



## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

AND *ELECTION OUTCOMES* FOR DISTRICTS 3, 5, AND 7



Unlike any annual meeting in cooperative history, the 2020 People's Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting was divided into two parts due to social distancing guidelines related to COVID-19. The sole purpose of the first part of the meeting that took place on Tuesday, March 24, was to allow members to cast ballots for the director elections and to announce the election results.



While most votes were cast online or by mail ahead of the meeting, a few members cast their ballots through the drive-through process. The shortened meeting was broadcast live on Facebook from the parking lot of the Rochester International Event Center and lasted less than five minutes.

Five candidates vied for three seats with three-year terms on PEC's Board of Directors. In District 3, incumbent **Bob Hoefs** of rural Mazeppa ran unopposed and received 1,808 votes.

District 5 incumbent **Jerry Wooner** defeated challenger Tamara DeMuth of Eyota. Wooner, also from Eyota, won with 1,100 votes and DeMuth received 828 votes.

In District 7, incumbent **Jeff Orth** of rural Rochester defeated challenger Theresa Hornberg of Stewartville. Orth won with 1,347 votes compared to Hornberg's 579 votes.



*The second part of the Annual Meeting will be held later this year if state and federal gathering restrictions have been lifted. Look for updates on the status of the second meeting in future newsletters and our website [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop).*

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# CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



mhenke@peoplesrec.com

*I can't believe how much life has changed in such a short time! One day we were preparing for our Annual Meeting, scheduling construction work, and going on with business as usual and, within a matter of days, everything changed. One thing that has remained the same is our focus on how to best serve our members.*

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In a short matter of time we: altered the Annual Meeting to allow the director election process to conclude on time while complying with cooperative bylaws and social distancing guidelines; implemented mitigation strategies to ensure the health of our workforce, members and the public; and made adjustments to some of our policies and processes to help our members through this difficult time.

During this time of uncertainty, please be assured we will: 1) continue to provide power; 2) be available to serve you; and 3) not disconnect service if you are struggling to pay your bill.

As an electric utility, we have the responsibility to ensure we continue to provide safe and reliable electricity. Therefore, you will continue to see our employees out working in the field and responding to outages as quickly and as safely as possible. They are practicing social distancing by only having one person in a vehicle at a time. They are also avoiding congregating in our facilities by starting their workday from remote locations.

While our front lobby is closed, and most of our office staff are working remotely, please be assured that we remain available to serve you and are fully capable of responding to member needs. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving and responding to phone calls and e-mails during normal business hours,

processing member payments, answering account questions, and responding to power outages.

Please also know that staff and the Board are exploring ways we can help members through this uncertain time. One of our first steps was to suspend the disconnection of power for non-payment. We just ask that you call us if you are struggling to pay your bill due to circumstances related to COVID-19. We can discuss payment options and possible utility assistance programs, so you don't fall too far behind.

For the past few months, we've been talking about our five-year rate plan and were planning to share it at the Annual Meeting. The five-year rate plan included an adjustment to member's rates later this year. Given today's circumstances, we are reconsidering the rate change timeline and will keep you posted once a final decision is made.

As I stated earlier, our focus is on how to best serve our members. Right now, that is ensuring reliable power, a healthy workforce, and balancing the financial needs of our members with the financial health of the Cooperative. Our goal is to continue to provide the high level of service you have come to expect and deserve.

I encourage you to visit our website for the latest information. If you have any questions, please email [memberservices@peoplesrec.com](mailto:memberservices@peoplesrec.com) or call 800-214-2694 during regular business hours. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to navigate these uncertain times.

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*Stay home! Stay healthy! We are here for you!*

*Sincerely,*  
**Michael J. Henke,**  
*President & CEO,*  
**800-214-2694**



**JOIN PEC ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** It is a quick and easy way to share information with a significant number members. We utilize Facebook and Twitter (@Peoplesrec) to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, and peak energy alerts. We also provide members information when major outages occur.

# MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

# highline

Vol. 84 • Issue 04

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on March 26 via teleconference. During the meeting the following items were discussed: *a partner from Brady Martz presented the 2019 Audit Report; union contract extension; update on FEMA work; electric vehicle information; the 2019 Safety, Reliability, and Service Quality Report; and COVID-19 related topics.* A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ **Elected** *Jerry Wooner as Board Chair, Art Friedrich as Vice Chair, and Ken Wohlers as Secretary/Treasurer*
- ▶ **Elected** *Ken Wohlers as the Dairyland Board Director and Art Friedrich as the alternate*
- ▶ **Reappointed** *Mike Henke as CEO and Anthony Stern as CFO*
- ▶ **Approved** *the 2019 Audit Report*
- ▶ **Approved** *the revised strategic plan*



Kevin's last day...



... where he received a unique send-off from his fellow lineworkers.

## Kevin McDermott Retires After 25 Years

**On March 31, Kevin McDermott** retired from People's Energy Cooperative after 25 years of service as a lineworker. Since 2014, Kevin has served as the Lead Area Lineworker for the Oronoco area, his hometown.

*We couldn't gather to celebrate Kevin's retirement due to COVID-19 and social distancing, but his fellow lineworkers safely gathered to salute Kevin for his leadership and dedication to his profession. Thank you for your service, Kevin!*

## PARTICIPATE IN OUR MEMBER SURVEY

**Your satisfaction matters to the staff and Board of the Cooperative!**

Therefore, every other year, People's conducts an American Customer Satisfaction Index Survey (ACSI) to measure member satisfaction and to better understand members' priorities, pain points, and preferences. In 2018, PEC's member satisfaction score was 84: an increase from 81 in 2016. The goal for 2020 is to achieve a score of 86. A limited number of members will be contacted by phone or e-mail, so if you receive a call or e-mail from NRECA Market Research, we encourage you to participate. It only takes about 10 minutes on average. **Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation!**

### MANAGEMENT

Michael J. Henke,  
President/CEO

Gary Fitterer,  
Director of Engineering

Michelle Olson,  
Director of  
Member Services

Anthony Stern,  
Chief Financial Officer

Gwen Stevens,  
Director of Cooperative  
Relations

Troy Swancutt,  
Director of Operations

### 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### DISTRICT 1:

Joe Book

#### DISTRICT 2:

Ken Wohlers,  
Secretary/Treasurer

#### DISTRICT 3:

Robert Hoefs,

#### DISTRICT 4:

Tracy Lauritzen

#### DISTRICT 5:

Jerry Wooner,  
Board Chair

#### DISTRICT 6:

Art Friedrich  
Vice Chair

#### DISTRICT 7:

Jeff Orth

Visit [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop) for a listing of the areas covered by each district.

### GENERAL INFO

#### Office Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

Telephone: 507-367-7000

Toll-Free: 800-214-2694

#### Web Address:

[www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop)

#### Gopher State One Call:

1-800-252-1166

(digging & line location)



# Know what's **below.** **Call** before you dig.

NOW THAT SPRING HAS ARRIVED, many members will be placing calls to Gopher State One Call to have underground facilities marked prior to any type of project that requires digging.

What some people don't realize is that they are responsible for more than just calling 811 and getting public utilities marked.

Private underground facilities, such as gas lines from a propane tank, private power lines running to an outbuilding or shed, an invisible pet fence, or sprinkler systems, will not get marked by public utility companies. In these instances, it is the homeowner's responsibility to make sure any privately-owned underground wires on their side of the meter are located prior to digging.

These lines should be located by an electrician or through one of the location service companies listed in the industry directory available on Gopher State One Call's website: [gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org). The property owner or tenant is responsible for contacting a private locator and paying the fee for locating private underground facilities.

## 2020 PEC Board Election **"THANK YOU"** Notes

**3** District Three Director: **Robert Hoefs • Mazeppa, MN:** "Thanks for your past support and re-electing me to your board of directors. Thanks again and remember in these times, stay safe."

**5** District Five Director: **Jerry Wooner • Eyota, MN:** "I just want to thank everyone who ran as candidates. It is refreshing to know people are willing to help and represent their communities. I'm proud of each of you. Also thanks to the membership for trusting in and re-electing me. I truly am humbled. Thanks."

**5** District Five Candidate: **Tamara DeMuth • Eyota, MN:** "Thank you to all of the members in District 5 who participated in the 2020 election. I am thankful for the opportunity I had to run in the election and am humbled by the amazing support displayed. We have a wonderful group of leaders on the PEC Board and I look forward to their continued leadership as People's Energy Cooperative continues to grow." Twenty thousand nine hundred nine.

**7** District Seven Director: **Jeff Orth • Rochester, MN:** "Thank you to the members of People Energy Cooperative for their vote of confidence in the Board Election held March of 2020. Future challenges to be addressed by the People's Board will include: transition to more renewable electrical generation, possible growth in number of members, ongoing replacement and upgrade of existing infrastructure, impact of more electrical vehicles, and more recently the possible long term impact of COVID-19. Thanks again for your support."

**7** District Seven Candidate: **Theresa Hornberg • Stewartville, MN:** "I would like to thank each and every person who voted in the recent Board of Directors election. I am honored to have been a District 7 candidate. I know that in comparison to the current pandemic this election may seem like a minor event but I assure you that having an engaged membership base is a blessing and will help ensure that People's Energy Cooperative remains stable and strong now and in the future."

# POWERED SMART ELECTRIC VEHICLES

efficient | smart | green

Electric vehicles are growing in popularity. The technology is improving, their range is expanding, and they are becoming more affordable.

## What Type of Electric Vehicle (EV) Do You Want?

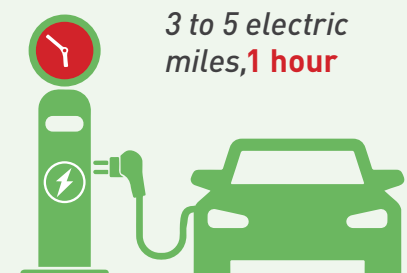
The first things to consider when exploring the possibility of purchasing an EV are the type of vehicle you want and how you will charge it at your home. If you do not want to charge a vehicle, a conventional hybrid will use less gasoline than non-hybrid models. The following chart shows the differences between types of EVs. TIP: Check with local dealerships to see if they offer a used EV inventory.

| Vehicle Type →     | HYBRID                          | PLUG-IN-HYBRID                              | BATTERY EV  |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| RANGE              | 473-638 mi.<br>(11-gallon tank) | 12-26 mi. (electric)<br>200-640 mi. (total) | 150-335 mi. |
| FUEL TYPE          | Gasoline                        | Gas + Battery                               | Battery     |
| MPG (Equivalent)   | 43-58 mpg                       | 74-133                                      | 112-124     |
| PLUG IN TO CHARGE? | No                              | Yes   | Yes         |

## How Will You Charge The Vehicle?

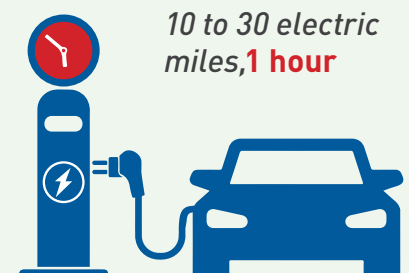
Before purchasing, make sure the proper infrastructure is in-place to accommodate a home charger. We currently have a rebate available for Level 2 chargers. Based on surveys of EV owners, 80 percent of charging occurs at home (smartphone apps can locate charging stations when travelling). There are different levels of charging stations available. The information below may help you decide which is best for your needs.

**LEVEL 1:**  
3 to 5 electric miles, **1 hour**



Requires access to a 120-volt outlet in an area where you can recharge the car overnight (or be willing to have a trusted electrician install one in a convenient location).

**LEVEL 2:**  
10 to 30 electric miles, **1 hour**



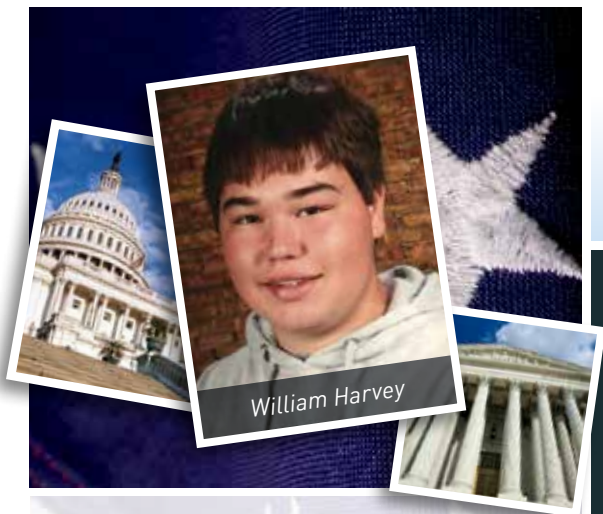
Requires access to a 240-volt outlet in an area where you can recharge the car (or have an electrician install one). Some businesses offer employees Level 2 charging stations.

| Charging Levels → | LEVEL 1 (above left) | LEVEL 2 (above right)     | DC FAST CHARGING*    |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| VOLTAGE           | 120V single-phase AC | 208-240V single-phase AC  | 480V single-phase AC |
| AMPS              | 12 to 15             | ←50 (typically 30)        | 60 to 420            |
| CHARGING LOAD     | 1.8 kW               | 3.6-11 kW (typically 7.2) | 50-150 kW            |
| CHARGING TIME     | 3-5 electric mph     | 10-30 electric mph        | 2-9 electric mph     |

volts x amps = watts | watts / 1,000 = kilowatts (kW) | typical range per kilowatt-hour (kWh) = 3 miles \*not for home charging or most PHEVs

## Other Things To Consider When Purchasing an Electric Vehicle:

- **Install the charger in a place** near a frequent parking spot, such as in a shed, garage or carport. Sheds and garages limit exposure to the elements and prevent others from using your equipment. A Level 2 charger plus installation can cost between \$250 and \$1,000.
- **Make sure there is available space** on the floor, walls and ceilings; be mindful of overhead doors or objects that may obstruct a vehicle's ability to plug in; and avoid locations that will require the cord to be wrapped around or draped over a vehicle.



## CONGRATS TO OUR 2020 WINNER!

Congratulations to **William Harvey** of Dover for being selected to represent PEC at the 2020 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour! William is a junior at Dover-Eyota High School and the son of Jill and Steve Harvey.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Youth Tour has been cancelled. Fortunately, William is a junior and will be able to participate next year. He was looking forward to his first visit to Washington, D.C. and meeting the hundreds of other students who participate in the trip.

The Youth Tour educates students about electric cooperatives, the cooperative business model, and the legislative process. Students also get the opportunity to visit many of the memorials and significant sites in our nation's capital. One thousand one hundred fifty-four.



# 2020 CENSUS



The U.S. Constitution mandates a head count every 10 years. These numbers are critical because they determine how much federal funding the state of Minnesota receives, as well as the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. States also use the data to determine if legislative districts need to be changed. People's Energy sat down with Olmsted County's Communications Project Lead, Brittney Marschall to learn how the Census will move forward in light of the recent effects of COVID-19.

*The last Census count in 2010 resulted in seven states gaining a Congressional seat and at least eight states losing a seat. For example, Texas gained three seats and New York state lost two. Losing two seats in Washington, D.C. means two fewer votes on valuable emergency aid for a state. "In the past few weeks, we have seen extraordinary efforts on the local, state, and federal level to provide relief for Americans suffering or experiencing difficulty due to the Coronavirus pandemic," says Marschall. "Losing two seats under normal circumstances is difficult, but today's current environment sheds an even more somber light on the situation."*

*New in 2020, the Census can be done online – a practical alternative that is easy and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Says Marschall, "Taking the Census online is safe, secure, and confidential. The data has always been collected and collated in a digital environment; this simply allows another option for people to submit their information."*

*We wondered how the new circumstances would interfere, if at all, with the Census timeline. "At this point, the Census Bureau has delayed or extended various operations of the count to include when Census takers will be in the field," Marschall continues. "Originally, they were scheduled to begin in-person household interviews on April 28th and that date has been pushed out." The nation should see the very first results from the 2020 Census in the form of total population counts for the nation and each state in late 2020 or early 2021.*

As of right now, the safest and most secure option is to complete the Census online at **my2020census.gov**. We encourage all members to do their part to ensure our state and our communities receive the appropriate funding and representation in our legislature.

# SPRING ENERGY EFFICIENCY QUIZ

With COVID-19 keeping our kids home, here's a quiz you can take with your kids to test your energy efficiency smarts! Answers are below under the PEC symbol.



1. Sealing air leaks around \_\_\_\_\_ saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.

- A) Doors
- B) Windows
- C) Both A and B

2. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use, like \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Refrigerators
- B) Cell phone chargers
- C) Dishwashers

3. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave the room to save energy.

- A) True
- B) False

4. LED bulbs typically use \_\_\_\_\_ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

- A) 25%
- B) 50%
- C) 75%

5. Planting \_\_\_\_\_ around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.

- A) Flowers
- B) Shade trees
- C) Vegetables



ANSWER KEY:  
1. C 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. B



## OPERATION ROUND UP® SPOTLIGHT

# Oronoco Lions Club

*The hockey rink/basketball court at the Oronoco Community Center will soon be well-lit year-round thanks to a donation from People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up program.*

Doug Gillard, a member of the Oronoco Lions Club, was a key figure behind the effort to get additional lighting for the facility. With only one light for the hockey rink area, he noticed how the north end of the rink was very poorly lit.

The Operation Round Up grant of \$1,355 will be used to purchase and install a second light pole for the area. The pole will be installed on the north side of the rink, even with the other pole. It will also include an outlet that can be used to power a heater for the nearby warming house. Gillard says the City of Oronoco has agreed to pay for the electricity.

"Right now, we've got a warming house there with no electricity to it. So, there's no way to warm it. Kids have to go home when they get cold," he explains. "Our plan is to put an outlet on the pole so we can get an electric heater and a light in the warming house."

The Oronoco Lions Club would like to thank People's Energy Cooperative members who participate in the Cooperative's voluntary Operation Round Up program. "I live in Oronoco and I participate in Operation Round Up," Gillard says. "I think it is a brilliant idea for People's Energy Cooperative to do this! It's always nice to see where this money is going in our community." Gillard invites the public to come check out the facility.

*"It's open for everyone. Come play hockey in the winter and check out our warming house. Then come back and play basketball in the summer."* – Doug Gillard

## RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

*In compliance with People's Energy Cooperative's (PEC) adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, PEC is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. PEC is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any disputes over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the PEC Board. Interested members should contact the Cooperative by e-mailing [DERInterconnect@peoplesrec.com](mailto:DERInterconnect@peoplesrec.com), calling us at 800-214-2694, or by visiting the Cooperative office at 1775 Lake Shady Avenue South in Oronoco. Thirty-one thousand five hundred ninety-two.*

## Solar\$ense

*We are excited to offer our residential members who are interested in solar energy an opportunity to participate in a new pilot incentive program called Solar\$ense.*

This program gives residential members another choice in how they can benefit from installing their own net-metered (40kW or less in size) photovoltaic (PV) solar system. Depending on the size and type of system, members are eligible to receive up to \$4,000 in incentives for 'properly sizing' their system to match their power needs.

*For more information about this program, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/member-owned-renewable-energy-systems](http://peoplesenergy.coop/member-owned-renewable-energy-systems) or call Cristina McNallan at 800-214-2694.*

# Electric\$ense

## PURCHASE ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS FROM HOME

*Electric\$ense Online Store, a valuable resource for our cooperative members.*

*As our state battles the COVID-19 virus, people are spending significantly more time in their homes. With this change in lifestyle, there are ways to help cut down on your energy use at home.*

People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) teamed up with eight other Dairyland Cooperatives in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa to create Electric\$ense – an online store that delivers energy-efficient light bulbs, smart home devices, and water-saving products right to your door. You receive free shipping on orders over \$25 and receive an instant rebate on eligible items at checkout.

"Until recently, the items available for purchase were LED light bulbs and water-saving products," says Cristina McNallan, PEC's electrical services and programs coordinator. "Members are now able to purchase smart home devices such as smart thermostats, smart sockets, advanced power strips, and battery backup LED light bulbs."

The online store offers products that are eligible for PEC's incentive program. Prices listed on the site are discounted to automatically reflect available rebates.

This saves members and the Cooperative time because separate rebate forms no longer need to be filled out and processed. Items sold through Electric\$ense promote energy savings, helping members conserve electricity and lower their monthly energy bill.

"While members are spending more time at home, it is important to remain aware of energy-efficient opportunities. Simple steps each day can help avoid unnecessary energy usage," McNallan notes.

PEC offers valuable energy saving information on its Home Energy Savings webpage under the Member Center tab on the PEC website: [peoplesenergy.coop/home-energy-savings](http://peoplesenergy.coop/home-energy-savings).

## SAVE AN ADDITIONAL \$5!

*To help you conserve energy while participating in social distancing, you can log in to [electriccsense.amcgmarketplace.com](http://electriccsense.amcgmarketplace.com) and use the code CV2020 when checking out to receive an additional \$5 off an order of \$25 or more. Good through April 30.*



## SMART COMMUNICATION

**SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.**

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SmartHub goes beyond bill payments and usage tracking. This online and mobile app is also a powerful communication tool.

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# 3 ways to Electrify

## YOUR SUMMER LAWN CARE



Gas-powered lawn care equipment may have been your first-choice last season, but times are changing. If you're in the market for an upgrade, you may want to consider electric (or battery-powered) options.

*If you're looking to electrify your lawn care equipment, be sure to do your homework. Search online for the latest reviews and check trusted websites like [ConsumerReports.org](https://www.consumerreports.org). With a little research, you'll be well on your way to Lawn of the Month – with less maintenance, hassle, and noise.*



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

- 1. ELECTRIC LAWN MOWERS (\$200-500):** Electric lawn mowers have come a long way since they required corded connections, which were tricky to manage. Newer cordless electric mowers are certainly more expensive than their gas-powered counterparts, but much of the upfront cost can be recovered since electricity is a less expensive fuel than gas, and electric engines generally require less maintenance than gas engines. Twenty-four thousand eighty-seven.  
Electric mowers are suitable for most lawn care needs, with batteries that typically require 1-2 hours to fully charge and can run for up to an hour. That said, if you have a large yard (*half an acre or larger*), a gas-powered option may still be best.

- 2. ELECTRIC TRIMMERS (starting at \$100):** String trimmers are a great option for most lawns. Traditionally, string trimmers have been powered by gas. But new versions of electric trimmers are improving and are now considered worthy competitors of gas-powered models.  
Cordless electric trimmers are much quieter and easier to use, but most batteries last about 30 to 45 minutes. If you're interested in purchasing an electric trimmer, the main factors to consider are the battery's life, charge time, and power.

- 3. ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWERS (starting at \$150):** If you don't want to deal with the maintenance of a gas-powered blower or the restraints of a corded blower, a cordless electric version is a great option.

Cordless electric leaf blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver, but they don't offer quite as much power as gas-powered and corded blowers. If your leaf blowing and clearing needs are minimal, a cordless electric leaf blower can get the job done.

# WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

After a long winter, people are often eager to get outside when the temperatures start to rise. Whether you are working hard in the fields or starting your newest construction project, be aware of your surroundings and always look out for overhead power lines and power poles. To understand the equipment you find on a power pole, check out the infographic below.

## PRIMARY WIRES:

Carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets!

## INSULATORS:

Prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

## SURGE ARRESTORS:

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

## SECONDARY SERVICE DROP:

Carries 120/240-volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

**NEUTRAL WIRE:** Acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

**GROUND WIRE:** Connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

**TELEPHONE, CABLE TELEVISION, AND FIBER WIRES:** These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.



Never nail posters or other items to utility poles, as they create safety hazards for our lineworkers.

Power line illustration by Erin Binkley



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

## HIGHLINE HI-LITES • April 2020 • Vol. 84 • Issue 04

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Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

### WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.

**507.367.7000 or 800.214.2694**

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

# \$30

Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter, one on our website, and one on our Facebook page. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** or **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.

**GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!**

## Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule is no longer in effect as of April 16

We are not disconnecting for non-payment at this time as we understand some of our members have found themselves with the inability to pay their bill in full. Therefore, should you find yourself in this situation, it is important that you stay in touch with us and make payment arrangements. Failure to communicate and/or have active arrangements in place could result in disconnection in the future.

## The MN Dept. of Commerce made changes to the Energy Assistance Program policy, in affect from April 1 until the end of the program year:

- ▶ **THE DEADLINE** for households to apply for EAP benefits has been changed to July 1, 2020.
- ▶ **HOUSEHOLDS APPLYING** now through July 1, 2020 only need to provide one-month worth of income information. This also applies to denied households who sign a new signature page with a signature date of April 1, through July 1, 2020.
- ▶ **NEW APPLICANTS** are no longer required to submit a Verification of Income and Expense (VIE) form if they claim inadequate or no income.

The stimulus package passed by Congress and signed into law included an additional \$900 million for energy assistance in the United States. Minnesota has not yet received the additional funds, but local agencies are trying to get the word out that the EAP is available to help.



# Heartland Security

HOME SECURITY  
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**888-264-6380**

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