



BENCO
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
Touchstone Energy

BENCO Electric Cooperative Link

MAY 2023

2023 ANNUAL MEETING



CEO CORNER

Thanks to all BENCO members that attended the BENCO Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in Mankato on April 1. We had a great turnout with approximately 1,600 people attending.

Members heard reports from Board President Brad Leiding, auditor Craig Popenhagen of CliftonLarsonAllen, and myself.

Three incumbent directors were elected to represent their districts for a three-year term, including Brad Leiding, District 3; Marilyn Lynch, District 5; Gary Stenzel, District 7.

At the organizational meeting following the annual meeting,

the Board of Directors elected officers Brad Leiding, President; Marilyn Lynch, Vice President; Scott Johnson, Secretary; Terry Genelin, Treasurer; and Great River Energy Director, Gary Stenzel.

Be sure to save the date of Saturday, April 6, 2024 for next year's annual meeting.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Cooperatively yours,



FROM THE BOARD

March 30, 2023
Brad Leiding Presided

The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 24, 2023 board meeting.

Abby reported that Capital Credit checks were mailed to members on March 15. Bill credits were applied to March 2023 bills.

Attending directors reported on the NRECA PowerXchange.

The 2022 Audit, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee, was approved.

The Capital Credit Margin Allocation for the year 2022, recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee, was approved.

The Aid Agreement with the City of Lake Crystal was approved to be terminated.

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PCA UPDATE

ACTUAL PCA FOR APRIL
\$0.0302

ESTIMATED PCA FOR MAY
\$0.0415

ESTIMATED PCA FOR JUNE
\$0.0421

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is due to changes in the monthly wholesale rate from our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE).

2023 ANNUAL MEETING



BENCO HOLDS ANNUAL CODE CLASS

Approximately 75 area electricians attended BENCO Electric Cooperative's annual Code Class to learn the latest on electrical code rules and requirements.

The continuing education course was attended by



electricians and low voltage technicians, each of whom earned eight hours of continuing education credit. The State of Minnesota requires them to attend 16 hours every two years to renew their license.

"BENCO began

offering this course over 20 years ago and it has always been well-attended," said Jon Wheelock, Energy Services Manager. "This is a great opportunity for BENCO to connect with area electricians on topics specific to the industry. By hosting this class, it ensures that the electricians working on our members' electrical systems are getting quality continuing education."

The course is instructed by Midwest Electrical Seminars. Both instructors have extensive knowledge in the electrical field and the National Electric Code.

Information about the annual Code Class can be found at BENCO.org/code-class.



WHERE, OH WHERE?

The following is a list of former BENCO members who have unclaimed capital credit checks or credit balances on their inactive account. Please contact Angie at 387-7963 with any information on locating the former BENCO members.

L

Mike Leech, Eagle Lake, MN
Brian Leeper, Henderson, MN
Evelyn Leland, Bricelyn
Jeff Leonard, Kasota
Virgil Lewis, Mankato
Dan A. Lichterman, Veazie, ME
Allan Linscheid, Mesa, AZ

Demetrio Lisak, Lonsdale, MN
Elliot Lloyd, Mankato
David E. Lobb, Waseca
Korwin Lockie, Woodbury
Gerald T. Lohman, Onalaska, WI
Bogdan Lukowski, Austin
Linda A. Lund, Mankato
Ronald S. Lunn, Winona
Diane M. Lynch, Plymouth
Lawrence W. Lyng, Jr., Eagan
Michelle K. Lyons, North Mankato

M

William W. Macgregor, Mankato
David Mador, St. Peter
Karen F. Madsen, North Mankato
Dacia M. Madson, Garden City

Mike Maes, Mankato
Paige Mallam, Plymouth
Dennis Manderfeld, New Ulm
Vance Markle, Winnebago
Ken Martens, Nicollet
Robert C. Martin, Winnebago
Stacy Martin, Ankeny, IA
William Martinson, Blue Earth
Julie Mathiowetz, Sauk Rapids
Kristin A. Mattson, Mankato
Mike D. Matzke, Madison Lake
Robert Mauris, Winnebago
Jerry M. Mausbach, Worthington
Patricia K. May, Mankato
Steve Mayo, Janesville
Ryan McCabe, Mankato
Becky McCarty, Waseca

WHEN YOUR AC CROAKS ... CALL THE HEAT PUMP FOLKS

You've had your trusty air conditioner for years, and it hasn't let you down. Yet.

When the time comes for a more efficient, versatile, money-saving replacement, BENCO Electric Cooperative recommends researching an air-source heat pump (ASHP) or ductless mini-split heat pump. These modern technologies will help you fight the Minnesota summer heat, in addition to warming you up when the state transitions to its incredibly cold winters.



BENEFIT BREAKDOWN	AIR CONDITIONER	AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP (ASHP)	MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP
HOW IT WORKS	Absorbs heat inside and expels it from your home, returning the cooled air into the home.	Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (throughout the home, using duct work).	Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (zones of the home, no duct work needed).
VERSATILITY	Only used during the warm months when home cooling is needed.	Offers heating and cooling through every season.	Offers heating and cooling through every season; can be installed in any room or space.
EFFICIENCY	Efficiency differs, but some wall-mounted units only provide spot cooling and air can leak through seals.	Highly efficient technology, with no fear of air leaks.	Highly efficient technology, with no fear of air leaks.
OFF-PEAK PROGRAM QUALIFIED	No	Yes, nearly half of standard electric rate with voluntary enrollment.	Yes, nearly half of standard electric rate with voluntary enrollment.
CO-OP REBATE AVAILABLE	No	Yes, up to \$1,000 per outdoor compressor unit.	Yes, up to \$500 per outdoor compressor unit.

BONUS WINTER BENEFIT: Electric ASHP heating is much more efficient and cost effective than fuel heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses. Plus, stable electric rates will help you protect yourself from ever-volatile propane and gas prices.



Touchstone Energy®

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what's cooking?

Receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill if your recipe appears in the newsletter.



This newsletter is published monthly by BENCO Electric Cooperative.

Office Hours: Mon -Fri - 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Phone: 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626

Outages/After Hours:
387-7964 or 1-888-792-3626

Kathy Gerber - Member Services Manager
Chelsea Gerbo - Editor

CAKE MIX MONSTER COOKIES

From the Kitchen of: Dorothy Olson

Ingredients:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1/2 C brown sugar
- 1/2 C creamy peanut butter
- 2 C quick cookies oats
- 1/2 C chocolate chips
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 softened butter
- 2 tbsp. water
- 1/2 C M&Ms

Directions:

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Combine and beat cake mix, brown sugar, butter, peanut butter, water and egg. Add oats, chocolate chips and M&Ms; stir. Scoop golf-ball sized dough balls onto cookie sheet. Bake for 12 - 14 minutes. Press a few additional M&Ms onto the top of the cookies when done. Let cool for 15 minutes. Enjoy!



Board Meetings:

Board meetings are held the last Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to contact directors with items of interest in advance of the meeting or wish to attend. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board of Directors:

Brad Leiding - President - District 3
Marilyn Lynch - Vice President - District 5
Scott Johnson - Secretary - District 9
Terry Genelin - Treasurer - District 1
Don Westphal - District 2
John Wells - District 4 - MREA Director
Blake Meshke - District 6
Gary Stenzel - District 7 - GRE Director
Duane Ehrich - District 8
Dave Sunderman - CEO
Christopher M. Roe - Attorney

ENTER TO WIN. SEND YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE TO:

BENCO Electric Cooperative, Attn: Chelsea, PO Box 8, Mankato, MN 56002