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MANAGEMENT STAFF

Elaine J. Garry,
President/CEO

Gary Fitterer,
Director of Engineering

Mike Henke,
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Olson,
Director of
Member Services

Gwen Stevens,
Director of Member &
Community Relations

Troy Swancutt,
Director of Operations

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

Telephone: 507-367-7000

Toll-Free: 800-214-2694

Web Address:

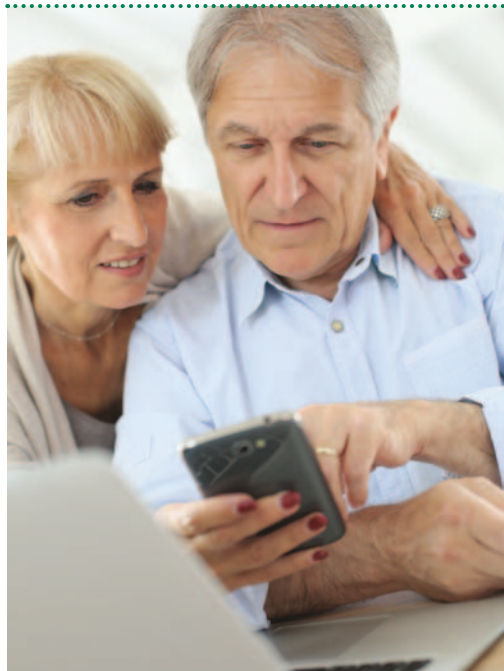
www.peoplesenergy.coop

Gopher State One Call:
1-800-252-1166

(for digging & line location)

WE NEED YOU

TO KEEP YOUR ACCOUNT INFO *UP-TO-DATE*



People's Energy Cooperative has been working diligently on projects to ensure you receive reliable and affordable electric service.

For example, we've been reporting each month on the progress of installing the new AMI meters in the newsletter as well as through postcards.

Recently, one of our power providers performed planned maintenance on a transmission line that shut off power to several members for a short period of time. For this project, we mailed postcards and then placed automated calls to remind members of the planned outage. Unfortunately, many calls weren't answered because the phone number was no longer in service.

As people shift away from land lines and move to cellular telephones, we are finding that we don't have current telephone numbers on file. This leads to a breakdown in communication and frustration for members who aren't "in the know."

To help keep the lines of communication open, we're asking that you take a couple of minutes to verify the telephone numbers and e-mail addresses we have on file for you are accurate. This allows us to utilize multiple methods of communication to ensure you stay informed. You can review and update your contact information by:

- **GOING TO PEOPLESENERGY.COOP** and reviewing your account information on SmartHub (*you do need to be registered*).
- **CALLING THE COOPERATIVE** at 507-367-7000 or 800-214-2694; or
- **SENDING AN E-MAIL** to memberservices@peoplesrec.com.

Help us, help you by taking the time to ensure we have your contact information up-to-date.

CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



Elaine J. Garry

egarry@peoplesrec.com

As I write this, I'm in Washington, DC, with other cooperative leaders discussing energy issues with legislative staff. We do this to keep our elected leaders informed about issues that affect rural electric cooperatives. It's part of our commitment to the fifth Cooperative Principle of Education, Training, and Information.

We are committed to educating and training our members, directors, and employees so they can effectively contribute to the Cooperative. We also take advantage of opportunities to communicate with the general public and opinion leaders so they better understand who we are as a cooperative and the important role we play in the communities we serve.

By reading this newsletter, you're living out this principle. Through these pages we communicate directly with you about projects we are working on, legislative issues that affect us, programs you can take advantage of, and ways you can get involved. We also share energy-saving tips to save you money and safety information that could save your life.

If you haven't already done so, "like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for more helpful information each week and the most up-to-date reports on major outage situations. I also encourage you to attend meetings we hold for your benefit such as the Annual Meeting in the spring and Member Meetings in the fall.

At PEC we're fortunate to have a Board of Directors who values education. Each of them has completed the necessary courses to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director. They continue to attend training events in order to effectively guide the strategic plans of the Cooperative and make informed decisions.

Our education efforts also extend to our employees. We hold safety training for our employees to keep them safe and reduce costs involved with lost-time accidents. We also encourage and support them in taking courses to improve on-the-job skills. Well-trained employees are a valuable asset to the Cooperative and provide you, our members, with the high quality of service you've come to expect.

Informing you, educating our Board and training employees strengthens us as a cooperative. Up-to-date knowledge and skills positions us to effectively provide safe, affordable and reliable energy that powers your life.

*Sincerely,
Elaine J. Garry,
President & CEO,
507-367-7000*

We put up the poles, connect miles of wire and flip a few switches of our own. All to make sure your life is always powered. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

**YOUR ELECTRICITY ISN'T
SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY.**



**People's Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

HOW CO-OPS WORK



1. Member-owners elect board directors.

2. Board defines expectations for the co-op's general manager (GM/CEO) and provides policies & strategic goals.

3. GM/CEO interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.



8. Board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.



Member-owners provide input & feedback to board, GM & staff.



4. GM/CEO delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.



7. GM/CEO shares results with the board.



6. GM/CEO collects data from staff about their efforts.



5. Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

NEIGHBORS READ: Olmsted County

FROM THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

A program that provides mini-libraries in Rochester is planning a big expansion in Olmsted County. Rochester Public Library has launched "Neighbors Read: Olmsted County", to provide books for mini-libraries outside the City of Rochester. Twenty thousand forty-one.

The Neighbors Read program started in 2013 out of a partnership with the United Way of Olmsted County and the Rochester Public Library. Originally, 13 mini-libraries were installed in the Slatterly Park area, but that has now grown to over 120 throughout Rochester.

Coordinator of the program, Jon Allen, says over 20,000 books have been distributed through the mini-libraries since 2013. "Everyone who registers with the Neighbors Read program can receive books free-of-charge from Friends of Rochester Public Library to keep their mini-libraries stocked," says Allen.

The Library is currently accepting applications for 30 new mini-libraries in the following cities and townships:

- Byron
- Cascade
- Chester
- Cummingsville
- Douglas
- Dover
- Elmira
- Eyota
- Farmington
- Genoa
- Hallmark Terrace
- Haverhill
- High Forest
- Kalmar
- Marion
- New Haven
- Orion
- Oronoco
- Pleasant Grove
- Post Town
- Potsdam
- Predmore
- Quincy
- Ringe
- Rock Dell
- Salem
- Salem Corners
- Shanty Town
- Simpson
- Viola

Residents living in these areas can contact Jon Allen at 507-328-2353 for application materials or visit the library's website at www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org for an electronic application form.



MAY UPDATE: Hardware has arrived and posts are in the ground! It's not too late to subscribe, but don't wait too long! Each 310-watt panel is \$750.

SECURE A SUBSCRIPTION:

- **STEP 1:** Complete and sign the Community Solar Agreement, available by calling the Cooperative.
- **STEP 2:** Simply return the signed agreement along with payment to secure your share.



Outage? Text us!

It's faster and easier than ever to report your power outage with our outage reporting text messaging service; another convenient way to communicate with us! For information, call us at 507-367-7000 .



OPERATION ROUND UP®

April Grants

To be considered for third quarter grants, applications must be submitted no later than June 20, 2016. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at www.peoplesenergy.coop or by calling the Cooperative at 507-367-7000.

People's Energy Cooperative's Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$25,277 in grants to the following area organizations in the second quarter of 2016:

- **\$1,000: Triton High School** – For 8th Grade Washington DC Trip
- **\$1,669: Chatfield Preschool & Elementary School** – For Playground Updates
- **\$1,000: Celebration of a City** – For activities for Rochesterfest 2016
- **\$500: Mantorville Art Guild** – For Summer Youth Art Camps 2016
- **\$1,000: Stewartville Parks and Events Committee** – For Movies in the Park
- **\$1,000: Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch, Inc.** – To asphalt wheelchair path
- **\$1,000: Mazeppa Veterans Honor Guard** – To finish construction of Mazeppa Veterans Memorial
- **\$770: City of Chatfield** – For Picnic Table Improvement Project
- **\$3,000: The Reading Center/ Dyslexia Institute of MN** – For Dyslexic Student Tutoring
- **\$4,515: Samaritan Bethany Foundation** – For a new bus
- **\$500: Confidence Learning Center** – For Camp Confidence Campers
- **\$1,072: Triton Elementary School** – For Leapfrog InterACTIVE Readers for Kindergarten
- **\$1,000: Zumbrota Community Trust** – For 20 Teeth Dental Program and Vision Assistance
- **\$1,200: Zumbro Valley Health Center** – For resident transportation assistance
- **\$1,000: Wabasha County Fair Association** – For portable electric lighting for animal tents
- **\$750: Share Christmas of Hayfield** – For year-round assistance to families in times of crisis
- **\$1,000: Stewartville Middle School** – For remote operating vehicles with LEGO robotics
- **\$1,000: Relay for Life of Olmsted County** – For T-Shirts for 2016 Relay for Life Event
- **\$700: Pine Island Area Home Services**– For materials to build Community Garden shed
- **\$830: City of Stewartville Swimming Pool** – For pool safety equipment
- **\$771: Cronin Homes, Inc.** – For outdoor yard maintenance and seating area

Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. 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 member volunteers.

Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Update

As we've been reporting, the Cooperative is in the process of updating all meters to a new Tantalus AMI metering system over the course of the next two years. Once installations are complete for all the former Alliant customers in Eyota and Dover, crews will replace old AMI meters in Eyota and Chatfield. When those are complete, they will begin in Stewartville.

Please remember staff from Chapman will be installing the meters and their vehicles will display their company logo (seen on right) as well as the People's Energy Cooperative logo.

Thank you in advance for your patience as we make this critical upgrade that will improve system communications, enable us to best serve you, and provide all members with access to more detailed information regarding their energy usage. Thirty thousand nineteen.



Chapman Metering
The Metering Company of Choice



DRIVING BLIND

Would you drive on a highway blindfolded? Of course not. However, if you text while driving 55 miles per hour on a highway, you are essentially doing just that.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each day in the U.S., more than nine people are killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. The National Highway Administration notes that 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2013.

At PEC, safety is a core value. At this time of year in particular, when more people are on the roads and kids are out of school, our goal is to raise awareness and spur conversation about the dangers of distracted driving.

We are committed to eliminating this unnecessary risk and believe that no conversation or text is worth the potential danger. Together, we can put the brakes on distracted driving.

Finding ways to **SAVE**

BY USING CO-OP ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

As a member of PEC, you are in a unique position to take advantage of energy efficiency programs offered by the Cooperative. Because we are a not-for-profit organization, our goal is to provide safe, reliable power at the most affordable price for our members. This means helping you save money on your monthly electric bill.

So, how does practicing efficiency habits save you money? It's common sense that if you use less electricity, your bill will be lower. But, there's more to it than that. PEC purchases electricity from Dairyland Power Cooperative and ITC. When electric use is high, we pay peak demand charges for the electricity we purchase. By incorporating energy efficiency into your daily routine, you are helping to reduce the demand for electricity, thus lowering its overall cost. And as a cooperative, we pass these savings directly on to you! Here's a few ways to save:

- ▶ **BASIC ENERGY** efficiency practices, like caulking around windows and doors, turning off lights when you leave the room and using a programmable thermostat, are great ways to start saving.
- ▶ **MEMBERS WITH AN AMI METER** can monitor energy use with the SmartHub mobile app or on a personal computer. By using this free service, you can keep tabs on when your energy use is high and other details about your energy use.
- ▶ **WHEN YOU USE ELECTRICITY** is just as important as how much you use. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the mornings and in the evenings – when most people are either getting ready for their day or returning home. Remember that peak demand charge? This can be avoided by lowering energy use during on-peak hours (11:01 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.), when electricity is in high demand. Seventeen thousand seven hundred eighty-one.
- ▶ **PEC OFFERS REBATES ON HOME ENERGY AUDITS.** Our energy partners can assess air leaks, insulation gaps and other common problems that cause homes to use more energy than required. We can tell you more about the latest technologies for heating, cooling and lighting in a home, including heat pumps, LED lights and more.

We're proud to offer these energy efficiency programs for you, our members. There are many ways to save, and we want to be your trusted energy resource. For more energy efficiency programs and tips, visit www.peoplesenergy.coop.



WE ARE PREPARED FOR Summer Storms

IN THE EVENT OF A POWER OUTAGE, YOU CAN TRUST THAT PEC IS READY TO RESPOND

Summer is almost here, school is just about out, and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round – through right-of-way clearing – to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations, and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

WE START BY MOBILIZING OUR LINE CREWS and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first – like damage to transmission lines, which serve thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

PEC'S LINE CREWS INSPECT SUBSTATIONS to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to hundreds of members quickly.

NEXT, LINE CREWS CHECK THE SERVICE LINES that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify PEC so crews can inspect these lines.

WE DO OUR BEST TO AVOID POWER OUTAGES, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to enroll in our outage texting service now so you can simply send a text if an outage occurs. Enrolling is simple and by texting in your outage you avoid long wait times when call volumes are high.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE on your mobile device for the latest updates during a power outage. You can also view our outage map from our website on your smartphone or tablet to see how widespread it is. Six hundred fifty-five.

People's Energy urges you to practice safety before, during, and after summer storms. Look for safety tips in the Highline newsletter each month, and preparing an emergency action plan for your family today. Learn more about weathering storms safely at www.ready.gov.



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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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 numbers within the text of the Highline newsletter and one on our website. The hidden numbers are account numbers without the last two digits. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** and you'll receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.

The following members did not find their numbers in April's newsletter: Wendy Grundner, Steven Demmer, Carolyn McCarty, Taylor & Trevor Lange, and Greg & Linda Forbes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 14: CHS PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE SAFETY DAY, 4-H BUILDING, OLMSTED COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS. This event is for children ages 4-11 and will be held from 8:45 am to 3:00 pm. Safety topics covered include a police K-9 demonstration, build a first-aid kit, chemical, animal, electrical and fire. *To register and learn more visit www.chsrochester.com/safetyday.*

June 24: WABASHA COUNTY FAMILY NIGHT ON THE FARM, JARY & CELENE HOLST FARM, 20514 590TH ST., KELLOGG, MN. The Holst family is hosting this year's event from 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Activities will include a milking parlor tour, farm machinery display, farm animal petting area, learning booths, and local ag history display. *\$2 for hot dog meal and \$5 for pulled pork sandwich meal.*

June 25: COUNTRY BREAKFAST ON THE FARM, KEITH & KRISTINE KNUTSON FARM, 49273 170TH AVE, PINE ISLAND, MN. Breakfast is being served by Chris Cakes from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You can also watch cows being milked, enjoy horse drawn wagon rides, explore the petting zoo and participate in educational displays. Free bus ride with one Rochesterfest button. Buses load at Calvary Evangelical Free Church Parking lot at 55th St & 25th Ave NW. (Last bus at 10:45 a.m.) No parking at the farm, except handicap parking. *Adults \$7.00, children 5-12 \$4.00 Tickets available at Rochesterfest Information Booth (June 20-24), also on site.*

ELECTRICITY: A GOOD VALUE

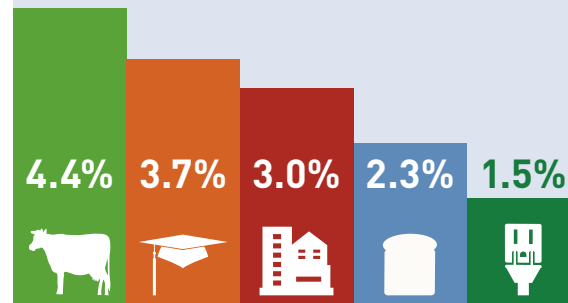
The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses.

Compare the average price increase of those expenses each year over the past five years, and the value of electricity shines.



AVERAGE ANNUAL PRICE INCREASE 2010-2015.

Left to right: meat, education, rent, bread, electricity.



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index