

Connections

For the member-owners of Brown County REA



Volume 25, Issue 2

Play our missing members capital credits game! Pass 'Go' to be paid



Play our missing members board game. Head to "Go call the co-op" to help them collect money! Their money in "Community Chest" awaits!

These former cooperative members moved and we no longer have their current address. Yet, they are still owed capital credits or their share of a profitable year.

Go to Pages 1-3

and 6. Help Federated Rural Electric and Brown County REA (BCREA) locate these missing members and provide us new addresses. Their capital credits check was returned last year — address unknown. If you know the current location for any of these members, please have them call or e-mail the appropriate cooperative with their new address and/or phone number. We'll then mail their capital credits check. In addition, BCREA's list also includes older, uncashed accounts payable checks. More names are listed this year as two wholesale power suppliers retired capital credit checks. Great River Energy retired capital credits from 1980-86, plus Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative retired funds from 2014-2017.

If we do not receive new addresses on these missing members, their unclaimed capital credits checks are donated to a tax-exempt organization. Brown County Rural Electrical Association and Federated Rural Electric donate unclaimed capital credits to their Operation Round Up program. Brown County REA's Round Up Trust donates to charitable organizations, individuals and families in crisis and scholarships in the co-op service area. Federated's Round Up Trust Board awards nine high school scholarships. (c)

Former Federated

members: Call Angie direct 507-849-7847 or 1-800-321-3520 (extension 2233) or e-mail ziemer@federatedrea.coop.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Cleo Viola Ahrens | Windom |
| Mrs. Douglas Ahrenstorff | Lakefield |
| Arthur Albrecht | Excelsior |
| Agnes Aldrich | Jackson |
| Esther Allen | Lakefield |
| Mary L. Allen | Heron Lake |
| Darrell Amundson | Ruthton |
| Chas C. Andersen | Stockholm, WI |
| Curtis Anderson | Ceylon |
| John O. Anderson | Burnsville |
| Arlen Arndt | Brewster |
| Janice Atz | Lakefield |
| Margaret Bauman | Lakefield |
| Norman & Sylvi Baddgor, | c/o Jim Carsten |
| | Bingham Lake |
| Eunice Bauman | Okabena |
| Brent Baumann | Wabasso |
| George Becker | Fairmont |
| Ralph Becker | Fairmont |
| Laurie Behrens | Windom |
| Harvey Beuthien | Lakefield |
| Vincent J. Bezdicek | Jackson |
| Fred Blom, Sr. | Estherville, IA |
| Vernon W. Boehne | Fairmont |
| Clyde V. Bong | Welcome |
| Mary Bowers | Fair Oaks Ranch, TX |
| Bettyann Bradley | Fairmont |

— Continued on Page 2

At A Glance



Brown County Rural Electrical Association

Opportunity to win with Auto Pay!

Sign up to automatically pay your electric bill from a checking or savings account and be entered to win bill credits. Enroll before March 31 and you could win a \$100 bill credit! Details can be found on Page 8. (c)

This publication focuses on cooperative savings, 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"

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Connections*, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069.

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Open capital credits community chest

— Continued on Page 2

Erwin Burmeister	Lakefield
Carl Bredberg	Bloomington
Colleen M. Bressler	Winnebago
Joel Bristow	Dundee
Leonora Butler	Winnebago
Richard L. Carlson	Canby
Carolyn Carman	Columbus, MT
Arlen Cegelske	Truman
John Chergosky, Jr.	Truman
Mary Ann Clarke	Sioux City, IA
Delmar Classon	Fairmont
Gloria Cook	Rochester
Acres Countryside	Lakefield
Harold Conlin	Chancellor, SD
Alfred Coyer	Perham
Richard Danielson	Fairmont
Clarence Darnell	Fairmont
Robert Dauffenback	Lakefield
Dick Detert	Viroqua, WI
Ruth Devine	Byron, MI
Marvin Dewall	Beulah, WY
Kolton D. Dilly	Truman
Arlene Driehorst	Welcome
James Dunlap	Hartford, SD
Jake Dkykstra	Jackson
Daniel Egertson	Thornton, IA
Raymond Eggimann	Waseca
William Eickhoff	New York Mills
Eileen Eike	Pocahontas, IA
Elaine Elston	Cottonwood
Roger Erickson	Welcome
Reid Erpestad	Windom
Fairmont Equip Co Inc	Fairmont
John Ferguson	Spirit Lake, IA
Robert Carl Fliflet	Bird Island
Keith Foster	Winnebago
Milton Fricke	Lakefield
John Garber	Jackson
Mary Gellert	Fairmont
Paul Gerhardt	Fairmont
Jerry Gettler	Mesa, AZ
Gary Gilreath	Winnebago
Kevin Grant	Winnebago
Carol Groene	Worthington
Peter Gronewold	Luverne



Lloyd Grohshens	Jackson
Warren C. Groshens	Minnnetonka
Kathryn W. Guerdet	Truman
Herbert Guritz	Fairmont
Roger Guritz, c/o Herbert Guritz	Fairmont
Clara E. Hall	Fairmont
Randy Hammer	Waconia
Wayne E. Hansen	Peterson, IA
Chester M. Hanson	Windom
Ronald Harder	Jackson
John Hardman	Wilson, WI
Mrs. Lillian Hartwig, c/o John Ringeisen	Sherburn
Donovan Hayostek, c/o Marvin Hayostek	Lake Park, IA
Arnold Hatch	Truman
Philip Heup	Fairmont
Russell Hill	St. Regis, MT
Hilltop Mennonite Church,	Johnstown, OH
Lois Hines	Truman
Peter Hinker	Roseville
Jamee L. Hinrichsen	Fairmont
Max Hoelscher	Windom
Terrance Hopp	Mankato
Donald Howard	Winnebago
Ronald Householder	Fairmont
Howard L. Humburg, c/o Humburg-Carter Farm	Welcome
Loel Hunt	Alpha
Clare Hybbert	Jackson

Donald D. Ihnen	Lake Park, IA
Maurice Ifff	Cloquet
Lowell Jaeger	Brainerd
Keith Jaspers	Rogersville, MO
Arlyn Jensen	Granada
Javier Jimenez	Heron Lake
E. Morris Johnson	Menahga
David Johnson	Barboursville, WV
Earl Johnson	Sherburn
James J. Johnson	Windom
Warren Johnson	Worthington
Leroy Jones	Trimont
Roger Jorgensen	Lebanon, MO
Harlen Julius	Arnolds Park, IA
Matthew Junker	Garretson, SD
Kenneth Kabbage	Granada
George M. Kanuch	Jackson
E. A. Kautz, c/o Allen Kautz	Estherville, IA
Harold Kelly	Truman
Edward Kielty	Windom
Daniel Kleinbeck	Fort Collins, CO
Fred Wm. Knuth	Luverne
Roland Knudson	Lakefield
Bruce Knutson, c/o Kenneth Knutson	Lakefield
Knutson Family Trust, c/o Laurel Quiring	Windom
KOA Kampground, c/o Ken Helgeson	Jackson
Evelyn Kolander	Lakefield
Carol Kostecki	Berthoud, CO
Thomas Koster	Onalaska, WI
Emil Kruse	Fairmont
I&L Implement Inc, c/o Jay Franz,	Fairmont
State Bank Mountain Lake	Mountain Lake
Warren Landin, c/o Blain Landin	Granada
Donald Larsen	Fairmont
Werner Laue	Fairmont
Maynard Lemier	Fairmont
David Lenort	Fairmont
Ed Lloyd, Jr.	Harris, IA
Arthur Loeschen	Granada
Raymond Loeschen	Worthington
Richard Lorenz	New Richland
Ted Ludlow	Southampton, MA
Arlo L. Lueth	Fairmont

— Continued on Page 3

This 'chance' card pays out unclaimed co-op capital credits

— Continued from Page 2

Winnifred M. Luhmann Fairmont
 John Lundblad Northfield
 James Lusk Jackson
 Glenn A. McArthur Canby
 Darrell McCleary Largo, FL
 Kathryn McGinnis Andover
 Thomas Maday Fairmont
 Clarence J. Majerus New Ulm
 Kenneth Malo West Salem, WI
 Richard Malo Fairmont
 Jerry Mapson Granada
 Josephine Mapson Granada
 Randy Mapson Emily
 Mildred Markman Jackson
 Leslie Martin Sherburn
 James Mathiason Granada
 Sarah Mattes Ceylon
 MCI Telecomm Corp Chicago, IL
 Art Meyer Winnebago
 Lucille Meyer Alpha
 Benjamin D. Middagh Heron Lake
 Louis D. Mier Lakefield
 Carl Milow Sanibel, FL
 Mrs. Wm. Molkenhuth, c/o Lorence Voehl
 Worthington
 Richard Monson Becker
 Joe Morris Jackson
 Helen Mosloski Fairmont
 Eldon Munsterman Granada
 Julie Myrdal, c/o Rocky Oak Windom
 Janet Myrvold Wilder
 Clark Nafziger Marshall
 Douglas Nawrocki Marshall
 T.C. Nawrocki Fairmont
 Walter Neitzel Jackson
 Joanne Nelson Ham Lake
 Randy Nelson Ham Lake
 Phyllis Neuenschwander Fairmont
 Glenn Niss Welcome
 Oscar Nohrenberg, c/o Kitty Nohrenberg
 Jackson
 Gertrude O'Connor Lakefield
 Larry J. Olsen Sherburn
 George O. Olson, c/o Maynard Olson
 Mountain Lake
 Carol Wells Olson Fairmont
 Kenneth J. Onken Minneapolis
 Gary Orloske Hill Top City, SD
 Gustave Orloske, c/o Albert Koep, Hill Top
 City, SD
 Lawrence F. Osborn Dickens, IA
 Peter Overaas Jackson
 Charles Paden Windom
 George J. Paulsen, c/o Norman Paulsen



Renee Pavelko
 Donald Pawlitschek
 Clarence Peil
 Ardyce Pell
 Roger Pell
 Arvid E. Peterson, Jr.
 Peterson Brothers
 Louis Petrowiak
 Patricia A. Petrowiak
 William Petrowiak
 Leon Pigman
 Gail D. Pike
 Curtis Pietz
 Leland Pohlman
 Robert Pomerence
 Larry Porter
 Milton Prochaska
 Jim Prochaska
 Gordon Prokes
 C.H. Prull
 Warren & Mike Prust
 Alvin Purrington
 Roman Pytleski
 Richard Reese
 Sharon Reese
 Jerome D. Reinke
 Dean Richard
 Leland Ricard
 Ray Ricard
 Hilda Rickert
 Marvin Roenfeld
 Lloyd Rients
 Leola Rogers, c/o Lorna Kruger
 Virginia Rohwer
 John Romo
 Linda Roslansky
 Jim Rossow, c/o Harry R. Johnson
 Virgil Rossow
 Gerald Russenberger
 Jean Hample Sabatka
 Lois Sackett
 Paul Sandoz
 Lynn Schmidt
 Rod Schmidt
 Tony Schmidt

Warren Scheeberger
 Elaine Schnieder
 John Schreiber
 Gary Schuchard
 Ruth Schueler
 Everett Schulz
 DuWaine Sell
 Barry Sharp
 (Moeller) Shimmin
 Kent Stump
 Kelly Sloneker, c/o D. Broisma
 Lloyd E. Slykhuis
 David L. Smith
 Roger W. Smith
 Duane E. Sogge
 Linda Soucek, c/o Jody Rizzi
 Kenneth Sourbeck
 J.B. Spencer
 Grace Stinar
 Orville R. Strohmman
 Alice Struss
 Heinrich J. Stumpf
 Dick Sunderman
 Symens Brothers
 T. Temple Brulingame
 Mark Teaser
 Steven Teaser
 Randee Thate
 Allen Thompson
 Marvin Thompson
 Mervel Thompson
 Russell Thompson
 Janice Tietje
 Terry Timko
 John Van Dam
 Joe Vancura, c/o Rosella Vancura
 Christopher J. Vasvick, Amy J. Vasvick
 Art Veenker
 Carmen Voehl
 Kenneth R. Voigt
 Betty Voss
 James Wagner, c/o John Wagner
 John Wagner
 Margaret Walker
 Edward Watje
 Lyle Weber
 Ronald Weber
 Wilbur M. Weber
 Welcome Hardware
 Our Own Hardware
 Maynard Wendlandt
 Mildred Werling, c/o Guardian Services

Shakopee
 Worthington
 Lakefield
 Pine Island
 Ceylon
 Windom
 Windom
 Fairmont
 Fairmont
 Rapid City, SD
 Blue Earth
 Brewster
 Red Oak, IA
 Two Harbors
 Saint Michael
 Jackson
 St. Peter
 Fairmont
 Jackson
 Forest City, IA
 Granada
 Estherville, IA
 Westbrook
 Heron Lake
 Mankato
 Truman
 Minneapolis
 Fairmont
 Ames, IA
 Jackson
 Windom
 Fairmont
 Fairmont
 Fairmont
 Brush, CO
 Okabena
 Lakefield
 Fairmont
 Bingham Lake
 Lakefield
 New Ulm
 Spirit Lake, IA
 Elmore
 Blue Earth
 Worthington
 New Brighton
 Emily
 Granada
 Fairfield, CA
 Welcome
 Welcome
 Prescott Valley, AZ
 Truman

— Continued on Page 6

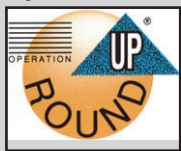
Brown County Briefs

Office closed



Our office remains temporarily closed to the public. If you need to conduct business that can't be done remotely, please call 800-658-2368 to make an appointment. Please continue to pay your electric bill using the drop box, online bill pay through our website at www.browncountyrea.coop, mobile app or automatic payment from your bank account, credit or debit card.

Operation Round Up

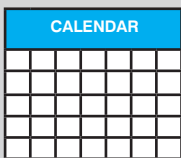


The first quarter Brown County Rural Electric Trust Board meeting for 2021 has been moved to February 9. Organizations wishing to be considered for funding can submit the application, found on the REA website www.browncountyrea.coop, before that date.

Energy efficiency tip

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

2021 calendars available



BCREA still has a few 2021 large, farm pocket calendars and a small number of pocket-size calendars available to our members. Pick up in the office entry. Available until they are gone. ☎️

Employee Jean Fridays donations



Brown County REA office employees 2020 "Jean Fridays" donations were presented to the activities departments at the care centers in Sleepy Eye. Top photo: BCREA CEO Mike Heidemann presented a check to Jayna Groebner, Administrator at Divine Providence Community Home. Bottom: VOA Sleepy Eye Senior Living Executive Director Nathan Pearson (left) looks on as Life Enrichment Director, Denise Lienig, receives a check from Heidemann. ☎️

Why electric bills go up in winter



Even if you don't use electric heat, you may notice that your electric bills are higher during the winter months. Here are a few reasons why this happens:

- Shorter days and longer nights means more time indoors. That typically means more lights, TVs, appliances and electronic devices in use.

- Heating systems run more. Even if you have a propane furnace, your electric use increases because electricity powers the blower motor in the furnace.

- Electric blankets and heating pads feel cozy on cold nights but will add to your electric bill.

- Engine block heaters on cars or equipment plus heating wraps on exposed plumbing will increase your energy usage.

- Portable plug-in space heaters can dramatically increase your monthly bill. A 1,500-watt space heater used for 10 hours per day can add 450 kilowatt hours to your monthly bill, which is \$42.75. ☎️

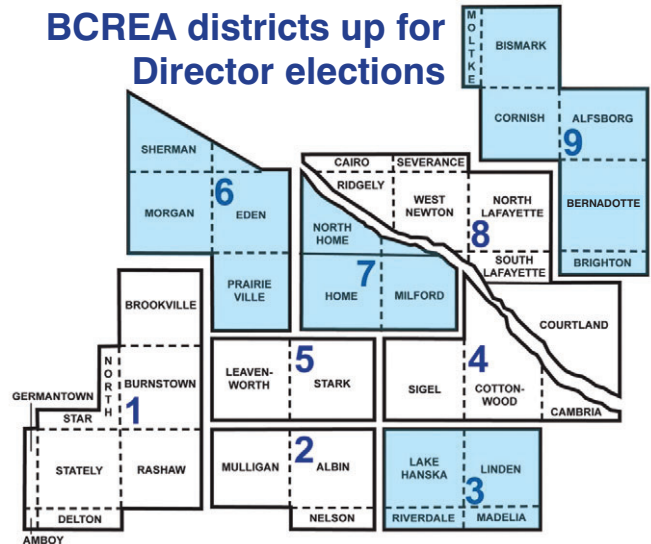
Director candidates sought; special election in District 3

Brown County REA Directors are cooperative members, just like you. They represent you on the co-op board while responsibly overseeing the business of the co-op and determining strategic direction.

The cooperative model depends on its members to provide leadership and guidance. Each year Brown County REA holds a director election in three of its nine districts. In 2021 a cooperative director's move from the Brown County REA service area has created a vacancy to complete the remaining two years of a term on the board in District 3. The election process ensures that every member has a voice in the operation of the cooperative and that any member in good standing may seek election to the Board of Directors.

For election at the 84th Annual Meeting set for April 8, candidates are being sought in Districts 3, 6, 7, and 9. District 3, which is made up of Lake Hanska and Linden townships in Brown County, plus parts of Riverdale and Madelia townships in Watonwan County. District 6 is made up of Eden and Prairieville townships in Brown County, a portion of Sherman and all of Morgan townships in Redwood County. District 7 covers North Home, Home and Milford townships in Brown County. District 9 consists of a portion of Brighton and Bernadotte townships in Nicollet County, and portions of Alfsborg, Cornish, Bismark and Moltke townships in Sibley County.

BCREA districts up for Director elections



Members who reside in District 3, 6, 7 or 9 and interested in being a director candidate, please complete and return the Director Candidate Application found on the co-op website www.browncountyrea.coop. Names will be shared with the nomination committee for consideration as a candidate. Contact the office with any questions. ☎

Director Hanson honored



BCREA Board President Tom Hayes (left) presented a plaque to Allen Hanson for his service on the Board of Directors since 2003. Hanson recently moved from REA service territory. ☎

Round Up scholarships



High school seniors whose parents/guardians are members and live in Brown County REA's service area are encouraged to apply for one of six \$250 scholarships offered through the

Operation Round Up program.

Funds for the scholarships are collected from members who round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. The difference is placed in a trust which is administered by a nine-member board which meets four times each year to distribute funds to charitable causes, individuals and families in crisis and scholarships.

Scholarship guidelines and applications are available from area high school counselors and can also be found on the REA website at www.browncountyrea.coop.

Deadline is April 1 and winners will be announced at the BCREA Annual Meeting April 8. A copy of the student's high school transcript and one letter of recommendation are required. Scholarship funds will be awarded after successful completion of the first semester of college. ☎

Co-op 'utility' pays back capital credits

— Continued from Page 3

Orrie Werner Jackson
 Delmar Whitacker, c/o Marvel Whitaker Fairmont
 Helen Whitehead Fairmont
 John Wiggins Clinton, IA
 Robert Willink Silver City, NM
 Tom Winter Sioux Center, IA
 Delbert Wittrock Lake Park, IA
 Chester Wohlers Jackson
 Beverly A. Worshek Fairmont
 Donald G. Worthley Spencer, IA
 Gary Wright Fairmont
 Margie I. Yarns Fargo, ND
 Yellow Freight Systems Lakefield
 John Zellar Solway
 Susan Zielske Fairmont
 Dennis Ziemann Fairmont
 Marvin Zishka Lakefield

Gonzales, Jesus
 Grathwohl, Lonnie
 Graves, Richard
 Greibel, Joseph E.
 Guggisberg, Kenneth A.
 Hacker, Marvin E.
 Hall, Joshua
 Hanson, Jerome A.
 Harmening, Roman Est.
 Harris, Douglas B.
 Hazelton, Robert
 Helget, Richard E.
 Helget, Victor
 Holm, Robert B.
 Hovland, Marilyn
 Hunstad, Jonathan
 Irlbeck, Daniel C.
 Jensen, Steven
 Johnson, Amy
 Jones, David Grant
 Kathman, Taylor A.
 Kizer Sr., Mrs. Robert L.
 Klossner, Loretta
 Knoll, Leroy A.
 Kruse, Wayne W.
 Kuehl, Daniel J.
 Kuester, Raymond
 Lade, Terance
 Landkammer, Wilfred
 Larson, Kurt C.
 Lebens, Christine
 Lee, Martin & Candace
 Lenzen, Dennis J.
 Lothert, Dale E.
 Mcguire, Duane
 Means, Daniel
 Melzer, Elsworth
 Meyer, Karyl
 Miller, Dean
 Miller, Leland L.
 Moldaschel, Jane
 Montaivo, Francisco
 Montanye, Harry R.
 Morales, Joseph
 Nehring, Brian D.
 Neid, Lynn
 Nelson, Gertie A.
 Nelson, Robert P.
 Norby, Judy K.
 Novak, Marilyn
 Olson, Allen E.
 Olson, Diane M.
 Olson, Lucille Estate

Hanska
 New Ulm
 Bernalillo, NM
 Sleepy Eye
 New Ulm
 Lafayette
 Forest Lake
 Bellevue, NE
 Courtland
 New Ulm
 Ogema
 Sleepy Eye
 Sleepy Eye
 New Ulm
 Battle Lake
 Spicer
 Wabasso
 Sleepy Eye
 New Ulm
 Sleepy Eye
 New Ulm
 Hanska
 Winthrop
 Lafayette
 New Ulm
 Bigfork
 Watertown, WI
 New Ulm
 Silver Lake
 Chanhassen
 Tujunga, CA
 Chaska
 Webster
 New Ulm
 New Ulm
 Gaylord
 Sleepy Eye
 New Ulm
 Mankato
 Redwood Falls
 New Ulm
 Sleepy Eye
 Pasco, WA
 Chaska
 Logan, UT
 Hutchinson
 Mankato
 North Mankato
 Little Falls
 St. James
 Buffalo
 New Ulm
 Chanhassen
 New Ulm

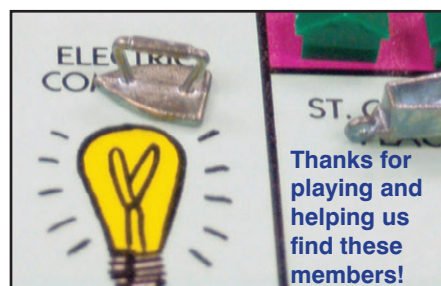
Otsea, Glen A.
 Parsons, Lonnie D.
 Paschka, Joel & Tara
 Peters, Shawn
 Pilot, Joan M.
 Platz, Monica
 Prodoehl, D. A.
 Ramirez, Herbert
 Rasmussen, Christine J.
 Reed, Michael G.
 Reihs, Robert
 Reim, Dan
 Rice, Michael P.
 Rivera, Viviana
 Roberts, Jesse F.
 Robertson, Lola
 Rodriguez, Jose L.
 Roiger Lorraine A.
 Roiger, Steven A. Estate
 Sadler, DeWayne
 Sanchez, Orlando
 Sandmann, Eunice Estate
 Schiller, Harold H.
 Schilling, Paul S.
 Schueler, Dakota R.
 Scott, Kip A.
 Sellner, Elaine
 Sellner, Joseph C.
 Spicer, Debbie L.
 Tharp, Douglas E.
 TinaJero, Araceli Y.
 Torres, Nancy
 Trebelhorn, Robert
 Triax Midwest Ass., L.P.
 Trullinger, Justin
 Twenty 1st Century Wireless
 U.S. West Communications
 Warnke, Donald J.
 Weed, James R.
 Wieseler, James A.
 Wilke, Steven D.
 Winter Creek Farms
 Woodward, Laurie
 Worden, Jerry L.

St. James
 International Falls
 Alexandria
 Arlington
 New Ulm
 Wilmette, IL
 Dardanelle, AR
 Madelia
 New Ulm
 Mankato
 Madelia
 North Mankato
 Grand Rapids
 Sleepy Eye
 New Ulm
 Sleepy Eye
 Sleepy Eye
 Sleepy Eye
 Sanborn
 Winthrop
 Sleepy Eye
 New Ulm
 Springfield
 Worthington
 Comfrey
 St. Paul
 Wells
 Mitchell, SD
 New Ulm
 Normal, IL
 New Ulm
 Sleepy Eye
 St. Peter
 Denver, CO
 New Ulm
 Edina
 Denver, CO
 Plainwell, MI
 New Ulm
 Mankato
 Lewisville
 Redwood Falls
 Eugene, OR
 Linwood, NE

Former Brown County

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

Akin, Chad R. Frankfort, SD
 Anderson, Brian New Ulm
 Anderson, Jennifer New Ulm
 Bastian, Dino J. New Ulm
 Bauer, Lois Darwin
 Bergstron, Meghann T. Comfrey
 Bouton, Leah Kronenwetter, WI
 Braam, Jerry L. Fairfax
 Buegler, Dennis L. New Ulm
 Bunce, Shanna M. Eugene, OR
 Cano, Juan R. Crystal City, TX
 Cimino, James & Rose Cohasset
 Cochran, Lloyd C. Deforest, WI
 Cruz, Ruben Laredo, TX
 Delite Outdoor Inc. St. Paul
 Dietz, Jake New Ulm
 Dittbenner, Armin Sleepy Eye
 Elbert, Jesse Eagle Bend
 Ellanson, Bernice New Ulm
 Fehlman, Roman New Ulm
 Frederick, Thomas Mankato
 Frederickson, Carole & Vernell St. James
 Frederickson, Vernell St. James
 Gleisner, Richard E. New Ulm
 Goblirsch, Maxine New Ulm



Take off winter chills & eat your fill with favorite chili recipes

Spice up a chilly night with a new chili recipe! Do you have a spicy hot recipe, what type of beans and meat do you use? Is it white chili or features canned garden tomatoes? Send your chili recipes to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by February 25. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! ☺

Sweet Potato Bake by Phyllis Freemire, Heron Lake

4 or 6 sweet potatoes	3 T. cooking sherry or orange juice
½ c. brown sugar	¼ c. raisins
1 T. cornstarch	1 T. walnuts, chopped
¼ c. butter	

Cook potatoes. Peel and cut length wise. Arrange in a shallow pan or baking dish. Sprinkle with salt.

Mix in a sauce pan: brown sugar, cornstarch, juice; add raisins. Stir and bring to a boil. Pour over potatoes. Add nuts last. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. ☺

Chicken Tator Bake by Roxanne Zimanski, Courtland

2 cans cream of chicken, undiluted	½ c. 2% milk
¼ c. butter, cubed	3 c. cooked chicken
1 pkg. frozen peas and carrots (I use half can of each — 15 oz. can size)	
1½ c. shredded cheddar cheese, divided	2 lb. pkg. frozen tator tots

In large saucepan combine the soup, milk and butter. Cook and stir over medium heat until heated through. Remove from heat; stir in chicken, peas, carrots and 1 c. of the cheese. Transfer this to a greased 9x13" pan.

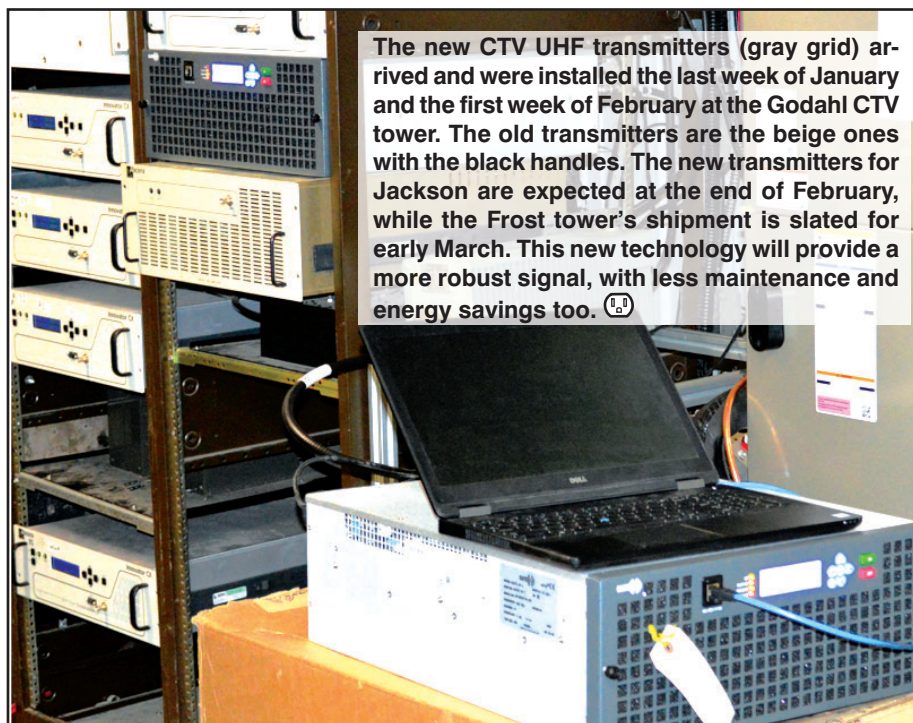
Top with tator tots. Bake at 400° 25-30 minutes. Then sprinkle remaining cheese over the baked mixture and return to oven for about 5 minutes until this cheese melts. ☺

Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole by Sandy Kalfs, Okabena

6 oz. pkg. wild rice	
2 c. chicken, cooked & cubed	
1/3 c. onion, chopped	
¼ c. butter, melted	1/3 c. flour
1 tsp. salt	dash pepper
1 c. milk	1 c. chicken broth
1/3 c. parsley, chopped	
¼ c. almonds, chopped	

Cook rice according to package directions. In a two-quart casserole layer the rice and then the chicken. In a saucepan saute the onion in butter until tender. Gradually stir in the flour, salt, pepper, milk and broth, cooking until thick. Pour sauce over rice and chicken. Add parsley and almonds. Bake uncovered at 425° for 30 minutes. ☺

Godahl CTV transmitters upgraded



The new CTV UHF transmitters (gray grid) arrived and were installed the last week of January and the first week of February at the Godahl CTV tower. The old transmitters are the beige ones with the black handles. The new transmitters for Jackson are expected at the end of February, while the Frost tower's shipment is slated for early March. This new technology will provide a more robust signal, with less maintenance and energy savings too. ☺

**Pick up the phone
before the shovel;
call before digging!**

1-800-252-1166



Call Gopher State One Call before doing any digging more than 12" deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register at www.gopherstate-onecall.org or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. ☺



Brown County Rural Electrical Association

Brown County Rural Electrical Assn.
24386 State Hwy 4, PO Box 529
Sleepy Eye MN 56085

E-mail address: bcrea@bcrea.coop
Website: www.browncountyrea.coop
Phone: 507-794-3331 or 800-658-2368
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Mike Heidemann, Chief Executive Officer

Board of Directors

Thomas Hayes, President — 228-8954
William Berg, Vice President — 766-1497
Brad Sprenger — 317-5576
David Wendinger — 276-3166
Greg Mages — 794-3540
Joel Christensen — 828-4550
James Mickelson — 794-6298
Landon Sletta — 439-6559

The Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of each month.



Mike Heidemann
Chief Executive
Officer

Staff Notes

More comes with membership

You might think of Brown County REA as just the local electric utility, but because of you and your neighbors, we are able to be so much more.

Electric cooperatives are community-focused organizations that work to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy across the entire membership. We're led by members like you, created by and for the communities we serve. We're as unique as the communities that

helped shape us; we've made changes over time to reflect the ways those communities have grown and evolved.

Unlike utilities, which are owned by investors or municipalities, cooperatives are democratic organizations guided by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are often your neighbors, colleagues and friends. They make themselves available for you to share thoughts and ideas, which helps them determine what is in the best interest of the whole.

With democratic control also comes the ability to have your voice heard by casting a ballot at Brown County REA's Annual Meeting. This year's Annual Meeting is set for April 8 at the Sleepy Eye Event Center. During the meeting, you can vote for your preferred board representatives in the districts up for election in 2021. Annual Meetings are also an opportunity to learn more about how your electric cooperative has impacted the local community over the past year.

The staff at your local co-op is also a trusted source for any questions you might have related to your home, business or farm energy needs. We are here to offer advice, direct you to rebates and ways to save on your electric bill, and provide tips on energy efficiency.

It's all part of the cooperative spirit that has always been one of the best aspects about living in a cooperative service area: neighbors looking out for neighbors and people working for the common good. We are stronger and better for it. The power of community is what being an electric cooperative is all about.

Enter Auto-Pay drawing for bill credits



Pay your electric bill each month without giving it a thought through Auto Pay. Enroll before March 31 and you'll be entered in a drawing. Members already enrolled in the program are automatically entered in the drawing for one \$100, two \$50 or 12 \$25 bill credits. Your monthly payment is automatically deducted from your bank account on the 20th of each month. You still receive a statement, but no longer have to write a check, look for a stamp or make a trip to the mailbox. Enroll by using the form on our website or the reverse side of the insert in your January electric bill.

Board meeting highlights

The BCREA Board of Directors held its monthly board meeting via Zoom January 28. Discussion and/or action were taken on the following agenda items:

- Reviewed and approved the December 2020 board meeting minutes, new membership applications, member cancellations, payments to estates and assignment transfers.
- Approved Cogeneration and Small Power Production Schedule 1 with the 2021 Average Retail Cooperative Energy Rates.
- Reviewed and approved the 2021 Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) rate, Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) and Second Nature rates for former Alliant Energy territory of the cooperative.
- Reviewed the 2020 Outage Summary. The average interruption duration for members who experienced an outage was 126 minutes.
- Reviewed the 2020 OSHA 300 Summary reporting the cooperative had no work-related injuries or illnesses during the year.
- Discussed the 2021 Annual Meeting, set for April 8.
- Informed that Eide Bailly, LLP is conducting the cooperative's 2020 financial audit.

The next meeting is set for February 25 at the BCREA office in Sleepy Eye.