



When the Power Goes Out

We Go Out!

Restoring Your Power
After the Storm

NEWSLINE

July 2026

Operation Round Up pg 3 Time to Replace Your AC? pg 4



Additional storm
coverage on page 2. »

REA member Tim Lauthen and Bella watch as an REA crew works to restore power to their farm west of Garfield.



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WAYS TO PAY

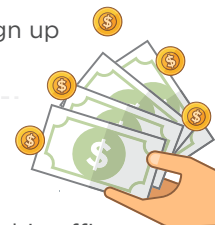
To ensure the highest level of security for your financial information, we no longer process credit card payments **by phone** at our local office. All **over-the-phone** payments will be directed to a secure, external payment processing center.

You are still welcome to call the office with your payment, and we can transfer you to the secure system. In addition to this payment method, REA offers many convenient payment options! Check out the infographics to see them all!

Never forget to pay your bill again with REA's Auto Pay Program. The **automatic payments come out on the due date** from a checking, savings, debit or credit card. Sign up through SmartHub.



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In Person

Stop by the Alexandria office Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4 PM to pay by check, cash or card.



By Check

As it's always been, you can mail us a check or drop it in the dropbox located at our office in Alexandria.



Feel the ease of instantly paying your bill anytime with REA's Secure Pay program. Simply call 1-855-941-3549 and pay using a check, credit card or debit card.

Pay by Phone



Pay Now

Make a quick, single transaction without having to register for a SmartHub account. Visit runestoneelectric.com to get started

Remember to Update your Phone Numbers!

To verify the phone number(s) associated with your account, check the section under your name in the top-left corner of your bill. If the number is incorrect, you can update it through SmartHub or by calling our office at 800-473-1722.



Al Haman
CEO

A Note from the CEO

Storm blows through region bringing down trees and power lines

Many of you were probably awakened by a major thunderstorm that roared through our region early morning on June 10th. High winds, reported at 60 to 80 mph, did the most damage,

bringing down trees and power lines throughout our service territory. Train cars were even blown over west of Hoffman.

Within minutes, more than 8,000 of our 15,000 accounts were left without power, and 8 of our 19 substations were down. By daylight, we determined that 19 poles were broken or damaged and needed to be replaced. More damaged poles will likely be discovered once seasonal members arrive at their cabins and campers throughout the summer.

This storm was not as devastating as the storms we experienced in May of 2022, when we had 78 broken poles, 11 of our 18 substations down, and a tornado changed the lives of many near Forada. Nonetheless,

this storm caused damage to transmission and distribution lines across a wide swath of Runestone Electric's service territory – from Cyrus to Eagle Bend and everything in between.

We are so thankful for the crews from ALP Utilities in Alexandria, Lake Region Electric Cooperative in Pelican Rapids, and Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton who helped us restore everyone's power. We had everyone back on by Thursday evening, with no reports of injuries, vehicle accidents, or major equipment issues. This is quite amazing when you realize the amount of chainsaw work involved, lifting and pulling of wire and poles, and the electrical hazards of line work.

We are also thankful to you, our members. We appreciated your patience during the outage as we worked to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Your kindness to those answering phone calls in the office was appreciated. Some of you assisted our crews with your tractors, and someone even bought lunch for several linemen in Evansville. Thank you! You set a great example of the cooperative way of life!

I am extremely grateful to the folks at REA - unsung heroes to everyone who takes electricity for granted. It's a given, it's always there...until it's not. Please offer them my thanks!

Kyle



Thanks all of the employees and mutual aid workers for their hard work in helping to restore outages. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Rebecca



Huge shout out to REA, ALP, Ottertail Power, all the county and state workers for all their hard work, risking their lives, being away from their families and working long hours. It is very much appreciated!

Stacy



Many thanks for your hard work, long days and nights, for an excellent job. SO MUCH APPRECIATION!

Carol

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - May 2026

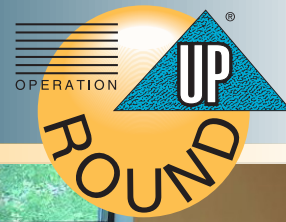
- » Reviewed the April 2026 Financial Report noting that operations and maintenance expenses are below budget due to work being capitalized. The monthly margin is ahead of budget, while the YTD margin remains under budget until we collect the significant GRE PCA charge incurred in January.
- » CEO Haman outlined the details of two separate Solar Facilities Sales Agreements presented by Great River Energy (GRE), outlining the purchase of both the 20 kW Community Solar Phase One facilities and a separate agreement to purchase the

18kWac solar facilities, installed by GRE as part of a statewide GRE solar demonstration initiative. Both facilities are co-located east of the REA headquarters.

- » Approved amended terms for a GRE wind energy purchase.
- » Approved Darrin & Maria Braaten, Kensington, as new Member Advisory Council Members in District 7.
- » **The regular July Board Meeting will be Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**

REA Members Support Their Communities

Operation Round Up Distributes \$20,100 in June!



Representing some of the organizations receiving REA Operation Round Up grants in February include: First row l to r – Susie Sieben, Barrett Old Settlers Reunion; Natalie Runge & Callie, Mid-Minnesota K9; Diane Zeithamer, Sonya Anderson and Greg Billberg, Support Our Kids (SOKs); Marion Wrolson, Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery Association; and Heather Netland, Kalon Prep Academy. Second row l to r – Harold Peterson, Brandon Cemetery Association; Judy Hoffman and Deb Quernemoen, Shalom Lutheran Piece Makers Quilt Group; Rhonda Blaser, Vikingland Band Festival; Aaron Feltman, LOVE, Inc.; Barb Ziegelman and Lacey Baumann, Garfield Community Club; Alisa Henrichs, Brandon-Evansville Summer Rec; and Sadie Riedel, Courtney Murphy, and Heather Smith-Ahrens, Alexandria Splashpad. Third row l to r – Linzey Gerads, Douglas County Housing & Redevelopment Authority; Don Kalpin, Leaf Valley Fire Department; Terrill Morical, Brandon Community Club; Stan Stark, Aeneas Cemetery Association; Brian Dahl, Kid's Groundwater Festival; Kim Hanson, West Moe Lutheran Church Barn Dance; Cheryl Gebhardt, Brandon-Evansville Trap Team; and Susan Kalina, Pope County Council on Aging.

Through the contributions of Runestone Electric Association's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved **\$20,100** 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 44 grant applications and distributed funds to 40 projects and programs this past quarter. Community-based projects and programs have received over \$1.3 million since the program's inception in 2003. On average, participating REA members contribute **\$6.50 for the year**. Proof that small change adds up. Best of all, 95% of all funds collected are distributed as grants.

Fire Departments & First Responders:

- » Leaf Valley Fire Department – Update SCBAs (\$1,000)
- » Lowry Fire Department – Pagers (\$1,000)
- » Garfield Relief Association – Turnout Gear (\$1,000)
- » Glenwood Fire Department – Rescue tool mount (\$1,000)

Youth:

- » City of Starbuck – Kids Safety Camp (\$600)
- » Brandon-Evansville Trapshooting Team – Supplies (\$300)
- » Kids' Groundwater Festival (\$500)
- » Stevens County 4H – Robotics program (\$500)
- » Support Our Kids – Mental health program (\$500)
- » Zion Lutheran School Community playground improvements (\$500)
- » Radiothon to End Child Abuse – (\$600)
- » Minnewaska Trap Team – Supplies (\$300)
- » Alex Brush & Pallete Club – Youth community art fair (\$200)

- » Brandon/Evansville Summer Rec – summer ball and swim lessons (\$500)
- » Kalon Prep Academy – Post graduation event (\$300)

Community:

- » Wendell Legion & Auxiliary – Supplies for fundraiser (\$300)
- » Garfield Community Club – Garfield Days (\$250)
- » Gather and Give – Operation expenses (\$500)
- » Piece Makers Quilt Group – Supplies (\$300)
- » Alexandria Splashpad – Accessibility equipment (\$1,000)
- » Lake Area Quilters – Supplies (\$300)
- » West Moe Lutheran Church – Community barn dance (\$200)
- » Love Inc, DCLA – Transportation/bike ministry (\$1,000)
- » Mid-Minnesota K9 – Operational expenses (\$500)
- » Barrett Old Settlers Reunion – Kiddie carnival (\$300)
- » Douglas County Housing & Redevelopment Authority – Transportation assistance (\$500)
- » Sharing Love & Hope – Food pantry (\$1,000)

- » St. John's Lutheran Church – Quilting supplies (\$300)
- » Friends of the Douglas County Fair – Veterans monument (\$500)
- » Hoffman Farmer's Market & Meal – Music for the event (\$500)
- » True Friends – Camp scholarships (\$500)
- » Vikingland Band Festival – Parade expenses (\$500)
- » Brandon Community Club – Welcome sign (\$250)

Seniors:

- » Pope County Council on Aging – Summer and fall events (\$500)

Cemeteries:

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

- » Lake Ben Cemetery Association
- » St. Luke's Cemetery Association
- » Trysil Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery Association
- » Oscar Lake Church Cemetery Association
- » Aeneas Cemetery Association
- » Brandon Cemetery Association
- » Bethel Cemetery Association

The deadline for the next round of funding is **August 7, 2026**
Application forms can be completed at www.RunestoneElectric.com

How's your Air Conditioner Holding up?

Is it Time to Replace your AC?



Runestone Electric
ASSOCIATION

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
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District 7: Matthew Mattson, Treasurer

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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

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Simply text #loadcontrol to 22300
Msg and data rates apply



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visit gopherstateonecall.org
before you dig



Air Conditioner

Absorbs heat inside and expels it from your home, returning the cooled air into the home

Only used during the warm months when home cooling is needed

Cycled AC bill credit available in summer months

\$50
REA Rebate



Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)

Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (throughout the home, using ductwork)

Offers heating and cooling through every season

Year-round special Off-Peak rates apply

Up to \$900
REA Rebate



Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump

Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (zones of the home, no ductwork needed)

Offers heating and cooling through every season, can be installed in any room or space

Does not qualify for Off-Peak Program

\$200
REA Rebate

Additional research and incentive information can be found at www.mnashp.org

BONUS WINTER BENEFIT: Electric ASHP heating is much more efficient and cost effective than fuel heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses. Plus, stable electric rates will help you protect yourself from ever-volatile propane and gas prices.

Call REA or visit www.runestoneelectric.com to find the heating and cooling system that works best for your home!