



CONGRATULATIONS TO **SHANNA**, A 2020 **WHO POWERS YOU WINNER!**



**SHANNA LUNASIN
WON SECOND
PLACE IN THE 2020
#WHOPOWERSYOU
CONTEST!**

PEC member Sherrie Decker of Plainview nominated Shanna for her work in helping children with cancer. Shanna will receive a prize of \$2,000 to help continue her efforts.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives launched #WhoPowersYou in 2016 to honor people making a powerful impact in their community. Electric cooperative members and employees from across the country were encouraged to nominate someone who's making a difference in their community. You may recognize Shanna's name from the September 2020 newsletter where her organization Childhood Cancer Community was featured in the Operation Round Up Spotlight. The following is from Sherrie's nomination.

How has your nominee made a positive difference in your community? Shanna is a survivor of childhood cancer. In order to eradicate her cancer, she was hospitalized for the majority of a year while receiving chemotherapy treatments. In addition, she underwent the amputation of her leg to remove her cancerous tumor. She is now a cancer survivor of 20 years and living a happy, healthy, and full life!

Ever since having cancer, her heart has been drawn to helping other children

facing cancer. In 2019 she founded, and is the president of, a non-profit organization called Childhood Cancer Community. Its mission is to provide meaningful connections for families facing childhood cancer to provide positivity and purpose throughout their journey. She loves bringing joy to children battling cancer; since her own diagnosis she has mentored thousands facing this devastating disease.

What makes your nominee such a special part of your community? Immediately after finishing her own treatments, even at the tender age of eight, she started going back to the hospital to encourage others going through some of the same things she had faced.

She helped as many people as she could on her own, but soon realized how many more she could help if she were to start a non-profit organization and mobilize others to work alongside her in her efforts. She absolutely "lives" to help children and their families in their fight against cancer. *(continued on page 2)*

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CEO MESSAGE

FROM MICHAEL J. HENKE, PRESIDENT & CEO



Michael J. Henke

mhenke@peoplesrec.com

With the uncertainty 2020 has brought to our lives, People's Energy Cooperative doesn't want members to worry about their electricity. Our primary wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is committed to the 24/7 reliable performance of its power plants and transmission system. The men and women who operate and maintain Dairyland's facilities are focused on safety, while holding high standards for reliable operations.

It is also our responsibility to you to have a well-maintained distribution system. Dairyland delivers the electricity to our substations and we distribute it to you so you can turn on your lights, heat your home, and ensure your devices are charged for work or school.

Dairyland maintains a balanced energy mix so that one resource isn't overly relied upon in a way that would sacrifice reliability for our members. Reliability comes from careful planning and making sustainable decisions based on social, economic, environmental, and technological impacts.

Since 2010, Dairyland has been a member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). MISO is an independent, not-for-profit organization that helps safely deliver electricity across 15 states plus Manitoba, Canada. As a MISO member, Dairyland must have enough resources to supply electricity to all 24 of its member cooperatives, including People's Energy Cooperative, at all times. As Dairyland increases the number of renewable resources they use to produce

electricity, they must also provide power when the sun doesn't shine, and the wind doesn't blow.

MISO, along with recent transmission line upgrades, ensures we can utilize wind and solar resources when they are available, but also have access to "backbone" resources when renewable generation is low. Examples of backbone resources include the John P. Madgett coal-fired generating station in Alma, Wis., as well as the proposed Nemadji Trail Energy Center – a natural gas plant that will serve as the "power behind the power," responding on-demand to intermittent solar and wind resources.

With your participation, our load management program helps reduce the amount of electricity needed during times of high demand, such as during a polar vortex in the winter. During these times, we call on members to reduce their electricity use, which decreases the need to utilize high-cost resources. This program helps keep our electricity rates stable.

We can't bring certainty to a pandemic, but we can offer havens of normalcy by keeping the lights on, so you can enjoy a meal, catch up on a good book, or watch your favorite holiday movie. The importance of these little moments drives our big decisions.

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 #WHOPOWERSYOU WINNER *(continued from cover)*

Why does your nominee deserve to be recognized? Shanna isn't the type of person who would ever seek recognition for her work, but others would say she deserves it. She is one of the most giving people you will ever meet. She loves going to the hospital to brighten the days of children battling cancer and/or facing amputations. In addition, she works tirelessly in her organization to provide Monthly Community Nights, welcome gifts for newly diagnosed children, fun family events, an online community, mentorship opportunities, and more. Shanna is a quiet servant, and very deserving of this award. She would be so humbled to receive this recognition.

PEC would also like to recognize Carmen Narveson of Chatfield who was nominated for sharing her gift of music with the Chatfield community. We're so proud to be part of a region that thrives due to people like Shanna and Carmen who have a heart for service to others. They truly live out the Cooperative Principle of "Concern for Community."

MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

highline

Vol. 84 • Issue 11

PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Oct. 30. During the meeting, the following items were discussed:

update on hiring a Director of Engineering and Operations; the positive effects of the State Bonding Bill on our region; update on the second phase of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency inspection for proper PCB management; update on FEMA work; update on past due accounts; update on the impact of COVID on cooperative employees; a discussion with new Dairyland Power Cooperative CEO Brent Ridge; quarterly financials; director voting delegates for affiliated organizations; and a video from NRECA's Governance Training Program titled "Succession Planning for the Board." A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ **Approved a 0.925 mill power cost adjustment for Legacy members for Oct. usage billed in Nov.**
- ▶ **Approved the Form 990 for both PEC and Operation Round Up.**
- ▶ **Reappointed the following Member Advisory Committee members: Kenneth Aaker (Dist. 1), Russ Skov (Dist. 2), Tom Schimek (Dist. 3), James Judge (Dist. 4), Harold Anderson (Dist. 5), and Edward Scherr (Dist. 6).**
- ▶ **Appointed the following members to the Member Advisory Committee: Ron Kruger (Dist. 1), Jerome Nelson (Dist. 3), Mark Williamson (Dist. 3), Richard Pagel (Dist. 6), and Brian Zmolek (Dist. 7).**

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*

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 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

Gopher State One Call:

1-800-252-1166

(digging & line location)

ask us!

QUESTION: "What is Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, and does it have conditions?"

This is a question often asked by cooperative members.

ANSWER: The Cold Weather Rule is a state statute designed to help protect and reconnect a resident's primary heating source. This rule is only in effect October 15 through April 15 and applies to electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, and investor-owned utilities. It also affects both electric and natural gas utilities.

We may not disconnect the utility services of a residential cooperative member during this period of time if the disconnection affects the primary heat sources of the residential unit and ALL the following conditions are met:

1. THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME of the Cooperative member is at or below 50 percent of the state median income (verified on forms provided by the Cooperative or

by the local energy assistance provider). A member meets the income requirement if they receive energy or public that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median;

2. A MEMBER ENTERS INTO and makes timely payments under an agreement that considers the financial resources of the household and;

3. A MEMBER RECEIVES REFERRALS from the Cooperative to energy assistance programs, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the member's energy bills.

More information can be found on our website. For specific payment plan questions, contact us at 800-214-2694.

You can email your questions to memberrelations@peoplesrec.com or message us on Facebook. Your question may be in the next newsletter!



OPERATION ROUND UP®

Oct. Grants

To be considered for first quarter grants in 2021, applications must be submitted no later than December 20. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at www.peoplesenergy.coop or by calling the Cooperative at 800-214-2694.

People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$21,071 in grants in the fourth quarter of 2020 to the following area organizations:

- **\$1,200: Ability Building Center in Rochester** – For life enrichment in the lounge
- **\$3,000: Bear Cave Intermediate School in Stewartville** – For PinBox 3000. Seven thousand three hundred seventy-three
- **\$4,600: City of Oronoco – Zumbro River Regional Water Trail** – For master planning and public engagement with developing the Zumbro River Regional Water Trail
- **\$1,600: Dover Eyota Public Schools Band Program** – For Harmony Bridge: Bringing Music to our Seniors
- **\$3,200: Grand Meadow Fire Department** – For the purchase of cribbing for rescue vehicles
- **\$2,000: Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research in Olmsted County** – For Creando Ando
- **\$3,000: HOPE Ranch Foundation in Chatfield** – For continued education and staffing for the equine assisted psychotherapy program
- **\$1,000: Mantorville Art Guild** – For Mantorville Art Guild Bags and More
- **\$1,000: Othello Cemetery Assoc. in Byron** – For restoration and preservation of grave markers
- **\$471: Triton Preschool - Triton Public Schools in Dodge Center** – For math curriculum storage and manipulatives

Funds are collected from members who have their electric bill rounded up to the next dollar. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative volunteer members. Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis.



Brenna Scanlan



Ron Pickett

ORU welcomes Brenna and Ron!

The Operation Round Up® Trust is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who represent each of the seven board districts of our service territory. This past October, we welcomed **Brenna Scanlan** (District 2) and **Ron Pickett** (District 3) to the Board. They join Judy Plank (District 1), Roger Rettmann (District 4), Barb Nicklay (District 5), Janet Hoffmann (District 6), and Ann Lutteke (District 7).



GET CONNECTED!

Are you on social media? It is a quick and easy way to share information with a significant number of our 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.





Financial Assistance

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AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS

AS TEMPERATURES DECLINE, THE COST OF HEATING STARTS TO INCREASE. During the cold weather months, some People's Energy Cooperative (PEC) members might have trouble paying their electric bills. We know COVID-19 has created additional financial hardships, placing an even larger burden on families already struggling to pay their bills or bring their accounts current. If you have a past-due balance with PEC, or you are concerned about how to pay for heating costs this winter, there are resources available to help those in need.

COVID-19 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funded program known as the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) allocates \$100 million in Minnesota to cover housing expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, or other housing-related expenses. *Funds are available through Dec. 30, 2020, on a first-come, first-served basis.* Eligible utility expenses include gas, electric, water, and sewer. Propane is currently ineligible. Only past-due expenses incurred on or after March 1, 2020, and before December 30, 2020, are eligible.

For more about the CHAP program or to apply:

- ▶ Visit United Way 211, 211unitedway.org to access the application and assistance or questions regarding eligibility or call 800-543-7709.
- ▶ General FAQs, including information on income limits and what is covered: mnhousing.gov/sites/np/covid19housingassistanceprogramFAQ

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income (\$54,357 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. *Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2021.*

For more about the EAP program or to apply:

- ▶ Visit Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance at mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/, for more details and to access the application portal.
- ▶ Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule also helps to protect and reconnect residential heat from October 15 through April 15.

PEC EXISTS BECAUSE OF YOU, AND WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact PEC to set up a Cold Weather Rule payment plan. Eleven thousand three hundred eighty-four.



CONGRATS TO VETERAN-OWNED The Industry TV, LLC

The Industry TV, LLC, was named the Minnesota 2020 Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The company, based in Oronoco, MN, is a veteran-owned and family operated business providing media for deer hunting products and enthusiasts.

Marine Corps veterans Michael and Christopher Dukart, joined forces with Jeff Dukart to launch The Industry TV, LLC, in 2010 as a complement to their first family business Illusion Systems Inc., which produces patented deer calling systems. The Industry TV hit success in 2014 with The Deer Society, an online platform for educational videos on deer calling that resulted in the two businesses becoming a multimillion-dollar company in a few years.

"We know that entrepreneurs who combine passion for their small business with the system's know-how that the military provides can go far," said SBA Minnesota District Director Brian McDonald. "We're honored to support the Dukart family in their drive to succeed in business and in helping others through that success."

Starting off as garage-based businesses, the Dukart team obtained financing, including an SBA-backed loan, which allowed them to take The Industry TV and Illusion Systems, Inc., to the next level. They moved away from the garage and renting spaces to buy land, furniture, fixtures, and equipment, and construct a new 7,500 square foot building.

"The Dukarts have demonstrated that they are not afraid of hard work and the dedication it takes to become successful, including willingness to change with the industry and the technology of today's society," said Mary Oudekerk, senior business development officer with the 504 Corporation.

As a veteran-owned small business, the team continues to give back and support fellow veterans. Michael Dukart was concerned with the increased rate of Iraq war veteran suicides, so he sponsors a goose hunt annually for veterans, teaching them hunting techniques and providing comradery. The Dukart family has also sponsored the "Tee It Up for Troops" golf fundraiser for veterans and their families throughout the U.S., continues to help with Gold Star Families, and supports the Curtis Swenson Memorial Foundation for fallen veterans in the Rochester area.

CELEBRATE OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Perhaps now, more than ever, our local "mom and pop" shops need our support. Show our local businesses some love on **Saturday, November 28** and shop local with Small Business Saturday. Remember to consider our local Co-op Connections participating businesses for extra savings!

B&C Plumbing • Byron Pet Clinic • C&M Screen Printing & Embroidery • Charlie Brown PC Applications • Chatfield Lumber Co. Inc. • Family Tree Nursery • Heartland Security • Moenning Meats, LLC • Midwest LifeShots Photography • Prestige Auto & Diesel Care • Rennings Flowers • RFour Meats • Rochester City Lines • Warners' Stellan • Wintrust Mortgage

TO ALL OUT VETERANS, WE THANK YOU!

In recognition of Veterans Day, PEC thanks all veterans for their service and for their unwavering dedication to our safety and freedom. We especially want to thank the veterans who serve the Cooperative as Board members, MAC members, Operation Round Up Board members, and employees.



How to report an OUTAGE

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT at your home or business, People's Energy Cooperative offers several easy ways for members to notify the Cooperative of the outage. By letting us know about the outage, you are helping us get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

OUTAGE TEXTING: *One of the quickest and most convenient ways to let us know about an outage is to send us a text message. To participate in outage texting, members first need to register for the program. Sign up at: peoplesrec.com/outage-texting.*

BY PHONE: *Call People's Energy Cooperative's office at 800-214-2694. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

SMARTHUB: *A "Report an Outage" quick link makes it easy for registered users of SmartHub to report outages on the SmartHub home page. Once the button is clicked, an automated message is sent to the Cooperative notifying us of the outage. To learn more about SmartHub or register for an account, visit: peoplesrec.com/smarthub.*

REMINDER: *In the event of a life-threatening emergency (fire, downed power line, etc.), always call 911 before contacting the Cooperative. Do not report outages through email, Facebook, or Twitter as they are not monitored 24/7 and it may delay response time.*

REBATE REMINDER



Remember to submit your rebate paperwork on or before December 31 to qualify for our 2020 rebates. Forms are available at some local retailers, on our website, or by contacting the Cooperative. The following guidelines must be met, and the appropriate form must be completed:

- Items must be purchased and/or installed in 2020 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31). Sixteen thousand seven hundred sixty-nine.
- Complete rebate application forms and a copy of your receipt(s) must be submitted no later than three (3) months after purchase, recycling, or installation and before December 31, 2020.
- Rebates will be issued as a credit on your monthly electric bill.

Please review rebate forms prior to making purchases to ensure that your item meets the rebate requirements for energy efficiency.

New year, new savings! **ElectricSense** Online Store

Dec. 14, 2020 - Jan. 3, 2021



<https://ElectricSense.amcgmarketplace.com>



CAPITAL CREDITS

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE ON THIS LIST?

Checks are mailed to former members at their last address on file with PEC. With every mailing, the U.S. Postal Service returns some of those checks as undeliverable. The following is a list of the names of people we have lost touch with and may be entitled to receive capital credits.

Adamson, Robert E.
Akerson, Kristine
Alexander, Paul G.
Algadi, Debra
Amberg, Robert J. Est.
Ames, Larry
Anderson, Brenda
Anderson, Chris & Cathy
Anderson-Sim, Robertina & Jeri Sim
Andrist, Keith & Danette
Apfel, Helen
Appen, Delores
Arkin, Gregory
Arnold, Lowell & Cynthia
AT&T Corporation
Balander, Alex S.
Barrett, Roland L.
Bartsh, Randall D. & Kristi K.
Bates, Brian P. & Laura C.
Bauer, Dawn M. & Greg
Bauer, Harriet M.
Bebee, Charles E.
Beckenbaugh, Jeffrey P.
Becker, Brian J.
Befort, William D. & Kim
Behounek, Paul F.
Bell, Sharon M.
Bendickson, James L. & Joyce
Bennett, James L. Jr.
Benson, Tara & Cory Hasley
Berger, Ines H.
Bernard, Garry V.
Biers, Dale *(c/o Otis Biers)*
Bilderback, David D.
Boenish, Mark A. & Rebecca A.
Bosman, John & Christine
Boucher, Ronald D. & Hazel H.
Boysen, Julia F.
Brede, Scott N. & Vicki J.
Brick, Patricia L.
Briscoe, Chuck M. & Cindy L.
Brooks, Arthur P. & Lynne G.
Brown, Joseph R.
Brown, Steven J.
Brudwick, George S.
Bublitz, Dale A. & Kathryn

Buckingham, John S.
Bunde, David D. & Nancy C.
Bunkofske, Roger C.
Buntrock, Nathan C.
Burdick, Dennis H. & Susan R.
Buringa, Richard A.
Burns, Larry G. Est.
Buxengard, Heith W.
Camp Kahler
Campbell, Caroline C.
Campbell, Kent F.
Carothers, Steve
Ceballes, Jane C.
Chamberlain, Stanley C.
Chao, Peau
Christopher, Stephan P. & Ann L.
Clark, Edward D.
Clark, George F. *(c/o Robin Harps)*
Clark, Jeffrey P.
Clough, Scott J. & Jane M.
Cole, Robert J.
Concrete Masonary Division,
Crane Creek Construction
Cooper, Robert B.
Dahle, Michael D. & Cindy J.
Dang, Cau
Danwick-Poole Env.
Darnell, Mark A.
Dekok, Mark T.
Denny, Maynard W.
Devorak, Richard D. & Judith A.
Dickman, David C.
Digre, Michael D.
Dingley, Patricia L.
Dockter, Abel D. & Nancy L.
Dondlinger, Ilene M.
Douglas, Paul F. & Harriet A.
Dunn, Robert N.
Duxbury, Harriet L.
Eckhart, Patricia L.
Ecklund, Gordon R. & Tammy J.
Edelbach, Michelle L.
Einck, Leroy W. & Deanna K.
Ellis, Cedric R. *(c/o Gene Hovde)*

Elton, Chad M.
Enebak Construction Co.
Engle, Gary M.
Englund, Orchid
Ese, Kjellaug
Euler, Tracy E.
Evans, Marian L.
Evers, Richard E.
Everson, Stephanie L.
Everson, Thomas N. & Mary D.
F&K Enterprises, *(c/o Fred W. King)*
Feeder, James E. & Anna M.
Fehrman, Jay L.
Fellows, Robert K. & Wendy J.
Fenske, Darrell C.
Ferguson, Sara
Finical, Stephan J. & Maryallys
Fitch, Dianne L. & Edward W.
Fitcher, Timothy D.
Fitterer, George E. & Sandra L.
Fitzgerald, Paul E.
Fjerstad, Glenn L.
Frahm, Allan J.
Franks, Charlotte
Freeman, William K. & Monica R.
Fulton, John & Paula
Gardner, Samuel L.
Gauthier, Thomas E. & Donna L.
Gay, Ralph E. & Merrybeth
Gehrking, Robert E.
George, Philip J.
Gibbons, Raymond J.
Gilbertson, Cheryl
Gimenez, Magdalena B.
Goldberg, Beverly K.
Golden Tee Development
Goldston, Edgar & Sissi
Grabau, Curtis E.
Grande, Maynard J.
Greden, Brent
Grimm, Randall L.
Groe, Marna K.
Gross, Leann & Joshua

Grote, Chad D.
Grothe, Steven F.
Grove, Menton Est. *(c/o Marilyn Grove)*
Gruhlke, Virginia
Guevremont, Richard H.
Guy, Vincent J.
Hady, Alexander F.
Hampel, Cheyan J.
Hansen, Larry R.
Hanson, John Jr.
Harberts, Franklin & Arline
Haroldson, Heidi M.
Harte, Michael A.
Hartzell, Robert W. Est. *(c/o Norma D. Hartzell)*
Hasley, James R.
Haupt Farm Account
Head, Darryl E.
Heaton, Alice M.
Helder, Douglas D.
Helland, Jeffery D.
Hemmer, Wayne D.
Hendrickson, Keith A.
Henry, Jeffrey D. & Christine
Hentz, Barry J. & Holly C.
Heppner, Paul D. & Peggy E.
Hesley, Gerald T. Est.
Hewitt, Roy A.
Hill, Monica A. & Bruce
Hocum, Craig L.
Holcomb, Nicole *(c/o Nancy Eiben)*
Holloway, Richard M. & Phyllis E.
Holm, Cherie L.
Houghtelin, Peter B.
House, Christoph T. & Candice C.
Howe, Richard A. & Lois R.
Hrabak, A.L.
IBM Corporation
Ice, Kevin & Jodie
Jacobson, Amber & Lee
Jagusch, Miles H. & Marsha A.
Jenniges, Chris & Mary
Johns, Bradley J.
Johnson, Jeff
Johnson, Mark A. & Nancy J.

RECOGNIZE ANY NAMES? CAPITAL CREDIT RETURNED CHECK LIST

Johnson, Robert A.
 Johnson, Tracy
 Jung, Jason M.
 Kaempfer, David E.
(c/o Terri Wintering)
 Kappauf, Kenneth J.
 Karnitz, Elroy E.
 Kealoha, Jennifer &
 Raygordon
 Kellner, Michael G.
 Kesler, Mike & Jessie
 Kester, John W. & Cheryl A.
 Kilburn, David A. &
 Cynthia S.
 King, Arnela A.
 Kirchhoff, Marlon J.
 Klebel, M. Bonnie
 Klusmann, Calantha &
 Jason
 Kluver, Aaron L. & Juleen A.
 Koenig, Richard
(c/o Kyle Koenig)
 Korbisch, Peter & Katie
 Koster, Donald C.
 Kraemer, Ruth H. Est.
(c/o Beverly J. Kraemer)
 Kramer, Debra L.
 Krieger, Jeanne E.
 Kromer, Mark A.
 Kuehn, Bradley D.
 Laganieri, Melody B.
 Laitala, Anita & Mike Fahy
 Laqua, Ann R.
 Larkin, Duane & Donna
 Larson, Kenneth J.
 Larson, Ray B.
 Larson, Wayne A.
 Lee, Cleo R.
 Lee, Kelly & Tracy
 Lee, Virgil J. *(c/o Wells Fargo
 Wealth Management Group)*
 Lesmann, Arthur J. &
 Dorothy
 Levin, Gerald L. &
 Cynthia A.
 Leyendecker, Denis M.
*(DBA: Leyendecker
 Homebuilders LLC)*
 Lichty, Deanna K.
 Lincoln, Warren L. & Sharon
 Loftus, Katie L.
 Loppnow, Shawn
 Lubahn, David A. & Heidi M.
 Lucas, Ray L.
 Lund, Lynda M.
 Magic Media Inc.
 Majerus, Daniel P.
 Makela, Vern A. & Betty M.
 Markuson, Michael
 Martin, Lenore
 Mc Hugh, Bernice E. Est.
(c/o Jon Mc Hugh)

McAtee, Timothy C. &
 Karen J.
 Meier, Glenn C. & Diane K.
 Merrill, Marcey L.
 Meyer, Ralph Est. & Patricia
 Meyer, Robert D.
 Mickow, Ervin Est.
(c/o Doris J. Mickow)
 Mickow, Laurence H.
(c/o Velma Mickow)
 Midland Mortgage
 Millering, Thomas O.
 Mollen, Joseph S. & Tammy L.
 Monson, Marilyn R.
 Mosier, Charles F. & Gina M.
 Moyer, Stephen D.
 Mulee, Joseph A. & Kathy A.
 Mullaney, Jill & Dustin
 Murray, Henry J.
(c/o Janet Murray)
 Myers, Alice D. Est.
 Nauman, David A.
 Neeb, Lester J.
 Nelson, Bradd J.
 Nelson, James O.
 Nelson, Karen J.
 Nelson, Melvin J. Est.
(c/o Rose Marie Jameson)
 Nelson, Paul E.
 Nelson, Robert E. & Cheryl A.
 Nepl, James R.
 Nickum, Edith
(c/o Nanetta Boutelle)
 Nolen, Rodney L. Jr.
 Nordeen, David & Terri
 Northwest Wholesale
 Lumber *(c/o Stock Lumber)*
 Oeltjen, Joel J.
 Ohm, Fred Jr. & Irene E.
 Oldre, Kermit M.
 Oliashirazi, Ali
 Olson, Martin L. & Deborah
 Olson, Vickie R.
 Oronoco Auto Parts
 Oronoco Auto Salvage
(c/o CTA)
 Oronoco Transfer
 Owen, Dale E. & Linda C.
 Owen, Paul A. & Diane E.
 Owens, Bryan C.
 Packer, Joel M. & Barbie
 Perry, Kenneth E.
 Peters, Timothy M.
 Petrangelo, Karen S.
 Pike, Betty J.
 Pochardt, Grant
(DBA: G&E Properties)
 Poffenberger, Gary C.
 Pool, Jessica &
 Matthew McElroy
 Potratz, Irma W.
 Prochazka, Richard R.

Pyle, Michael D.
 Quinn, John G. & Julie C.
 Quisberg, Gretchen A.
 Rabehl, William L.
 Radtke, Christine
 Ramaker, Jerry W.
 Reese, David P.
 Reich, Mary J.
 Reiter, Glenn F.
 Reiter, Louis J. Est. or
 John Reiter
 Rieger, Paul W.
 Riesner, Suzanne R.
 Rink, David W.
 Risley, Terry G.
 Rochester Medical
(c/o Bard Rochester)
 Roetzler, Anthony M.
 Roman, Daniel R.
 Ross, Dennis O.
 Ross, James V. III & Penny L.
 Rudlong, Aaron L.
 Safford, Joann
 Sappington, Robert & Nancy
 Scheer, Donovan C.
 Schlake, Dean W. & Kristy L.
 Schmiedeberg, Roger &
 Nancy
 Schott, Allen R.
 Schroeder, Roy L. &
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 Scott, Robert E.
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 Senst, Tom
 Severson, Rodney P. & Cindy
 Sexton, James L.
 Shank, Tamara M.
 Sharp, Anita M.
 Sharp, Joyce R.
 Siebenaler, James C. &
 Sheila
 Siems, Ronald C. Est
(c/o Diane J. Siems)
 Silker, David B. & Teresa A.
 Slowinski, Lori A. & Tom
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 Wiebusch, Fritz L.
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 Willette, Craig S.
 Wilson, Mark S.
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 Worden, Elmer D.
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DECORATING TIPS FOR A SAFE SEASON

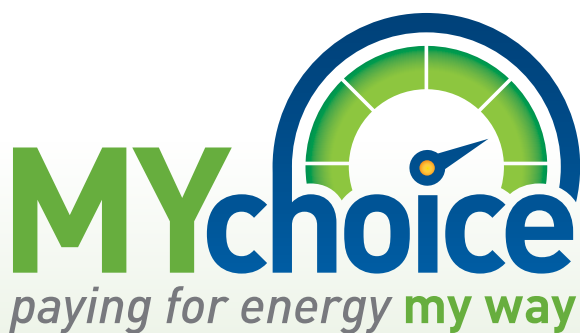
Ensure a merry and bright holiday season by making sure you keep safety top-of-mind as you prepare to decorate your home this year. Follow these guidelines to help keep you and your loved ones safe while you enjoy the holidays.

OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- **CONSIDER USING LED LIGHTS**, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- **CAREFULLY INSPECT ALL** electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.
- **IF YOU ARE DECORATING UP HIGH**, have another person steady the ladder and pass up decorations. Never overextend a ladder, and remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
- **NEVER MOUNT OR SUPPORT LIGHT STRINGS** in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- **ALWAYS UNPLUG ELECTRICAL DECORATIONS** before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- **DO NOT OVERLOAD CIRCUITS** by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
- **TURN OFF ALL ELECTRICAL DECORATIONS** before leaving home or going to sleep.

INSIDE YOUR HOME

- **AS WITH OUTDOOR DECORATIONS**, make sure there are not broken bulbs or damaged wires before putting up any interior decorations. Carefully follow the manufacturer recommendations for all electrical decorations.
- **BEFORE BRINGING A FRESHLY CUT TREE** inside your home, trim the tree's stump by at least two inches. Allow it to absorb water for 24 hours before setting the tree up inside.
- **MAKE SURE YOUR TREE** is at least three feet away from any heat source, like an air duct, fireplace, or space heater.
- **FILL YOUR TREE'S WATER RESERVOIR DAILY** and check the tree for needle loss or other signs of dryness that may indicate it's time to take it down.
- **WHEN EXITING A ROOM**, make sure all candles are extinguished. Never leave a candle lit when leaving your house or going to sleep. Consider battery-operated LED candles as a safer alternative. Thirty-two thousand eight hundred forty-six.



THE MYCHOICE PREPAY PROGRAM IS A FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTION that allows you to prepay on your electric account; eliminating set due dates, deposits, late fees, and reconnect fees.

To learn more about the program, visit our website or call 800-214-2694 to speak to one of our member services representatives.

FOUR WAYS SANTA SAVES IN HIS WORKSHOP



The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop, how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

This holiday season let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).

1

SANTA LEAVES HIS DECORATIONS UP YEAR-ROUND, so by using LED holiday light strands, he is able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.

2

SANTA REQUIRES SEVERAL POWER TOOLS TO MAKE a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved – that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

3

MRS. CLAUS LOVES TO KEEP WARM BY THE FIRE in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

4

SANTA ALSO SAVES ENERGY BY USING POWER STRIPS. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms, and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.



ABBY BERRY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. Electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape. (Header photo: Alicia Slough)



People's Energy Cooperative

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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!



REDUCING YOUR ENERGY DEMAND

Peak energy demands typically occur between 5 and 8 PM in the winter. To help reduce demand charges for the Cooperative, consider doing one or more of these small actions:

- **DELAY** washing or drying clothes.
- **DELAY** running the dishwasher.
- **TURN DOWN** your thermostat by four degrees.



To be notified of a peak energy alert and help us reduce demand charges, sign up for "Power Down" today! Visit peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction to get started.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2020

Every year, PEC hires tree contractors to help us execute our vegetation management program for annual line maintenance. During December, **Carr's Tree Service** will be working in Plainview and Whitewater townships. Also, during this time, **New Age Tree Service** will be working in Rock Dell, Salem, and Pleasant Grove townships.

Our vegetation management policy is available on our website by visiting peoplesenergy.coop/vegetation-management. If you have questions regarding the work being done, contact the Cooperative at 800-214-2694.

2020 Office Closures

We will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday. We will also be closed Friday, Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.