Electric Association (REA) held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Alexandria Area High School Performing Arts Center. Board of Director seats were determined in Districts 3, 6 and 7, and scholarships were awarded to 27 students. See page 3 for scholarship recipient details.

REA's bylaws allow for uncontested director elections to be elected by acclamation. Directors Jon Winter (District 3), Joel Seela (District 6) and Matthew Mattson (District 7) ran unopposed and were reelected to serve three-year terms.

Board President Gary (Andy) Anderson, and CEO Al Haman, reported on the cooperative's activities and financial condition during the business meeting. "At year-end, the cooperative's total assets were \$111.5 million. That includes plant assets like the office and warehouse, lines, poles, and transformers. All our ratios exceed lending requirements," said CEO Haman.

Immediately following the adjournment of the meeting, the Board of Directors held a Reorganization Meeting to elect officers. Elected were Gary (Andy) Anderson (District 1), President; Mike Loken (District 5), Vice President; Matthew Mattson (District 7), Treasurer; and Dave Staples (District 4), Secretary. Other directors include Barbara Johnson (District 2), Jon Winter (District 3), and Joel Seela (District 6).



The beautiful spring day brought in over 450 memberships to register for the Annual Meeting!



**Al Haman**  
CEO

# A Note from the CEO

## Highlights from the Annual Meeting

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting. I thought I'd recap a few items I shared during my report to the membership. I focused on some of the challenges we face in the years ahead. These challenges are among the most common questions I've been asked over the past six months.

The most frequent question is: "Why does my electricity bill keep going up?" The answer is complicated, but let me give you the key points affecting our costs.

- **Inflation.** Our construction costs have essentially doubled since 2021. The cost of supporting activities for our core business has also risen significantly. Everything from insurance and labor to postage has increased with inflation. We are working hard to find cost savings wherever possible, without compromising the safety or reliability of the electricity we provide.
- **Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO).** MISO is based in Indiana and serves utilities across the central United States, from Manitoba to Louisiana. It has two primary roles: ensuring power reliability and operating the wholesale power markets and auctions. Several factors have led to volatility in the MISO market including the need for more transmission is due to

congestion, the replacement of coal plants with more expensive natural gas plants, and variability in the day-ahead and real-time markets.

- **Demand-side management programs.** Also known as Off-Peak programs, these programs allow us to control water heaters, air conditioners, and heating systems on the hottest or coldest days of the year, for which participants receive reduced energy rates. However, the way we operate these programs is changing to react to MISO market prices. In the past, power was typically cheap at night and expensive during the day. Today, power costs are driven more by natural gas prices and wind availability.
- **Minnesota's Carbon Free by 2040 law.** Meeting this standard will be extremely difficult and expensive. We are already seeing the need for massive transmission grid expansion to deliver wind and solar power from where it can be generated to Minnesota homes and businesses. Permitting delays, limited wind turbine availability, and changes in federal tax policy are all pushing project timelines further out and driving up costs.

The reality is that costs are rising from many directions at once. I want to assure you that, together with our board of directors, I am committed to making thoughtful, responsible decisions on your behalf.

## TRUCK FOR SALE

Bids are now being accepted to sell a Chevy pickup. The truck may be viewed at REA's Operation Center from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday until May 29, 2026. 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.

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

REA Truck Bid  
6839 Power Lane SW  
Alexandria, MN 56308

**Deadline for submitting a bid is May 29, 2026**



**2020 Chevy K1500 Crew Cab WT**

Extended cab, 5.3 Liter V8 automatic transmission, power windows, locks, and mirrors. 143K miles. Transmission replaced at 123k at Alexandria Motors.

## REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - February & March 2026

### February

- » Reviewed the Post Closing Financial Report for 2025 and the Financial Report for January 2026 noting sales were ahead of budget for the month and we incurred a significant wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) charge from Great River Energy.
- » Reviewed the District Meetings. Staff was directed to continue with a similar format in 2027.
- » Reviewed the Great River Energy Regional Meetings.
- » CEO Haman informed the Board that the water softener system had failed. The Board approved a bid to replace the softener and reverse osmosis systems.

### March

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for February 2026 noting February was a good month financially even with monthly kWh sales 9.5% below budget. The YTD margin continues to be under budget.
- » Director Mattson shared that the GroShed donated to West Central Area Schools' FFA program from REA has been converted into a storage shed. He also noted that the GroShed was the catalyst for the school's greenhouse program.
- » Accepted the 2025 Audit Report presented by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. A clean opinion was issued.
- » **The regular May Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**

# Congratulations to REA Scholarship Recipients!

*We wish you the very best!*

REA's Scholarship Program is funded through unclaimed capital credits. This is money that would otherwise be claimed by the State of Minnesota. Scholarship applicants are required to have a parent or legal guardian that is a member of REA. Winners were determined through a random drawing.



**Jaiden Anderson**  
Parents: Tyler & Kellie Anderson  
Evansville, MN



**Nora Anderson**  
Parents: Mikkel & Amanda Anderson  
Kensington, MN



**Whitney Blume**  
Parents: Dominic & Charlene Blume  
Elbow Lake, MN



**Rowan Boesl**  
Parents: Brent & Amanda Boesl  
Parkers Prairie, MN



**Maddi Bouldin**  
Parents: Shawn & Jessi Bouldin  
Nelson, MN



**Kendall Brueggemeier**  
Parents: Brandon Brueggemeier & Lisa Hilgers Brueggemeier  
Waconia, MN



**Amelia Crossley**  
Parents: Larry & Darla Crossley  
Carlos, MN



**Benjamin Dehne**  
Parents: Jason & Danelle Dehne  
Montevideo, MN



**Lillyana Gylsen**  
Parents: Lee & Kim Gylsen  
Alexandria, MN



**Ryan Greseth**  
Parents: Cory & Melanie Greseth  
Villard, MN



**Samara Groetsch**  
Parents: Corey & Stephanie Groetsch  
Carlos, MN



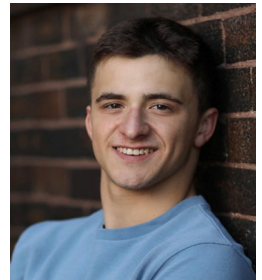
**Carter Kjesbo**  
Parents: Brian & Nicole Kjesbo  
Barrett, MN



**Ava Klimek**  
Parents: Daniel & Sarah Klimek  
Alexandria, MN



**Maari Kvidt**  
Parent: Ben & Abbey Kvidt  
Alexandria, MN



**Hayden Lenarz**  
Parents: Thomas & Denise Lenarz  
Sartell, MN



**Lily Mahoney**  
Parents: Paul & Christine Mahoney  
Kensington, MN



**Levi Middendorf**  
Parents: Travis & Jen Middendorf  
Osakis, MN



**Sophie Pfeffer**  
Parents: Ken & Kristine Pfeffer  
Parkers Prairie, MN



**Julian Ramos**  
Parents: Jorge Ramos & Stephanie Rutten-Ramos  
Farwell, MN



**Sullivan Rooney**  
Parents: Ryan & Hannah Rooney  
Alexandria, MN



**Rose Schonberg**  
Parents: Nathan & Jessica Schonberg  
Farwell, MN



**Lacey Siira**  
Parents: Andy & Emily Siira  
Brandon, MN



**Olivia Suchy**  
Parents: Jacob & Jacki Suchy  
Parkers Prairie, MN



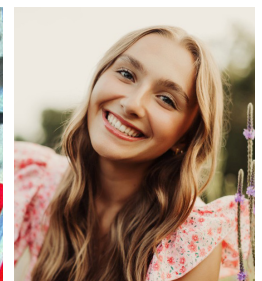
**Abbey Walz**  
Parents: John & Amanda Walz  
Alexandria, MN



**Rebecca Wold**  
Parents: Jared & Pamela Wold  
Alexandria, MN



**Trayton Zeithamer**  
Parents: Randy Zeithamer & Tammy Zeithamer  
Starbuck, MN



**Meadow Zimpel**  
Parents: Philip & Kyrsten Zimpel  
Alexandria, MN



# Small change can change lives with REA's Operation Round Up®

## Representing some of the organizations receiving Operation Round Up Grants in February:

**First row l to r** – Pat Soberg, REA Operation Round Up Trust Board; Joan Helgeson, Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Quilters; JoAnn Boyle, Ann Bickle Heritage House; Becky Christenson, Encore; Stephanie Olsen, Brandon-Evansville Post Prom; LeAnn Pasche, West Central Area South PTO; Judy Dvorsak, Osakis Senior Citizens and Osakis Fire Department; Shauney Gloege, Pope County Humane Society; and Gabby Rye & Amy VanValkenburg, Alexandria Archery. **Second row l to r** – Sonya Anderson, Let's Go Fishing Alexandria Lakes Area; Peggy Lien, Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Quilters; Phil Aslagson, The Caring & Sharing Room; Tudor Ledum, Let's Go Fishing Alexandria Lakes Area; Pam Henrickson, Junior Achievement North; Sharon Fredrickson, Osakis Area Heritage Center; Sandy Susag & Mimi Seykora, Saturday Area Market; and Jim Stratton & Al Hanson, Alexandria Archery. **Third row l to r** – Richard Wittkamp & Allen Wittrock, Let's Go Fishing Alexandria Lakes Area; LeRoy Sanden, Viking Ukeleles; Tyler Byron, Alexandria Fastpitch Softball Association; Ed Schmidt & Julie Miller, Alexandria Art Guild; Stacy Aldrich, Junior Achievement North; Bonnie Schultz, Osakis Area Heritage Center; Chuck Wencil, Red Willow Arts Coalition; Paul Regnier, Alexandria Area High School Graduation Party; and Josh Chan, Bit of Grace. **Fourth row l to r** – David Kjos, Geneva Cemetery; and Roger Thalman, Prairie Woodcarvers.

Through the contributions of Runestone Electric Association's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board approved \$14,300 to the following organizations in February:

### Youth:

- » Alexandria Fastpitch Softball Association (\$300)
- » Alexandria Area High School Graduation Party (\$300)
- » Prairie Woodcarvers (\$500)
- » Alexandria Archery (\$500)
- » Junior Achievement North (\$300)
- » Brandon-Evansville Post Prom (\$300)

### Cemeteries:

- » Geneva Cemetery (\$300)
- » Bethel Memorial Cemetery (\$300)

### Seniors:

- » Osakis Senior Citizens (\$500)
- » Encore (formerly Alexandria Senior Center) (\$500)

### Community:

- » Bit of Grace (\$500)
- » Saturday Art Market (\$500)
- » Alexandria Rotary Club (\$600)
- » Andes Ski Patrol (\$500)
- » The Caring & Sharing Room (\$850)
- » Glenwood Lakes Area Welcome Center (\$200)
- » Hoffman Harvest Festival (\$250)
- » Pope Co. Humane Society (\$500)
- » Ann Bickle Heritage House (\$500)
- » Red Willow Arts Coalition (\$500)
- » West Central Area South PTO (\$500)
- » Osakis Area Heritage Center (\$300)
- » Let's Go Fishing Alexandria Lakes Area (\$1,000)
- » Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Quilters (\$300)
- » Conexiones (\$300)
- » Alexandria Art Guild (\$500)
- » Viking Ukeleles (\$200)

## NEWSLINE

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### Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon- Fri.

### Board of Directors

District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson, President

District 2: Barbara Johnson, Director

District 3: Jon Winter, Director

District 4: Dave Staples, Secretary

District 5: Mike Loken, Vice President

District 6: Joel Seela, Director

District 7: Matthew Mattson, Treasurer

### 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

**The deadline to apply for the next round of funding is May 8, 2026**

Apply at [RunestoneElectric.com](http://RunestoneElectric.com).



Call 811 or visit  
[gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org)  
 before you dig