The monthly happenings for the members of Runestone Electric Association

Runestone Electric Association

REA Wishes You and Your Family a Very Happy Thanksgiving!

REA will be closed November 26 and 27.

To report a power outage or an emergency, call (800) 473-1722. We have a 24-hour answering service to take your call.

During this time when we have so much for which to be thankful, we want to thank you for your business!

NEWSLINE

November 2026

Propane vs. Electric Heat pg 3 **Christmas Lighting Drawing** pg 4

DAY TRIP WITH THE BUS TOUR MEMBERSHIP



Tour Snapshots: Fun on the Road with REA



Andes Tower Hills



On top of the ski hill



Andes Tower Hills



Pope/Douglas Metal Recovery and Ash Landfill



Douglas County Historical Society Director Brittany Johnson



Kensington Rune Stone Park



West Central Research and Outreach Center



West Central Research and Outreach Center



Ryan Rooney
Manager of Energy Services & Business Development

A Note from Ryan Rooney
3rd Annual Member Tour recap

To celebrate National Cooperative Month, REA hosted its 3rd Annual Member Tour on October 2. It was my pleasure, along with REA Accountant Sara Reemts, to serve as tour hosts.

Our first stop was Andes Tower Hills. We heard about the great things happening at Andes, including a description of the energy, water, and labor it takes to make it a winter attraction each year. We also learned about the history of the ski hill and how it has become an important asset for our region. The visit ended with tour to the top of the ski hill using Jeeps owned by Paul Anderson! What a view!

We next visited Pope/Douglas Metal Recovery and Ash Landfill and, composting site. Nick, the site manager, gave us a tour of the facility. We learned that up to 10% of the ash that comes to the facility is metal that they recover and sell, providing revenue for the facility and extending the life of the landfill at the same time. He highlighted how the innovation and partnership between Pope and Douglas County continues to bring value to the area.

Our tour continued to Kensington Rune Stone Park. Lunch was served by Papa K's Rescue BBQ. Douglas County Historical Society Director Brittany Johnson shared the park's history. We learned about the early visions of the park and the dedication of many people over the years to bring us this great park property.

After lunch, we headed to West Central Research and Outreach Center an extension of the U of M St Paul Campus on the edge of Morris. Eric Buchanan, the WCROC's Director of Renewable Energy gave us a tour of the Ag Energy Lab where we learned about their electric tractor, robotic cultivator, and solar projects related to cattle shading. We also toured the green anhydrous ammonia plant powered from the wind turbines to its south. Eric did a great job of answering our many questions and demonstrated the great research happening at the WCROC. Certainly, a stop worth visiting again!

The final stop was a coffee break at The Grounds at Homestead in Morris. The timing was perfect for a coffee break and some shopping. Great to see the investments made into the Morris community. It is worth planning a visit for yourself the next time you are in Morris.

On our return trip to REA, we drove by the Grant County Wind Farm and the Roseville Substation along Hwy 59 north of Morris. We shared details of the substation and how the wind farm is connected to the transmission system.

I want to thank all the businesses and members who participated in the tour. Once again, I was amazed and intrigued by the variety of businesses REA serves. I'm already looking forward to next year's tour!



A full bus of REA members enjoyed the Member Tour in October. Tour stops included Andes Tower Hills, Pope/Douglas Metal Recovery and Ash Landfill, Kensington Rune Stone Park, West Central Research and Outreach Center, and Homestead Grounds.



Members enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by REA members Jeff & Amber Johannes' Papa K's Rescue BBQ in the beautiful visitor's center at Kensington Rune Stone Park. The visitors center can be reserved year-round.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - September 2026

» Reviewed the August 2026 Financial Report noting sales were strong for August, resulting in a positive gross margin variance. Our REA margin YTD budget gap is decreasing. Customer growth is slowing.

» Discussed REA's irrigation sales this season. 2026 is the second-largest sales total behind 2023.

» Reviewed patronage refunds from National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) and Cooperative Response Center (CRC) also reviewed the Rural Utility Service (RUS) External Compliance Review.

» Directed CEO Haman to pursue a facility study for the aging Operations Center facility.

» **The regular November Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**

Construction continues to progress

Alexandria to Big Oaks transmission line project



This year, crews have been completing foundation work, structure installation and conductor stringing along the route. One of the most visible activities underway is helicopter wire stringing. Helicopters are being used in select locations to safely and efficiently install power lines while minimizing impacts on the land below. Approximately 25 miles of line have now been strung. At the Alexandria and Riverview substations, grading work is complete, with foundation work now in progress.

As a reminder, the Alexandria to Big Oaks project will add a second 345-kV circuit to the existing CapX2020 transmission line between Alexandria and the new Big Oaks Substation near Becker. The project will increase transmission capacity, improve reliability, and reduce congestion on the regional electric grid. Great River Energy, Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, Missouri River Energy Services, and Otter Tail Power Company are jointly developing the project, with Xcel Energy leading construction on behalf of the project partners.

The project remains on schedule, with completion anticipated in 2027. For more information, visit www.alexandriatobigoaks.com.

PROPANE VS ELECTRIC

VISIT WWW.RUNESTONEELECTRIC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE BEST VALUE FOR YOUR HOME

BETTER OPTION

When **Propane** *is* $1.83/gal. *and higher*

REA's Dual Fuel Rate

BEST OPTION!

When **Propane** *is* 95¢/gal. *and higher*

Air Source Heat Pump

on REA's Dual Fuel Rate

Correcting Stray Voltage Conditions



As a member of Runestone Electric Association, you should feel free to call us anytime with concerns related to your electric service. One area that can be a concern, particularly for livestock farms, is stray voltage.

Although stray voltage is present on all distribution systems, humans usually do not notice it. However, livestock - especially dairy cows - are particularly sensitive. The goal is to keep the voltage level low enough that it will not cause a problem on the farm. Stray voltage can also result from deteriorating and improper wiring, faulty equipment, or improper grounding. Because of high electric use, high humidity, silage acids, and manure, a dairy farm is not the ideal environment for electrical wiring.

REA offers stray voltage investigations at no charge.



The Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide outlines the steps farmers, electricians, utilities and their advisors can take to discover and resolve stray voltage concerns on livestock farms. When farmers and utility companies work together, stray voltage concerns are more likely to be satisfactorily resolved. To download the Guide, visit www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.

let it GLOW

Let's light up the countryside! REA presents the **6th Annual Let It Glow** event to recognize members who put in hard work on their light displays AND to let our communities know where to look for these spectacular lights. Check out the details below.

Prizes:

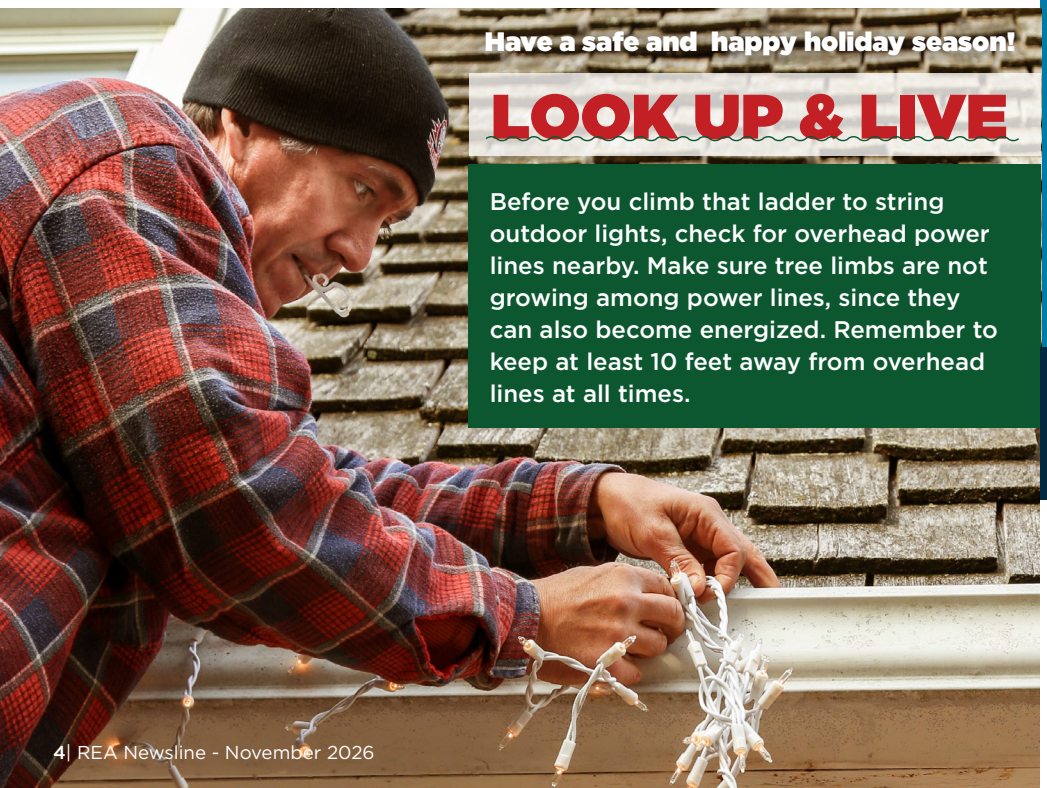
All Christmas light display entries will be entered into a drawing for one of three $100 bill credits.

Registration:

Online registration form at www.runestoneelectric.com or call REA at 800-473-1722. Submit a photo with an address so that the public will know where to go to check out the holiday displays.

Details:

- Display must be served by Runestone Electric Association (REA).
- Deadline for drawing entry is 12/10/26.
- Drawing will be held on 12/11/26 and winners will be notified.
- Map of participating displays will be available at www.runestoneelectric.com on 12/15/26.



Have a safe and happy holiday season!

LOOK UP & LIVE

Before you climb that ladder to string outdoor lights, check for overhead power lines nearby. Make sure tree limbs are not growing among power lines, since they can also become energized. Remember to keep at least 10 feet away from overhead lines at all times.

Runestone Electric Association

NEWSLINE

The official monthly publication of Runestone Electric Association.

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Board of Directors

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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

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

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through an app such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Only use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams