

THE

# OUTLET

Monthly Publication of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

Volume 49, Number 4- April 2018

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



(USPS 711-080)

## MILLE LACS ENERGY COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING BRINGING VALUE TO THE MEMBER

THURSDAY,  
APRIL 19TH

EDDY'S RESORT  
ON MILLE LACS  
LAKE,  
ONAMIA

REGISTRATION  
5:00  
BUSINESS MEETING  
5:30

Light  
Supper  
Follows

Prize Drawings  
Join us!

**Election of Directors - Districts 5, 6 & 7**

Information & ballots were mailed to members  
March 19, 2018 (sample ballot on page 4)

**Bring a non-perishable food item  
or cash for the food shelf  
& get an LED bulb**

## #ThankALineman



**NATIONAL  
LINEMAN  
APPRECIATION  
DAY**

**APRIL 18, 2018**

As most businesses do every few years, we recently went through some strategic planning exercises. Due to the significant amount of change that has been and will continue to take place in the electric industry, we approached the planning sessions a bit differently than in the past. We are in the process of compiling all the information, prioritizing, setting timelines, and assigning champions and teams.

Two of the most significant changes:

- During the planning process, we substantially increased the opportunity for participation of MLEC staff.
- The plan will considerably increase the involvement of our members.

The planning process was a much more bottom-up approach of bringing the ideas and feedback from those who are closest to our member-owners (the employees) to the board of directors for review, as compared to having the management team and the board of directors develop a plan and bring to the employees for implementation.

As a member-owned cooperative, we believe these two efforts are crucial to gaining everyone's buy-in which is key for the long-term success of MLEC.

A new vision, mission and set of principles/values by which MLEC will operate were established. We also formed four strategic themes that all of our ongoing efforts over the next three years will fall into. In the next few months, you will be seeing the details of our new strategic plan and the branding efforts around it.

As an electric cooperative, our roots are deep in providing electricity to our rural members. That is foundationally why we were developed. However, the world and the industry have changed a lot in the last 80 years. MLEC has had to change with it by broadening its offerings, which now include satellite and wireless internet services, fiber internet service to some, long-distance phone service, off-peak heating and water heating products, and energy efficiency services. Selling just the electrons to our members is no longer sufficient. We must look for ways to economically add value to our members' lives and businesses. We need to be available to help you achieve your goals – and that may mean teaming up with members in unconventional ways to the member-owner/electric cooperative business model.

We will discuss the MLEC Strategic Plan and this ever-evolving relationship a bit more at the Annual Membership Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at Eddy's on Lake Mille Lacs; or, you can read about it in future Outlet articles. And now, we'd like to reveal to you MLEC's new Vision Statement :

***"Enhancing the quality of life throughout our communities"***

It is short. It is broad. And it is heartfelt.

We hope you are as excited about it and the future as we are!

**Notice of Annual Meeting** – Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members of Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative will be held at Eddy's Resort, 41334 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia, Minnesota, on Thursday, April 19, 2018. Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the annual business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is: 1. Election of directors from Districts 6 & 7. 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. District 5 director shall be elected by acclamation with no voting required in accordance with Article II, Section 8 of the Cooperative's Bylaws. 2. Transaction of any other business that may properly come before this meeting. By Order of the Board of Directors, Barbara G Welty, Secretary.



Harold G. Harms  
Board President



Brian R. Zelenak  
General Manager

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

**Barbara Welty - District 1**  
320/692-4800  
bwelty@mlecmn.com  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Bill Bernard - District 2**  
218/678-3911  
bbernard@mlecmn.com

**Harold Harms - District 3**  
320/684-9955  
hharms@mlecmn.com  
President

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

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

**Bruce Robinson - District 6**  
218/851-4760  
brobinson@mlecmn.com

**Michael Reem - District 7**  
218/678-2961  
mreem@mlecmn.com

**Brian Zelenak - General Manager**  
218/927-8224  
bzelenak@mlecmn.com

Find minutes from  
MLEC Board meetings at:  
<http://www.mlecmn.net>



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  
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[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

Then contact a licensed electrician  
to locate your secondary wires.

**MN Electrical Inspectors**  
Aitkin County &  
South East Crow Wing County  
Scott Nutting 218/927-6922

Northern Crow Wing County  
Bradley Rasmussen 218/543-1023

Mille Lacs County  
Tim Emery 320-692-4104

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](http://www.mlecmn.net) under Quick Links.



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E-mail us - [mlec@mlecmn.net](mailto:mlec@mlecmn.net)

## Let's Dish

Send us your recipes!  
We'll credit your account  
**\$5.00** if it's printed in  
THE OUTLET

Mail to:

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

or e-mail: [mlec@mlecmn.net](mailto:mlec@mlecmn.net)

Thank you to Jennie Hakes and Steve Hawrysh of Aitkin for sharing this month's recipe.

### HUMMUS

2 cups of cooked garbanzo beans (chickpeas)  
¼ cup of the bean liquid  
¼ cup lemon juice  
2 cloves of garlic, minced  
3 T tahini (sesame paste, found in the ethnic or Asian foods section)  
Chopped parsley if you have it  
A little cumin or ground chipotle pepper if you have it  
A little olive oil (optional)

Puree the chickpeas in a blender, or use a hand-held pastry dough blender. Add the liquid to smooth it out. Transfer to a small bowl and whisk in the lemon juice, garlic, and a little salt. Gradually add the tahini and keep blending (it will thicken a lot as you stir). Before serving, sprinkle with parsley and cumin (or chipotle) and drizzle a bit of olive oil on top if you like. So yummy and good for you, too. This will serve 4.

*Great for dipping vegetables,  
spreading on crackers, or  
stuffing pita bread.*

## ENERGY WISE MN

Hot water is a necessity for many household chores. Showers, laundry, dishes – they all require hot water. If you think about it, we use a significant amount of energy to heat water.

Water heaters are unique among electric home appliances. They are omni-present, use significant amounts of electricity and can store thermal energy for hours at a time.

For decades there have been “demand response programs,” which allow the co-op to turn home water heaters on and off in order to reduce how much power the co-op uses during peak periods, when power is more expensive. There are two water heater programs available to our members:

- ❖ Off Peak which requires at least 100 gallon sized water heater that heats in the evenings when the demand on the system is low.
- ❖ Peak Shave requires a minimum of 50 gallons and can have interruptions any time of day within an 8 hour maximum and will usually happen on high demand days.

The cost of electricity fluctuates depending on how much is being used at any given time. With having controls for water heating, this takes advantage of drawing electricity during times of low demand (such as overnight), when it's less expensive.



With the Marathon water heater and it's Envirofoam® insulated tank it allows only 5°F of heat loss in 24 hours so being controlled for part of the day will not affect the water cooling to an unusable temperature. In other words, collectively, water heaters can act like a battery, storing energy.

Current rebates available are: \$400 for Off Peak water heating and \$200 for Peak Shave water heating. For more information on water heaters contact your Energy Service Team today at 218-429-0432 or 1-888-433-4279 to discuss.

## Still Not Signed Up for XStream Fiber?

### Now Is the Time!

The MLEC Phase I fiber-to-the-home project will be completed this year. This means the funding for no-cost installation through the Minnesota Border to Border grant also comes to an end. A final signup date has not yet been set but will be soon.

Fiber-to-the-home is the best available Internet service offered, with unlimited data and speeds up to 1 Gbps for both download and upload. Nobody can beat that in the area. Guarantee this at your home today!

Go to our website at [www.mlecmn.net](http://www.mlecmn.net) to find out if you are in the project area and download the XStream fiber agreement or stop in at our office.

Not in the phase I project area? Let us know you are interested by entering your address and answering a few questions on our website. For more information call our office at 218-429-0433.



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.



**NOTICE TO POSTMASTER**

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Manage your account right from your phone with SmartHub. Make payments, notify customer service of account and service issues, check your usage and contact us directly at the touch of a button.

Download the free mobile or tablet app in the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace.

On your computer, go to [www.mlecmm.net](http://www.mlecmm.net) and follow instructions under My Account.

**Check it out at the Annual Meeting!**

*2017 financial information from your cooperative will be included in registered members' packets at the Annual Meeting. You'll also find this info at [www.mlecmm.net](http://www.mlecmm.net) or by request at the co-op.*

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 429-0433 or 800-497-5310

**MILLE LACS ENERGY COOPERATIVE**

**2018 MLEC Official Ballot**

In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Cooperative's Bylaws, the following members have filed to appear on the ballot for election of one (1) Director to serve a term of three (3) years from District 6 and District 7. Only the member, member's spouse, or a joint owner to which this ballot is addressed may vote. All eligible members have been mailed this ballot. One ballot per membership. The ballot may be returned by mail or personally at the Annual Meeting.

**Instructions for Casting Your Vote**

Whether using the mail to return your ballot or delivering the ballot to the Cooperative in person, please follow these instructions carefully.

- You may vote for one director candidate in each district below.
- Place the ballot in the enclosed envelope marked "Ballot Secrecy Envelope" and seal the envelope. Place this envelope in the Business Reply envelope. Whether mailing the ballot or bringing it to the annual meeting, these directions should be followed.
- Mailed ballots must be received in the proper envelopes by April 19, 2018.
- As an option to mailing, your ballot may be submitted in person at the annual meeting before the start of the business meeting at 5:30 PM. Registration for the meeting begins at 5:00 PM on April 19, 2018, at Eddy's Resort, 41334 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia, MN 56359. Ballots cast at the annual meeting will be counted and added to the mail-in ballots for final election results.
- DO NOT ENCLOSE** checks or any other Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative correspondence with your ballot.

**Mailing Instructions**

Fill in the box the name of one candidate in each district.

**District 5 - Director**

(No vote needed)

Per MLEC Articles and Bylaws, Article II, Section 8, Donald Appel shall be re-elected by acclamation.

**You May Vote In Both Districts**

<p><b>District 6 - Director</b> (vote for one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Darrell Mishler</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leo Offerman</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Robinson (Incumbent)</p>	<p><b>District 7 - Director</b> (vote for one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Michael Reem (Incumbent)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gerald Schulz</p>
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2018

Mailed paper ballots must be received no later than April 18, 2018. Ballots tabulated by Survey & Ballot Systems.

DirectVotePlus