



THE OUTLET

Monthly Publication of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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AUGUST 2024

ANNUAL SAFETY TRAINING

MLEC pole top rescue training was held on July 24th. Training is facilitated through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA). Each year, our lineworkers, right-of-way workers, and other staff that may assist in storm situations review what to do in case of an emergency that involves a fellow crew member. At this time, lineworkers re-certify their climbing skills and practice different emergency scenarios. If a lineworker was to have an emergency while climbing a pole, the training would ensure another lineworker would be able to rescue them, lower the individual safely to the ground, and begin first aid. Using different rigging combinations lets the lineworkers practice for a variety of situations. MLEC always puts safety first, and by performing safety trainings, the cooperative is assuring that our employees are properly trained to handle any situation.



OPEN HOUSE & ANNUAL MEETING

You're invited to the 2024 MLEC Open House and Annual Meeting Event! Join us at the new headquarters for a free meal, lots of door prizes, facility tours, and the most up-to-date information regarding your electric cooperative.

You must send and RSVP via email (annualmeeting@mlecmn.com) to attend the business meeting in person. However, the meeting will be livestreamed for members to watch at home.

Members will hear from MLEC leadership and learn important information about the past year and what lies ahead for MLEC. We hope to see you there!

Submit your questions!

Have a question for the co-op? We encourage members to submit their questions ahead of time via email or mail. To be addressed at the Annual Meeting, questions must be received prior to Friday, Sept. 13th. Questions submitted after Sept. 13th will receive a response after the Annual Meeting by phone or email.

When: *Thursday, September 19th*

Where: *MLEC Headquarters*
23483 US Highway 169
Aitkin, MN 56431

Schedule:

Registration & Voting

12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Open House & Meal

12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Business Meeting Begins (RSVP Required)

5:00 p.m.

Questions?

Call our office at 218-927-2191

Questions or concerns?
MLEC's Board of Directors represent you!

Mark Anderson - District 1
320/469-0951
manderson@mlecmn.com

Carol Pundt - District 2
218/687-3256
cpundt@mlecmn.com

Harold Harms - District 3
218/232-2935
hharms@mlecmn.com
President

Aileen DeMenge - District 4
218/768-4900
ademenge@mlecmn.com
Secretary/Treasurer

Don Appel - District 5
218/927-4134
dappel@mlecmn.com

Bruce Robinson - District 6
218/851-4760
brobinson@mlecmn.com
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Michael Reem - District 7
218/839-5697
mreem@mlecmn.com
Vice President

Sarah Cron - CEO
218/927-8224
scron@mlecmn.com

Find minutes from MLEC Board meetings at:
<http://www.mlecmn.net>
under **My Co-op**

This newsletter is the voice of your tax and interest paying RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, an organization which was formed to supply you with low-cost, dependable electricity when other sources failed to do so.

Managing Editor: Kassie Peterson,
Marketing & Communications Administrator

COMFORTS OF ELECTRICITY

Oftentimes the word "value" is related to "cost." For example, as the local electric cooperative, we remind our members regularly that electricity remains one of the best values you get for your dollar.

But there is more to the word value than an assigned price, and the value of electricity extends beyond its cost.

Electricity provides certain comforts we come to depend upon. For some, this means being able to count on an electric kettle to quickly heat up water for a morning cup of tea. For others, it could be time spent with their children playing video games, baking a batch of cookies or stringing up twinkle lights on the porch to make it feel cozier.

With a charged cellphone, we can easily connect and catch-up with friends through a video call. We can store leftovers from a family get-together in our refrigerator to enjoy another day or pull out a meal from the deep freezer to thaw for dinner.

Warmth during Minnesota winters can be priceless. Many households depend on the comfort of home heating provided by an air-source heat pump (ASHP) to make it through the state's extended cold snaps. This appliance also works double-duty to provide efficient cooling during summers just by efficiently transferring heat outside.

A hot shower as part of a typical morning routine, too, is a comfort valued by most. Houses outfitted with an electric thermal storage (ETS) water heater receive clean, safe, hot water on demand. A heat pump water heater, alternatively, uses electricity to move heat instead of generating it.

Beyond providing comfort to you and your family, these appliances are extremely efficient and take advantage of electricity's main value: lower costs. ASHPs use 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces; ETS water heaters draw electricity during times of low demand — such as overnight — when it's less expensive; and heat pump water heaters consume about 50% less electricity than conventional models, resulting in annual savings of up to \$300. MLEC is committed to providing its members with all the comforts electricity offers in a safe, reliable and affordable manner. Visit energywisemn.com to learn more about how electricity can power comfort in your home.

PLANNING AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Dear Member:

If you can believe it, your MLEC Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team met in September 2020 to create a five-year strategic plan for MLEC. As a group, we came up with 27 recommendations to focus on. Your Board of Directors approved seven strategic goals for us to complete based on the potential impact on the cooperative and the feasibility of completion. You know what? Your MLEC Staff completed all 27 initiatives in just four years; furthermore, one of the seven strategic goals was to execute a strategy for a new facility.

By the time you read this, not only did we execute a strategy for a new facility, but your MLEC team should be settled in our new facility and gearing up for our next five-year strategic planning session. Rest assured, one of our top priorities for 2025 will be working on a cash management plan and ensuring the long-range financial stability of your electric cooperative. This planning session is crucial as it demonstrates our commitment to the long-term success of MLEC.

I want to remind you as we are preparing our move that MLEC has made arrangements to have a payment drop box conveniently located at Paulbeck's County Market so you can easily drop off your MLEC payment when you are at Paulbeck's doing your shopping or passing by.

We hope to see you at our upcoming Open House and Annual Meeting. This joint event will be held on Thursday, September 19th, at the new facility, 23483 US Highway 169, Aitkin. It will be a fun-filled day with building tours, food, prizes, and presentations from your Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team. You will also hear from some people who made this building project possible. Many of the prizes have

been donated by our vendors and cooperative partners, and rumor has it we have at least one electric lawn mower to give away! RSVPs are required to attend the business meeting in person. As long as you register and are on-site the day of the meeting, you do not need to be present to win one of our fabulous prizes!

If you can't attend the Open House and Annual Meeting, you can livestream the meeting online. R&J Broadcasting will capture the excitement of the Open House and cover the business meeting for those to watch from home. In addition, we will have MLEC trivia on the radio for the weeks leading up to the meeting. Winners will receive prizes and you may even catch a word or two from some of MLEC's best and brightest!

We are so excited to show our membership the new facility. It has been a long process of trials and triumphs, but we are incredibly pleased with the results. Mark your calendars for September 19th, and we will see you then!

Until next month,




Sarah Cron, CEO



LET'S DISH

SEND US YOUR RECIPES!

We'll credit your account **\$10.00** if it's printed in THE OUTLET

MAIL TO:

Kassie Peterson
Mille Lacs Energy
P.O. Box 230
Aitkin, MN 56431

OR E-MAIL:

kpeterson@mlecmn.com

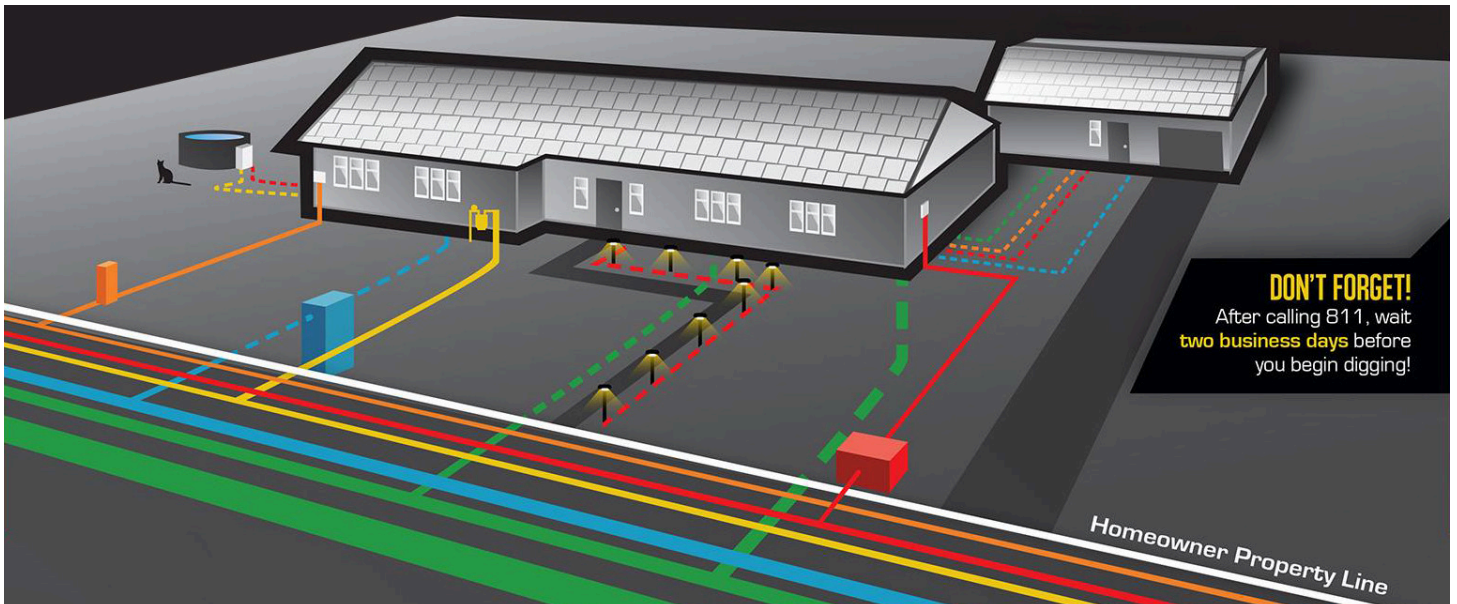


CHOPSTICK CHICKEN SALAD

2 cups Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing	1 cup sliced almonds
1 Tbsp soy sauce	1 small jar red pimento
8 cups torn lettuce greens	1 can drained mandarin oranges (11 oz)
1 cup chopped green onions	Raisins
1 cup chopped water chestnuts	Crunchy chow mein noodles
1 cup chopped radishes	

In a large mixing bowl, stir together the salad dressing and soy sauce. Combine all the remaining ingredients. Garnish on top or gently mix in the sliced almonds, red pimento, mandarin oranges, raisins, and crunchy chow mein noodles. Enjoy!

Thank you to Joyce Schrupp of Aitkin for sharing this month's recipe.



DON'T FORGET!

After calling 811, wait **two business days** before you begin digging!






LOCATE LINES FOR FREE

Water, natural gas, and residential electric lines are usually owned by the utility up to the meter. Some sewer districts own only the mains; others extend their ownership to laterals up to the property line. The customer typically owns everything beyond these points.

Customer-owned lines usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills.

The free locating service available through Gopher State One Call applies ONLY to facilities owned by utilities. The diagram above shows a variety of utilities, some owned by the utility and some by the homeowner.

Those utilities marked by dotted lines are typically owned by the homeowner. Private locating services will mark these for a fee.

	WATER
	SEWER
	GAS & OIL
	ELECTRIC
	PHONE & CABLE



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative will be held at Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative, 23483 US Highway 169, Aitkin, Minnesota, on Thursday, September 19, 2024. Registration will begin at 12:00 noon and go until 4:30 p.m. The annual business meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is:

1. Election of director from District 5. In accordance with Article III, Section 4 of the Cooperative's Bylaws, directors shall be elected at the annual meeting by those members who are present in person or by mail vote.
2. Election by Acclamation
 - a. Carol Pundt was elected in District 2, Bruce Robinson was re-elected in District 6 and Michael Reem was re-elected in District 7 by acclamation in accordance with Article II, Section 8 of the Cooperative's Bylaws.
3. Members may vote in person or by mail on proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws include changing the physical address of the Cooperative; clarifying each member shall have only one (1) vote; members are entitled to the return of the excess paid over the cost of service (i.e. capital credits); clarify that the Cooperative will make diligent efforts to extend electric service to all unserved persons; and clarify where members may access the Articles of the Bylaws
4. Transaction of any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Aileen R DeMenge, Secretary

Regular office hours are
Mon-Fri 8:00 to 4:30

927-2191 or
800-450-2191 (toll free)



48 hours before you dig
Dial 811 - Gopher State
One Call or log on to:
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Then contact a licensed electrician
to locate your secondary wires.

MN Electrical Inspectors
Aitkin County &
South East Crow Wing County
Jeff Larson 320-227-3009

Northern Crow Wing County
Nathan Readle 218-537-8419

Mille Lacs County
Benjamin Husom 320-470-9688

Off-peak and dual fuel system
consumers should call an
electrician or heating contractor for
service or repairs.

Find load control schedule at
www.mlecmn.net under Quick Links.



Visit our website -
www.mlecmn.net
E-mail us - mlec@mlecmn.net

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



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PHOTO CALENDAR

See your photo in MLEC's 2025 Calendar! We're asking members to submit photos by October 24, 2024. Winning photos will receive a \$10 credit on their electric bill. Voting will take place after the deadline on the MLEC Facebook page. The 12 photos with the most likes will be featured in the calendar.



Photos must be emailed to: photos@mlecmn.com by 11:59 p.m. on October 24, 2024.

Winning photographers automatically give MLEC permission to use the photos in the calendar, in other publications, member presentations or electronically online.



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GIFT CARD TRIVIA!

Correctly answer the question below for your chance to win a gift card from a local business within our service area. The answer can be found within this issue of The Outlet. You must be an MLEC member to participate. Be sure to include your name and service address! Entries must be received by **August 31st**.

MAIL TO:
Kassie Peterson
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
23483 US Highway 169
Aitkin, MN 56431

OR E-MAIL:
kpeterson@mlecmn.com

Fill in the blank.

The free locating service available through

_____ applies ONLY to facilities owned by utilities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Congrats to Diann Oakland, the June gift card trivia winner!