

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



February 2010

Connections



Vol. 14, No. 2



We can't hear from these members...

'Cash for clunker' appliances starts in Minnesota March 1

It's a jungle out there when it comes to missing members!

Some co-op members have "bananas" coming to them in the form of capital credits. These members moved without leaving forwarding addresses. Help them gain the rewards of co-op patronage. (See Pages 2-3).

It is important that your electric co-op locate these missing members. Since we no longer have their current address, their capital credits check was returned — address unknown. If you know the location of any of these members, call or e-mail the appropriate co-op with the member's current address. They'll go ape over getting their check!

Unclaimed capital credits checks are donated to a tax-exempt organization. Brown County REA and Federated Rural Electric give unclaimed capital credits to their Operation Round Up program. Brown's Round Up Trust Board donates to programs that benefit their rural residents and local communities. Federated's Round Up Trust Board awards high school scholarships. South Central Electric donates funds to local fire departments and rescue squads. 🦒

You might have got rid of an old car with the Cash For Clunkers Program. Now you can get rid of an old inefficient appliance the same way.

Starting March 1, the Trade-in & Save Appliance Program will offer approximately 25,000 Minnesota homeowners a rebate for replacing their old appliance with a qualifying Energy Star model purchased from a Minnesota retailer. This website (www.mnappliancerebate.com) will be launched February 1 until the rebate reservation system opens on March 1. Go to this website for the program's eligibility requirements, rules and forms. A program specific phone number will be available closer to March 1.

Minnesota's allocation of more than \$5 million includes Energy Star rebates on:

- Clothes washers — \$200
- Dishwashers — \$150
- Freezers — \$100 with purchase and proof of recycling or \$50 for purchase only
- Refrigerators — \$200 with purchase and proof of re-

— *Continued on Page 7*



Connecting our co-ops & members to a progressive future



Inside this issue:

Line patrol underway...Page 4

Detect furnace failure with HSS...Pages 4-5

This publication focuses on CAP's members, programs and events. As this is the official member publication, member's story ideas, letters-to-the-editor and comments are welcomed.
 Andrea Christoffer, CCC, Editor
 "Owned by those it serves"

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These members exist in the land of the lost!

Don't 'monkey' around; help us find these missing members so they 'see' their capital credit checks!

Former South Central members: Call 375-3164, 628-5571 or 1-888-805-7232; ask for Betty or e-mail bjohnson@southcentralelectric.com.

Former Federated members: Call 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520; ask for Nina or e-mail billing@federatedrea.coop.

- Abel, Robert Huson, MT
- Amundson, Bernice Windom
- Anderson, Kari Gerdes Round Lake
- Austin, Kathy Luverne
- Becker, Elizabeth E. Fairmont
- Blachowske, Tom Fairmont
- Boehne, Kelly Fairmont
- Bresson, David Marshall
- Bretzman, Ralph Dubois, WY
- Buhr, Traci (Holty) Jackson
- Carpenter, Mae Novota, CA
- Carrasco, Diana Welcome
- Christiansen, Troy Saint Ansgar, IA
- Frank, Lyle Lake Park, IA
- Garber, Theresa Jackson
- Glidden, Kay Harris, IA
- Glidden, Ruth Fairmont
- Gorman, Steve Fairmont
- Grantz, Nancy L. Maple Grove
- Gronewold, John North Mankato
- Hoeffner, Keith Jackson
- Hogan, Shane Bothell, WA

- Hanson, James & Rachel Ames, IA
- Hase, Gary Ceylon
- Hussong, Mark
% Richard Ulbricht Haiku, HI
- Isder, Jim Round Lake
- King, Patty Round Lake
- Koep, Robert L. Windom
- Koster, Ray Sac City, IA
- Koth, Tom Spirit Lake, IA
- Krueger, James Bethany, MO
- Lueck, Penny Welcome
- McKenna, Jamie Estherville, IA
- Mattison, David Windom
- Meyer, Marshall Owatonna
- Miller, Ginny Lakefield
- Miller, James Jackson
- Miller, Kara Windom
- Molitor, Milo Sibley, IA
- Mortinson, Matt Good Thunder
- Moritz, Mary Sioux Falls, SD
- Oeljenbruns, Barb Conness Jackson
- Ogilvie, Darrell
& Juliann Sioux Falls, SD
- Olson, Cindy Fairmont
- Prochniak, Leroy Fairmont
- Redenius, Troy Fairmont
- Schaal, Delon Schuyler, NE
- Taylor, Steve Lakefield
- Thomas, William
& Linda Cedar Rapids, IA
- Torbenson, Cindy Armstrong, IA

- Adams, Jerry Watertown, WI
- Arndt, David Lakefield
- Baker, Martin Courtland
- Barker, Tom Sioux Falls, SD
- Behr, Jeff Trimont
- Behrends, Dennis W. Northome
- Bramstedt, LuAnn Windom
- Bridges, Darwin E. Frisco, TX
- Brogger, Steven Jamestown, TN
- Byers, Richard D. Hanska
- Christians, Eddison Windom
- Christianson, Marie Westbrook
- Clemmensen, Duane Trimont
- Dexheimer, Earl St. James
- Dickson, Joseph Mountain Lake
- Draegert, Daryl Shoreview
- Eberhardt, Joel Tyler
- Engelby, Steven Madelia
- Engler, Lonn Windom
- Erickson, Scott Mankato
- Forstie, Mitchell St. James
- Foster, Terry Estherville, IA
- Fransen, Tom Rolfe, IA
- Frederickson, Cary Fairfax
- Geerdes, Tami Lake Crystal
- Giersdorf, Kristine Westbrook
- Goin, Paul Boulder City, NV
- Heidelberger, Kenneth Moorhead
- Heller, Mark Fargo, ND
- Hesse, Avis H. St. James
- Hoppe, Scott Alpha
- Johnson, David A. Somerworth, NH
- Kain, Calvin Truman





Explaining capital credits:

As a member-owner, you have a share in the earnings of your not-for-profit electric co-op. Your co-op's rates are set to bring in enough money to pay operating costs, make loan payments and provide an emergency reserve. Revenues in excess of the cost of doing business are returned to members as capital credits. The co-op holds onto these capital credits for a period of years, according to policy, before returning them to you, the member-owners. The reason your co-op holds onto these monies is because your co-op is a very capital-intensive business. It needs to invest a lot of money in substations, transformers, poles, wire, etc. This then allows your co-op to provide reliable electricity to its members. 🌱

Klein, Pete
 Koch, James
 Kopka, Kevin
 Kuntz, Al
 Langeland, Ardith M.
 Larson, Mark
 Lawrence, Sandy
 Lindquist, Kevin
 Lorenzen, Andy
 Maertens, Danial
 Marsh, Steve
 McMartin, Hazel
 Meyer, Rod
 Meyer, Sylvia
 Miller, Mike
 Mohlenbrock, Bryan
 Nelson, Tim D.
 Nickel, Todd
 Nielsen, Holger
 Oddson, Charles
 Oldenburg, Terry
 Olson, Raymond L.
 Peterson, Troy.
 Potter, Rex J.
 Pritchett, Herbert
 Ramsey, Michael
 Reese, Jay
 Schaal, Delon
 Schaffer, Glen
 Smart, Richard
 Smith, Mrs. Oscar O.
 Sowers, Troy Jean
 Steffen, Ormal
 Surber, John
 Thiessen, Earl D.
 Thrun, Larry

Heron Lake
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Northrup
 Madelia
 Lakefield
 Anchorage, AK
 St. Paul
 Winona
 Fairmont
 Fergus Falls
 Madelia
 Eden Prairie
 Pipestone
 Madelia
 Jeffers
 Kirtland, NM
 Windom
 Sanborn
 Fairmont
 Windom
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Comfrey
 Mt Lake
 Windom
 Mountain Lake
 Mountain Lake
 Boonville, MO
 Truman
 Eota
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Windom
 New Ulm
 Baudette
 Edgemont, SD
 Inver Grove Heights
 St. James

Ullery, Margaret D.
 Voth, Vera V.
 Walklin, Darrell
 Waterbury, Lynne
 Welton, Richard
 Wetter, Scott
 Whelan, Daniel
 Zishka, Fred

Windom
 Windom
 Rockville
 Las Vegas, NV
 Windom
 Riverside, CA
 Alden
 Worthington

Former Brown County members: Call 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368. Otherwise, e-mail bcrea@browncountyrea.coop

Ackerson, Stewart L. Fargo, ND
 Bartol, David H. Pine River
 Blaschko, Norita Columbus, OH
 Carmichael, Terry Rowlett, TX
 Catherman, Daniel R. LaValle, WI
 Dahlen, Larry A. Irving, TX
 Elias, Kenneth L. Racine, WI
 Erickson, Glenn L. Mankato
 Fitzgerald, John P. New Ulm
 Frederiksen, Scott C. Wabasso
 Freitag, Dennis H. Lewisville
 Gonzales, Jesus Hanska
 Hall, Ted J. Maple Shade, NJ
 Henrichs, Steven L. Fairfax
 Kliner, Dale J. MD Blackstone, VA
 L.P. Triax Midwest Assn. Denver, CO
 Lornes, Gladys I. New Ulm
 Maenner Relocation Inc. Omaha, NE
 Malsch, Daniel J. Marysville, WA
 Marti, Elden Alexandria
 Mastick, Rob R. Highlands Ranch, CO
 Miller, Dean Redwood Falls

Moore, Terry A. New Ulm
 Moser, Todd W. Morris
 Neubauer, Vincent T. Mankato
 Olson, Allen E. New Ulm
 Peterson, Diane M. Winnebago
 Peterson, Roland A. Winthrop
 Reighard, Paulette L. Eldora, IA
 Reim, Dan Klossner
 Schmidt, Susan New Ulm
 Sirovy, Edward L. New Ulm
 Smith, Robert L. Lakeville
 Spicer, Debbie L. New Ulm
 Spicer, Gary New Ulm
 Stolt, Gerald H. Lindstrom
 US West Communications Denver, CO
 Wieseler, James A. New Ulm
 Williams, Edward C. Hanska
 Wilson, Bert Lafayette
 Zemple, Wallace R. New Ulm



Snow problems?

Avoid these snow-moving dangers

'Snow' tired of winter and moving snow? Your electric cooperative offers a few snow moving tips involving your electric service.

- Watch where you are creating your snow piles. Be sure that a child would not climb on the snow pile and touch an overhead power line and be electrocuted.
- Is your padmount transformer (green box for underground service) buried under snow drifts? Do not guess where it is and risk hitting it when moving snow. You would be responsible for the labor and equipment costs for the cooperative to repair it. Hand dig around it if possible. Keep it



Know what this is on the right? It's the energized electric elbows that go up into a green single-phase

cabinet. A person moving snow ran over the box, which was hidden by snowdrifts and tore it off. Luckily, they were not hurt. However, the damage amounted to more than \$1,000, which hurt their wallet. Use caution when moving snow near co-op equipment.

clear in case linemen would need access to it during an outage.

- Do not blow snow onto the fuse located on our pole or wires. It may cause an outage.

- Can't find your meter as its buried under snow drifts? Your electric co-op can estimate your bill. That buys you some time for the snow to melt. ❄️

Don't let costly energy drip down the drain

Your home wastes more than you might realize and that's costing you money. Take control of your water usage and energy costs. Get your Energy Saving Water

Kit between January 1-March 31, 2010. Order your kit online at mnbrighterideas.com (and use the co-op code below) or use the form below. Cost is only \$10! ❄️

What's inside your
\$10 Energy Saving
Water Kit
(\$40 retail value)

- The Earth™ Massage Showerhead
- Kitchen Swivel Aerator
- Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators
- Hot Water Temperature Card
- Plumber's Tape

In order to receive this Energy Saving Water Kit at the special discount price, you must be a cooperative member and you must use electricity to heat your water.

Indicate your electric co-op:

_____ Brown County REA
Code: BCR741

_____ Federated REA
Code: FRE874

_____ South Central Electric
Code: SCE245

Yes / No I heat my water with electricity.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

ALT PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Place your completed order form and a \$10 check or money order, payable to Niagra Conservation Corp., in an envelope and mail to:

Niagra Conservation Corp.
ATTN: Great River Energy Kit Offer
PO Box 501
Cedar Knolls NJ 07927

OR go on-line: www.mnbrighterideas.com and use a credit card.





Heads up! Flip over pancake and waffle recipes!

Share with us your favorite pancake or waffle recipes by January 25 to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, drop it off at your local electric co-op. Add your name and phone number. 📞

Delicate Pancakes by Irleen Deling, Ceylon

2 T. butter 2 T. flour 1 c. milk
4 eggs ½ tsp. salt

Separate eggs and beat the whites until stiff. Beat the yolks thoroughly. Add flour and salt. When well mixed stir in the milk. At the last moment fold in the whites. Melt butter in a large skillet. Pour in the batter and cook over a moderately hot burner until it begins to set. Then transfer the pan to a hot oven to finish cooking. Turn onto a hot dish and serve with applesauce. 📞

Mile High Pancakes

by Marge Smith, St. James

1½ c. buttermilk
2 eggs
1 c. flour
1½ tsp. sugar
½ tsp. baking soda
dash of salt

Mix buttermilk and eggs. Add dry ingredients and mix. It will still be a little lumpy. Flip when bubbles form. If you have any extras, they freeze great. 📞



Date Nut Cookies by Gudrun Kjelshus, Hanska

1 c. sugutes in 375° oven. 📞

Heavy actilawer. 📞

— *Courtesy of safeelectricity.org*

Cash in on an old clunker appliance!

— *Continued from Page 1*

cycling or \$100 for purchase only

Homeowners will be limited to one rebate for a single appliance purchase (maximum of \$200 per household). Once a reservation for a rebate is made, the resident will have 17 days to purchase, recycle and submit their rebate application. Funds from unclaimed reservations or disqualified applications will be given to residents on a first come first serve basis who “wait listed” themselves for a rebate and submitted their paperwork.

The “proof of recycling” is required to earn 100 percent of the rebate on refrigerators and freezers; it can be signed by any party picking up an appliance who certifies that it will be taken off the grid and turned over to an appropriate recycler ensuring the appliance will be fully decommissioned and the CFCs recycled. The consumer can provide the TOC number provided by their recycler if the appliance pickup will not allow the resident to meet the 17-day submission deadline.

Rebates are not retroactive for purchases made outside the program timeframe. This program is estimated to create 59 jobs and annually save 2,200,412 KWh in energy, 43,729,920 gallons of water and 4,705,065 lbs of carbon (CO₂). If you are a consumer and have questions on the program, send your inquiry to energy.info@state.mn.us or call 1-800-657-3710.

Be sure to apply for your electric cooperative’s appliance rebates as well; call the office or download the co-op’s rebate form from our website. 📞

Don't dig up trouble!



1-800-252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org

Contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before doing any digging more than 12-inches deep. Make this call 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register on the website at www.gopherstateonecall.org. This gives utilities time to mark their underground lines up to your meter so you are safe! Then contact a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. 📞



Richard 'Rick' Burud

Manager's Message

Christmas without lights

What a Christmas! Some members went without power until crews could make their way through the snowstorm. A big thank you goes to the personnel who worked in big drifts and whiteout conditions to get the lights back on. Thanks also go out to members who helped pull the line trucks out when they got stuck. It was good to get the line personnel home by about 9:30 p.m. Christmas night with everyone's

service restored.

Danger under the snowbanks

When blowing snow, be sure to know where your padmount transformer and switch are located. Damaging this equipment is dangerous and costly. Besides being out of power, you'd be charged to repair or replace the equipment, plus labor costs. So be alert. Surprisingly, we've already had two such accidents.

AMR status (automatic meter reading)

We sent off the awarding contract to Sensus for their review and hope to have the contract fully executed by February 1. This system will provide daily meter readings to our office using radio frequencies to send and receive this data. The tower work and computer equipment installation will take place in February and March, weather permitting. After that, we'll lay out a systematic process to start on meter change-outs of large power and seasonally read accounts. If all goes as planned and the system performs, we'll start next winter to change out all of the residential/farm meters with full completion by March 2011. 📡



Rural Electric

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Lyle Fisher — 847-4757

David Meschke — 238-1122

Jon Saxen — 764-3771

The Board of Directors generally meets the last business day of the month at 9 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

Board meeting highlights

Federated Rural Electric's Board of Directors met December 1. All directors were present. They acted on these issues:

