

welcome -HOME-

ANNUAL MEETING 2024



THE
OUTLET

Monthly Publication of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

VOLUME 55

NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2024

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.

All seats have been reserved for the 5:00 business meeting, but you can still watch the live stream from the comfort of your own home. Details and video link will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Free meal & door prizes!

Members will have their choice of local food vendors including: Log Home Woodfired Pizza, Pit Happens BBQ, and Barajas Mexican Grill.

We have tons of door prizes to give away at the conclusion of the meeting. You **DO** need to register in-person to be included in the door prize drawing. You **DO NOT** need to be present at the conclusion of the business meeting to win!

Election of Directors

Vote for directors in district 5 if you have not already done so online or via mail. Election results will be announced during the business meeting.

Attendees will receive a plush throw blanket as a free gift! (One per membership)



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

3 FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR BILL

Are you surprised by your summer electric bill? If your usage hasn't changed, it is understandable that a higher-than-normal bill might not seem to make sense. Here are a few possible reasons why.



Air Conditioning

It may seem obvious, but warm weather plays a big role in your electric bill. Air conditioning accounts for as much as 50 percent of the average household electric bill during the summer months. Maintenance and smart use of your cooling system (such as keeping your drapes closed or planting trees for shade) will help keep your electric bill in check while at the same time, keeping your home at a comfortable temperature.

Dehumidifiers

Typical dehumidifiers cost about 6-10 cents each hour they're in use. Monthly costs of \$15-\$35 are common, but can exceed \$50 per month if the dehumidifier runs a lot.

Device Charging

Look around your home at all the technology that uses chargers: cell phones, iPads or tablets, electric razors, electric toothbrushes, laptops, portable game systems, and similar devices. The more gadget-oriented you are, the more likely you are to have these devices plugged in and sucking energy from your home. Unplug adapters and chargers from outlets when not actively charging a device, as they'll pull electricity simply from being plugged in.

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

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hharms@mlecmn.com
President

Aileen DeMenge - District 4

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ademenge@mlecmn.com
Secretary/Treasurer

Don Appel - District 5

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dappel@mlecmn.com

Bruce Robinson - District 6

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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

RIVERBOAT DAYS PARADE

On Saturday, August 3rd, Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative participated in the Riverboat Days Parade. Employees and their families led the parade along Minnesota Ave. It was an honor to partner with the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce to organize and execute this year's parade.

All cooperatives – not just electric cooperatives – operate according to the same set of 7 core principles. Principle #7 – Concern for Community – is one of the most well-known. It is also one of the most visible and meaningful to our members and our employees. MLEC is happy to be volunteering locally amongst our members. Thank you to employees, board members, and friends/family for supporting MLEC and our communities!



LOOKING TOWARDS 2025

Dear Member:

The countdown begins! We are geared and ready for a large crowd at the September 19 Open House/Annual Meeting Event. Our employees, Board of Directors, and special guests are excited to welcome you into the new MLEC home and show you what our years of effort have created and our plans for the future.

We have several food trucks available beginning at noon, so come on down – even if you can't attend the business meeting. Upon arrival, Members can register for some great prizes, and you do not need to be present after the business meeting to win. Speaking of the Annual Meeting, parking is limited. We have reserved seating for 200 members who have sent in their RSVP ahead of time. However, you can still watch the business meeting online in the comfort of your own home. A link to the live stream will be shared as we get closer to the event.

As we settle into the new building and work out the kinks, we are already thinking about 2025. Our Accounting and Finance Team has begun work on the 2025 budget with a steady eye on cash management and the goal of rate stability. We are excited to wrap up the final invoices for the building project to see where we come in compared to the budget. We know we are significantly under budget and have borrowed \$5 million less than expected. This will positively impact the long-term financial future of the cooperative.

Also, in September, your MLEC Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team will begin a new Strategic Planning Session.

We will set our strategic goals for the next three to five years and pave the groundwork for what needs to be done to achieve these initiatives. Keep in mind, we just completed 27 strategic initiatives from our 2020 planning session – one of my goals is to ensure we do not lose sight of the strides we have made since 2020. So, we will ultimately have some maintenance goals on top of our new goals! I know my team is up to the task.

It has been an honor to serve this member-owned cooperative for the last five and a half years. I am so proud of the accomplishments my team has achieved. I look forward to what the next five years will bring MLEC and our members.

Until next month,




Sarah Cron, CEO

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MAIL TO:

Kassie Peterson
Mille Lacs Energy
23483 US Highway 169
Aitkin, MN 56431

OR E-MAIL:

kpeterson@mlecmn.com



ZUCCHINI MUFFINS

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 1 apple, cored and chopped
- 3/4 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup pecans
- 3/4 cup raisins

In a large mixing bowl, beat together eggs and oil. Next, stir or beat in all other ingredients. Fill muffin cups 3/4 full and bake at 325 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Enjoy!

Thank you to Dorothy Barnick of Lake Crystal for sharing this month's recipe.

Statement of Ownership

MLEC is required to file and print a Statement of Ownership once a year for the Outlet Newsletter publication.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: The Outlet Newsletter

2. Issue Frequency: Monthly

3. Issue Date: 6/15/2024

4. Issue Frequency: 12

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$0

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):
23483 US Highway 169
Aitkin, MN 56431

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Do not leave blank):
23483 US Highway 169
Aitkin, MN 56431

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher: Name and complete mailing address:
Kassie Peterson, Marketing & Communications Administrator
23483 US Highway 169, Aitkin, MN 56431
Editor: Name and complete mailing address:
Kassie Peterson, Marketing & Communications Administrator
23483 US Highway 169, Aitkin, MN 56431
Managing Editor: Name and complete mailing address:
Kassie Peterson, Communications Specialist
PO Box 230, Aitkin, MN 56431

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name: Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
Complete Mailing Address: 23483 US Highway 169, Aitkin, MN 56431

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None
Full Name: Rural Utilities Service
Complete Mailing Address: 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-1510
NTEUCFC: 20701 Cooperative Way Dulles, VA 20106
Cobank: 6340 S. Fadden Green Circle Greenwood Village, CO 80111

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes.
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months.
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months. Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.
PS Form 3526, July 2014 Page 1 of 4 See instructions page 4. PSN: 7530-01-000-9001. PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy at www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: The Outlet Newsletter

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 6/15/2024

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		11400	11400
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Other Classes)			
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails, including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Classes (USPS)			
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)			
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))			
		11400	11400
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))			
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541			
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541			
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(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)			
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))			
		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)			
		11400	11400
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))			
		100	100
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)			
		11500	11500
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)			
		100%	100%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

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POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a))	11400	11400
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a))	11400	11400
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic) Copies (16a divided by 16c × 100)	100%	100%

I certify that 95% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 The publication is a general publication; publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 6/15/2024 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Kassie Peterson, Editor
Date: 6/16/2024

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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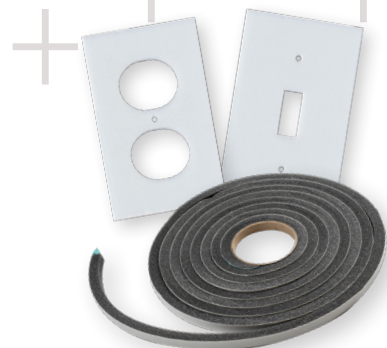
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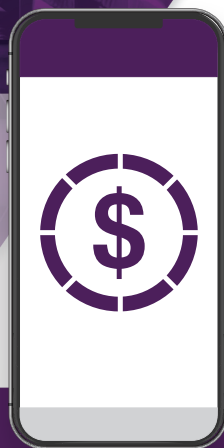
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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.



Second Quarter Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

Comparative Operating Statement for the Quarter Ending June 30, 2023 & June 30, 2024

	2023	2024
OPERATING REVENUE	15,356,445	15,289,212
COST OF PURCHASED POWER	8,189,734	8,035,903
DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE-OPERATION	824,202	845,783
DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE-MAINTENANCE	1,045,530	1,067,430
CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS EXPENSE	465,984	453,286
CUSTOMER SERVICE / INFORMATIONAL EXPENSE	281,395	322,616
ADMINISTRATIVE / GENERAL EXPENSE	982,430	1,078,506
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	3,599,541	3,767,621
TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSE	11,766,180.07	11,766,180.07
DEPRECIATION	1,129,870	1,196,061
TAX EXPENSE	1,358	1,370
INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	589,036	683,474
INTEREST EXPENSE-OTHER	6,759	9,016
OTHER DEDUCTION	750	300
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE	13,517,048	13,693,744
OPERATING MARGINS	1,862,397	1,595,468
NON OPERATING MARGINS-INTEREST	244,655	223,288
NON OPERATING MARGINS-OTHER	(70,384)	(21,871)
GENERATION & TRANSMISSION CAPITAL CREDITS	-	-
OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS	71,494	27,446
NET MARGINS	2,085,163	1,868,073



Unclaimed Capital Credits Checks

You can see the list on our website at www.mlecmn.net under My Co-op and choose Capital Credits on the drop menu.

A hard copy is available at MLEC's office. Maybe a check is waiting for you! If you know someone and how to contact them, please call MLEC at 218-429-0431.

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Sarah Cron, CEO



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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.



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 **September 30th**.

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.

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's _____.

Name:

Address:



MILLE LACS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

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