

December 2024 Vol. 8 Issue 12  
A monthly publication for members of  
MiEnergy Cooperative.

# MiNews

A  
JOURNEY  
DOWN  
MiRoads  
WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

## Quaint, quiet and serene A Christmas journey down MiRoads



Director applications  
due for districts 4 & 5

**DO WE OWE YOU  
CAPITAL CREDITS?**



## And the survey says...

Every year, MiEnergy conducts a member satisfaction survey to address our performance and asks members for insight on programs, services or electric rate options being considered. This fall, 4,150 randomly selected MiEnergy members were sent an electronic survey from our national association as part of our independent survey. In November, we received the results. Thank you to the members who responded to the survey.

The membership results showed that satisfaction with MiEnergy was very good, with improved performance from our 2023 survey. Fifty-one percent of the survey respondents rated us a 10 on a 1 to 10 scale and 33% rated a 8 or 9. These were excellent ratings.

MiEnergy's overall American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score was 11 points higher than the two investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in our area in Minnesota and Iowa. These IOUs recently finalized rate cases with increases in retail electric rates.

The number one performance attribute of MiEnergy from the membership was having friendly, courteous employees. The next four top attributes were minimizing outages, having highly-trained professional employees, restoring power quickly and being easy to reach. These five attributes were rated 4.5 and higher on a 5-point scale, which is also excellent.

We addressed questions on an optional time-of-use (TOU) retail electric rate, which was generally supportive as long as there was a meaningful incentive to make the shift in consumption. Twenty percent of the members were interested in the TOU rate option, while 40% needed more information.

Our electric water heater program is well known. Nearly 60% of the members know they can purchase a lifetime warranty water heater from MiEnergy. Interestingly, we saw

a drop in the number of members considering purchasing a solar array and a drop in interest in buying an electric vehicle.

Members reporting a power outage have been very satisfied when calling during regular business hours and reporting an outage using SmartHub after regular business hours. This was great feedback on our after-hours outage reporting.

At the end of the survey, members could provide comments. Twenty-two percent of members offered additional comments. Seventy-five percent of those comments addressed renewable energy/climate change and electric rates. The renewable energy/climate change was 50/50, being positive and negative. The majority of the rate comments were negative.

What I found most interesting is that most of the negative rate comments were from members who installed solar generation. Further analysis also revealed much of their dissatisfaction was related to the payback of their solar system investment rather than their retail electric bill.

All members, whether they have installed solar or not, pay the same monthly basic service charge. Our separation of the delivery charge (basic service charge) and energy charge (kWh used) eliminates cross-subsidization between members with and without solar. Members with solar generation still rely on MiEnergy at night or on dreary winter days when the sun does not shine. MiEnergy has been the model utility in Iowa and Minnesota to support member solar generation. If you are considering the installation of solar, we recommend you contact us for a free solar assessment.

Members compared the basic service charges of Xcel Energy and Alliant Energy, neighboring IOUs. Both have lower basic service charges than MiEnergy, but both provide electric service in cities, suburbs and small communities with tremendously greater density. MiEnergy averages less than four members per mile of line compared to IOUs with 30 to 40 customers. MiEnergy, despite the higher basic service charges, is in many cases lower than both IOUs because of the added energy, delivery, and transmission charges that they pancake onto the kWh charges.

The membership survey information has been a valuable tool for MiEnergy Cooperative in evaluating our performance over the years. MiEnergy's SmartHub app, outage texting and EV subscription rate have all been specific programs added due to interest from the membership in past surveys.

The survey results were very positive, yet there is always room for improvement. We will continue to work to meet all our members' needs.

As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits. And happy holidays!

### Board room highlights | Nov. 27, 2024

- Held a moment of silence and remembrance for Director Jeff Redalen.
- Amanda Seger, regional vice president for the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, presented MiEnergy's Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) for 2023.
- Shelly Hove, CFO, presented an updated financial forecast.
- Brenda Tesch, manager of marketing and communications, presented the annual member satisfaction survey results.
- Approved MiEnergy's strategic planning goals.
- Year-to-date margins are ahead of budget.
- Approved the 2025 capital budget.
- Approved unclaimed property and scholarship allocations for up to 80 \$1,000 scholarships and funding a Youth Tour representative for each state's program.
- Discussed Operation Round Up participation.
- Approved director application materials for districts 4 and 5.

The next board meeting will be held at the Cresco office on Dec. 20 at 9 a.m.

# GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

## WITH A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Meandering through the winter landscape drinking hot chocolate and humming your favorite holiday tunes



### A JOURNEY DOWN MiRoads

WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

Remember the classic Thanksgiving poem from elementary school, later turned into a sing-along-song, "Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go." We have those unique country "MiRoads" in our area. Mine is crooked and winding, bending along high riverbanks and past tall pines and oaks in the woods. Ever since I was a young child, traveling this road instantly reminded me of the words in that song. I am thankful for the opportunity to journey down the quaint and quiet roads where we live. There's just something special about a serene roadway in the country during winter, especially during the holidays. Take a historic jaunt with me down these roads, will you? It might just put you in the holiday spirit!

Venture down Holly and Ivy avenues in Howard County, Iowa. Or how about Pine and Bell avenues? Minnesota has Chestnut Avenue, Dancer Road, Evergreen Road, Frosty Road, Holly Road and Spruce Street, to name a few. There are some unique road names right here in the MiEnergy region. Will you be driving on them to visit family and friends this holiday season? It's not likely with a wagon full of gifts carefully wrapped like in the olden days. Still, maybe it's a calling to make a new memorable road adventure right here in our charming area. Turn up your local radio station that continuously plays your holiday favorites and take a trip down memory "lane."

Speaking of lanes, close your eyes and picture a horse-drawn sleigh or wagon. The heat source was handmade quilts and heated bricks, with silver or gold jingle bells attached to harnesses that fit snugly to the horses. Christmas carols were sung together as the family moved swiftly along the driftless countryside. Drive ahead a few years and imagine a Model-T Ford wandering down the streets. Fast forward decades and find yourself traveling on your route in style with modern vehicles with conveniences such as AM/FM radio dials. Later, cassette counsels and then CD players. Our modes of transportation have surely changed drastically over the years, as well as our means of listening to music.

Perhaps there is a song on the compilation here that you sang with your grandparents or your cousin crew each Christmas. Did you hear it for the first time on a record player? Or were you all gathered together closely around the phonograph? How about an 8-track? And do you stream them now instantly with your children or grandchildren, nieces and nephews or neighbors at the annual holiday party? Whichever way you heard it years ago or get to listen to them now, let's spotlight some of the songs that mention

traveling, coming home or being home for Christmas. And imagine yourself on a one-horse open sleigh! I bet you can't help but sing one or two of the lines out loud. They are classic

melodies engraved in our memory bank that we joyfully sing during the holidays while that feel-good nostalgic mood takes over. Does it bring you right back to sitting around a Christmas tree, pondering the joy of the season's love, warmth, and caring? What's your favorite?

- "I'll Be Home For Christmas" recorded 1943 amid Word War II by Bing Crosby, written 1924.
- "Sleigh Ride" written and composed for orchestra 1948, lyrics added 1950 and made famous by the Ronettes 1963.
- "Jingle Bells" originally "The One Horse Open Sleigh" 1850s.
- "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" no matter how far away you roam / for the holidays you can't beat home, sweet home. 1954 Perry Como.
- "Please Come Home For Christmas" 1960 Charles Brown.
- "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" written 1945 with Dean Martin's version being the most popular. *Please stay home and don't drive down MiRoads during winter weather.*
- "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" 1934 radio audiences, then Perry Como mid-1940s.
- "Here Comes Santa Claus (Right Down Santa Claus Lane)" 1947 Gene Autry.
- "Driving Home For Christmas" written 1978 Chris Rea, recorded a decade later.
- "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" 1963 Darlene Love.
- "O Come, All Ye Faithful" written 1760. *Imagine the wisemen traveling down their quaint paths to Bethlehem.*
- "Here We Come a-Caroling" as friendly neighbors going door-to-door. Mid-19th Century.
- "We Three Kings" of Orient are / bearing gifts we traverse afar / field and fountain / moor and mountain / following yonder star. 1857 Henry Hopkins Jr.
- "Celebrate Me Home" 1977 Kenny Loggins and Bob James.

And the best-selling single of all time, "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby in 1941. Will our routes be covered in white this holiday season? Safe travels to all of our members going places these next few weeks. We hope for the very best memories while you take the time to journey down MiRoads. Observe the scenery and amazing views throughout our precious land. And remember to turn up the music and take comfort in that sentimental feeling you get during this time of year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!

**"It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters. It's who's around it."** — Charlie Brown



# How does a product earn the Energy Star® label?



One of the best ways to make your home more energy efficient is by choosing products with the Energy Star® label. But how does a product earn this rating?

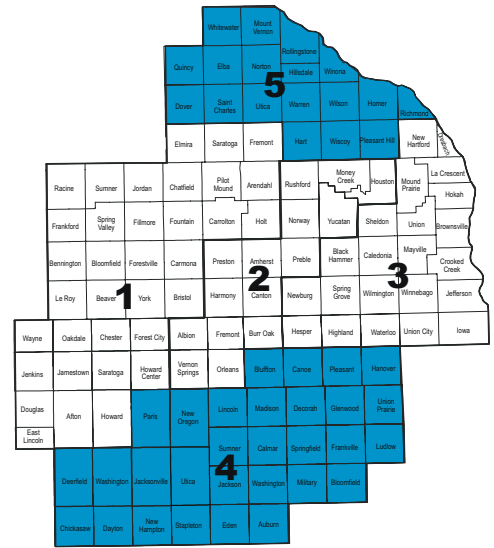
Products that earn the Energy Star® label must meet strict guidelines for energy efficiency, performance and cost effectiveness. Here's how the process works:

- The product must be more energy efficient than typical models.
- The product must be tested in EPA-recognized labs, following standardized procedures. These tests ensure the

product meets all energy efficiency and performance requirements.

- Once tested, the product's data is reviewed by a third-party certification body to verify it meets the set standards.

Even after a product is certified, the EPA conducts "off-the-shelf" testing on random samples of Energy Star® products to ensure they continue to meet the required standards. If a product fails to meet the performance requirements during verification testing, it can be disqualified from the Energy Star® program. The EPA has clear procedures for handling such disqualifications to maintain the integrity of the label.



SAFELY



Deck  
the  
Halls

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, decorations **rated for outdoor use.**
- When decorating outside, **look up and around** for power lines. **Never throw lights** or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at **least 10 feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).**

For more holiday safety tips visit: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

## Run for a board seat

Director applications due for districts 4 & 5

Last month we published information regarding the board election process for 2025. If you are interested in running for a district 4 or 5 board seat, contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or [hl Larson@MiEnergy.coop](mailto:hl Larson@MiEnergy.coop). The director application deadline is January 16, 2025.



## MERRY Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**


KYLE HOLTHAUS • DEAN NIERLING • BETH OLSON • DON PETERSEN  
DENNIS PTACEK • CARL REICKS • JENNY SCHARMER • RON STEVENS • SKIP WIESER

MATT ACKMAN • CHRISTIAN ANDERSON • TIM ANDERSON • RANDALL ASHBACHER  
BRIAN BAUER • RHONDA BAUER • GREG BECKER • BRETT BERGAN • JAMIE BREESER  
STEVE BRONNER • TAMMY BROWN • MALACHI BUNKE • JOSH CAROLAN  
CHAD CHAFFEE • LORI CLOBES • BILL COX • TRAVIS CUMMINGS • RYAN DAHL  
MARK DORNINK • BRAD DULL • TYLER EIDE • ERIC FRIEDRICH • MATT GINTHER  
DANI GORDER • LUCAS GRAVOS • WAYNE HAGEMAN • TOM HART • GRADY HENGEL  
ANNIE HOILAND • CHRIS HORN • SHELLY HOVE • JILL HUFFMAN • WENDY JACOBSON  
KRAIG JOHNSON • COLE KINGSLEY • BRIAN KRAMBEER • HEATHER LARSON  
KIM LARSON • CLINT LICKTEIG • TRAVIS LINK • ADRIENNE LOFGREN  
JULIE MADSEN • TIM MCCONNELL • MARC MIKKELSON • JOSH MITCHELL  
MEAGAN MOELLERS • CHARLIE MUELLER • MARLYN OHLOFF • STEVE OIAN  
SHAWN OMAR • BRAD PECINOVSKY • CORY PEDERSON • DARRIN PETERSON  
ANDY PRINSEN • KYLE QUAM • KEVIN REICKS • RUTH RIHA • TONY RISLOVE  
PETER SCHERBRING • AUDRA SKALET • JOHANNA STAYSKAL • KARI STEELE  
CALEB STEINER • ZACH STEINMETZ • RON STIKA • JANELLE SUNNES • JUSTIN SVOBODA  
BRENDA TESCH • DAVIN THOMPSON • ERIC VITSE • JUNE VITSE • VASSIL VUTOV  
MIKE WALTON • KENT WHITCOMB • DAVID WILKES • JORDAN WILLIAMS • CASSIE ZAWISLAK

**CLOSED: Dec. 24-25, Jan. 1**  
**CLOSE AT 11 A.M. DEC. 31**

Outages can be reported 24/7, including holidays.  
Payments can be made anytime by calling 855-941-3631.






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## CAPITAL CREDITS NOTICE

In October 2024, MiEnergy distributed nearly \$2 million in patronage capital credit retirements to current and former members of the cooperative. Current members received an electric bill credit and former members received their refunds as a check. MiEnergy Cooperative's office located at 24049 Highway 9, Cresco, IA 52136 is holding unclaimed patronage dividend checks for the person(s) listed as follows. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address listed above, calling 800-432-2285 or emailing [jmadsen@MiEnergy.coop](mailto:jmadsen@MiEnergy.coop). Watch for more listings in the January issue.

### A

Adams, Michelle & Craig, Portage, MI  
Albrecht, Marlin, Spring City, TN  
Amundson, James, Chatfield, MN  
Amundson, Joanne, LaCrosse, WI  
Anderson, Brian, Calmar, IA  
Anderson, Eric W. & Mary E., Suring, WI  
Anderson, Margaret, Houston, MN  
Anderson, Timothy, Seward, AK  
Andreas, Brian, Rockne, Ellen, Decorah, IA  
Andrews, Jackie, Lime Springs, IA  
Angst, Robert, Winona, MN  
Apenhorst, Scott, Williston, ND  
Ask, Lois, Mabel, MN  
Aspenson, Mark & Tami, Cresco, IA  
Atwood, Tom, Altoona, IA

### B

Bacon, Robert, Brownsville, MN  
Baeethke, Dorothy, Riceville, IA  
Bailey, Kirk, Busta, Corey, Decorah, IA  
Baker, Tom, Cresco, IA  
Ball, Valerie, Cresco, IA  
Barghahn, Keith, Onaska, WI  
Bark, Joan, South Sioux City, NE  
Barker, Brady, Blakewell, Brian, New Hampton, IA  
Batt, Kelly, Winona, MN  
Beall, Robroy, Waukon, IA  
Behn, Alvin, Dorchester, IA  
Benedett, John & Mary, St. Charles, MN  
Benedict, Joseph & Lynne, Taylors, SC  
Benouna, Kamal, Mabel, MN  
Bergen, Daryl, Prairie Du Sac, WI  
Bergren, Richard & Marion, Casa Grande, AZ  
Bessingpas, Jon, Harmony, MN  
Betten, C H Estate or Joann, Cortee, CO  
Biedermann, Bryce Estate, Decorah, IA  
Bigalk, Shirley, Cresco, IA  
Bishop, Dean & Agnes, Austin, MN  
Bleifus, Russell & Kimberly, Stewartville, MN  
Bly, Brooke & Samantha, Spring Valley, MN  
Boettcher, Shawn & Colleen, LaCrescent, MN  
Bohr, James, Decorah, IA  
Bolder, Charles, Gleason, WI  
Borlaug, Todd Estate, or Borlaug, Harold & Eunice, Lawler, IA  
Borzyskowski, Aron, Summerville, SC  
Boser, Jessica, LaCrescent, MN  
Boyum, Donald, Peterson, MN  
Brace, David & Judy, Independence, IA  
Brandau, Timothy, Chester, IA  
Bresnahan, Jacob & Kimberly, Decorah, IA  
Bretoi, Trudy, Rochester, MN  
Brincks, Raymond, Carroll, IA  
Brohmer, James, Decorah, IA  
Bryant, Angela, Decorah, IA  
Bunston, Casey & Shelly, Cresco, IA  
Burens, Terri, New Hampton, IA  
Burke, Joshua, Waterloo, IA  
Burns, Michael & Diana, Prescott, WI  
Burt, Bradley, Utica, MN  
Busse, William & Jeraldine, Inver Grove, MN  
Busta, Brad, Underwood, IA  
Butler, Paul & Jennifer, Decorah, IA  
Byrnes, Carol, Waterloo, IA

### C

Carlson, Donald, Houston, MN  
Cepelak, Angela, Plainview, MN  
Chippewa Valley Bldg Maint. Inc. Eau Claire, WI  
Choinski, Thomas, LaCrosse, WI  
Christen, Therese & Hurston, Robert, Canton, MN  
Coldwell Banker C/o Jerry Van Hoof, Winona, MN  
Cole, Jack, Winona, MN  
Colsch, Calvin, Caledonia, MN  
Connor, Michael, Caledonia, MN  
Conrad, Susan, Houston, MN  
Consugar, Mark, Lanesboro, MN  
Coulter, David & Heide, Coeur D Alene, ID  
Cox, Larry & Sandra, New Hampton, IA  
Cram, Roger, Onalaska, WI  
Creger, Kevin & Kerry, Cresco, IA  
Creger, Pamela, Cresco, IA  
Crouse, Cynthia, Fountain, MN  
Crowell, Grant, Waterloo, IA  
Culver, Lorraine, Winona, MN

### D

Dammen, Douglas, LaCrescent, MN  
Danielson, Tony, Caledonia, MN  
Dario, Dwight & Jolina, Decorah, IA  
Darling, Monty & Samantha, Mabel, MN  
Dearmond, Michael, Ossian, IA  
Delaney, Patrick Estate, Waukon, IA  
Delta Environmental Consult Inc., C/o Udem, Cathy, St. Paul, MN  
Deweiler, Kenton, Lahaina, HI  
Dischler, Steven, Merrimac, WI

Doering, Mary, Caledonia, MN  
Dore, Trent & Steve, C/o Curtis, Chuck, Cresco, IA  
Duden, Gary, Winona, MN  
Duneman, Chad, Mabel, MN  
Durst, Ellen, Houston, MN

### E

Edde, Patricia, Decorah, IA  
Edwards, Anna, Wyoming, IA  
Edwards, Jeremiah & Melissa, Rushford, MN  
EH Trucking C/o Eli Hershberger, Mabel, MN  
Eirich, Wayne, Decorah, IA  
Ellinghuysen, Betty Estate, Winona, MN  
Erdman, Donna, Wykoff, MN  
Ericson, Marlene, St. Paul, MN  
Ericson, Kirk & Karla, Fountain, MN  
Ernst-Buchanan, Donna, Holstein, IA  
Esler, Barbara, Decorah, IA  
Eslinger, Donald, Des Moines, IA  
Evenrud, Kristin, Ely, IA  
Evenson, Marian, Rushford, MN

### F

Feuerhelm, Sarah, Decorah, IA  
Finseth, Chad, Fountain, MN  
Finseth, Heather, Fountain, MN  
Fitting, Randy Estate, C/o Sherman Cole, Houston, MN  
Fjeltstul, Cherrie, Decorah, IA  
Fjetland, Ruby, Fountain, MN  
Flaherty, John & Roberta, Spring Valley, MN  
Flodstrom, Arthur, Winona, MN  
Foltz, Dean, Caledonia, MN  
Foss, Daniel & Tammy, Edgewater, FL  
Free, Terry, Lime Springs, IA  
Frisch, Mickel, Lewiston, MN  
Fulsaas, Patricia, Ridgeway, IA

### G

Gamble, Cheri & Vix, Dayn, Soldotna, AK  
Gamling, Dave & Stephanie, Onalaska, WI  
Gant, Mike, Oelwein, IA  
Gantenbein, Anthony, LaCrosse, WI  
\*Juan Carlos Choncoa-Garcia & Aida Quiahua-Xalamihua – Northport, AL  
Garcia, Patti, Circle Pines, MN  
Gardner, Joann, Cresco, IA  
Gehrke, Cody, Dakota, MN  
Gehrking, Jeanette, Rochester, MN  
Gensmer, Donald, Winona, MN  
Goetzinger, Brian, Caledonia, MN  
Gorick, Kathleen, Bemidji, MN  
Great River Trust C/o Paul Kelley, Minnetonka, MN  
Groth, Timothy & Michelle, Winona, MN

### H

Habberstad, Brendan, Rochester, MN  
Hackbarth, Joel, Houston, MN  
Hageman, Paul, Decorah, IA  
Hagensick, Travis, St. Lucas, IA  
Hahn, Katina, Rochester, MN  
Hakes, James & Sandra, Brownsville, MN  
\*Halverson, Colton A, Houston, MN  
Halverson, Jeff, Attn: Harry Halverson, Ridgeway, IA  
Halverson, Sherman, Lawler, IA  
Halverson, Donald, Ashton, IL  
Hammill, Kal, Mt. Vernon, IA  
Hansen, Kevin, Canton, MN  
Hansmeier, Wayne, Protivin, IA  
Hareldson, Duane, Fountain, MN  
Harmon, Bryce, Mason City, IA  
Harris Investments LLC, Cameron Harris, West Union, IA  
Hauser, John, Harmony, MN  
Hawksworth, Patricia, West Salem, WI  
Headington, Jack, Decorah, IA  
Heath, Mark, Lanesboro, MN  
Hebrink, Timothy & Deanne, Chatfield, MN  
Heckerson, Harriet Estate, C/o Jimmy Heckerson, Spring Valley, MN  
Heeter, Reggie, Houston, MN  
Heiller, Shirley, Caledonia, MN  
Heithoff, Gilberta, Ogden, IA  
Hemmerle, Mark & Kayla, Rochester, MN  
Hendrickson, Stacy, Canton, MN  
Henry, Rachele, Mabel, MN  
Henry, Todd, Cresco, IA  
Hermanson, Michael, Rushford, MN  
Hershberger, Jacob, Canton, MN  
Heying, Chris & Deb, New Hampton, IA  
Hlavin, Therese, New Smyrna, FL  
Holland, Joseph & Bobbi, Spring Grove, MN  
Holliday, Michael & Diane, Box Elder, SD  
Holst, David IV & Ashlee, LeClaire, IA  
Holthaus, August Jr., Anamosa, IA  
Hoskins, Larry & Sandra, Waterloo, IA  
Hougen, O P, Decorah, IA  
House, Jack, Hayfield, MN  
Hovey, Percy, Chariton, IA

Hrtanek, Troy & Stacy, Preston, MN  
Huber, Gile & Klaus, Sandra, Winona, MN  
Hubka, Scott, Cresco, IA  
Hunzeker, James, Gold Canyon, AZ  
Hyke, Mary, New Hampton, IA

### I

Inglett, Brian, Caledonia, MN  
Iverson, Kevin, Onalaska, WI  
Iwireless, West Des Moines, IA

### J

Jacobson, Kathy, Decorah, IA  
Janzow, Evelyn, Lewiston, MN  
Jellings, Nathan & Soland, Heather, Winfield, KS  
Jenkins, Jeff, Osage, IA  
Johnson, Brad, West Union, IA  
Johnson, Kelcie & Tyler, Cresco, IA  
Johnson, Scott, Fountain, MN  
Johnson, Stacy, San Clemente, CA  
Johnson, Stanley Estate, LaCrescent, MN  
Jones, Barbara, New Albin, IA  
Jones, William & Thomas, Stanberry, MO  
Jonsgaard, Jean, West Salem, WI  
Jostand, Janeen, Novoshek, Colette, Decorah, IA  
Jostand, Janeen, Decorah, IA  
Just, Stanley, LaCrescent, MN

### K

Karlson, Rick Estate, Lewiston, MN  
Kerska, Judith, LaCrescent, MN  
Kiehne, Ross & Jennifer, Harmony, MN  
Kingsley, Kay, Kellogg, MN  
Kjos, Kelly, Caledonia, MN  
Kloster, Deanna, Northfield, MN  
Klug, Michael, Caledonia, MN  
Knepper, Heidi, Savannah, GA  
Knutson, Mavis, LaCrescent, MN  
Koch, Brenna, Minn City, MN  
Koch, Matthew, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Kollan, Jason, Ames, IA  
Krahn, Sheila, Chatfield, MN  
Kriener, Anne, Ossian, IA  
Kriener, Denis, Ankeny, IA  
Krinke, Tom, Rotonda West, FL  
Kujath, Richard, Fountain, MN  
Kujath, Richard, Richards Pump Service, Fountain, MN

### L

Lange, Michael & Debra, Cresco, IA  
Lange, Renae, Spring Valley, MN  
Larson, Christie, Franklin, MN  
Lasley, Thomas & Polly, Decorah, IA  
Laures, Julie, Fountain, MN  
Lechner, Travis, Brownsville, MN  
Lemke, Katherine, Caledonia, MN  
Lenth, James, Castalia, IA  
Lidtko, Donna, Lime Springs, IA  
Link, Dolores, Caledonia, MN  
Lobland, Katie, Fountain, MN  
Loesch, Joseph, De Soto, WI  
Loken, Doris, Houston, MN  
Longhorn, Glen, Hawarden, IA  
Loose, Julie Ann, Mora, MN  
Lorisch, Lisa, Fountain Hills, AZ  
Lynch, Deborah, Chippewa Falls, WI  
Lyon, Corey, Fountain, MN

\*Denotes refund available.

Gift certificates are available to purchase at the cooperative during the holiday season and throughout the year.



# MiRecipes | Family Favorites

Submit your family's favorite recipe for consideration to be printed in the March 2025 newsletter. Deadline is February 15. Send to Meagan at PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 or email: mmoellers@MiEnergy.coop. MiRecipes will be printed quarterly in this publication. If we publish your recipe, you will receive a \$5 credit on your next electric bill. Limit one recipe published per member annually.

## PECAN PIE BARS | MARY ANN DYER, WINONA

### CRUST

3 c. un-sifted flour  
6 T. sugar  
¾ c. margarine (I use ½ c. margarine + ¼ c. butter)  
¾ t. salt

Grease bottom and sides of jelly roll pan. I use a 10 ½ x 15 ½ inch cushion pan. Mix crust ingredients as for pie until crumbly (mixture will be dry). PRESS FIRMLY into pan. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until golden (25 minutes).

### FILLING

4 eggs (slightly beaten)  
1½ c. light or dark Karo syrup (I use dark)  
1½ c. sugar  
3 T. unsalted butter (melted)  
1½ t. vanilla  
2½ c. pecans (chopped)

Whisk eggs, slightly, add syrup, sugar, butter and vanilla until blended. Sprinkle pecans over hot crust, pour syrup mix over, evenly spreading nuts. (I mix nuts directly into the syrup mixture and pour evenly over the crust). Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until set (30 to 35 minutes). Cool. Cut into 1 to 1½ inch squares (70 to 96).

## CRANBERRY CAKE | SHERRY BOUSKA, RIDGEWAY

3 T. butter  
1½ c. sugar  
1 ½ t. vanilla  
1 egg  
3 c. flour  
3 t. baking powder  
2 c. whole cranberries  
½ t. salt  
1 ½ c. milk

Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla and egg. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately with milk. Stir in cranberries. Pour in greased 9x13" pan. Bake at 400° for 35 minutes.

### BUTTER SAUCE

1 c. butter  
2 c. sugar  
1 c. cream

Melt butter in saucepan. Blend in sugar. Add cream. Simmer 3-4 minutes. Serve hot on top of cake.

Do not pour sauce on whole cake. Put cut cake on plates and top with sauce.

## ROME GRATE (RØMMEGRØT) | JUDY OIAN, RUSHFORD

This is a treat we reserve for holidays and birthdays, but our grandparents ate it as part



of their regular diet! It is best when using fresh cream skimmed from top of milk after cows are milked but I adapted it to using heavy cream from the store now!

½ c. butter  
¾ c. flour  
4 c. hot cream  
1/3 c. sugar  
1 t. salt

In a saucepan over low to medium heat melt butter and then add the flour constantly stirring to avoid scorching and watch it bubble making the raw flour taste disappear. Then slowly add the hot cream while stirring to avoid lumps and bring it to low boil while it thickens. Turn off heat and add sugar and salt! To serve, put in small bowls and add cinnamon and sugar! If serving later, I will put in crock pot to keep warm and sprinkle sugar on top to prevent a skin from forming.

## Working on MiLines

DAY | NIGHT | RAIN | SHINE

MiEnergy crews are shown conducting a three-phase changeout of a pole for new underground service along North Star Road in Ridgeway, Minn. 1. Matt Ginther and Greg Becker take the fiber optic cable off the pole. 2. Untying the conductors. 3. Matt lowering the neutral to Bill Cox and Randall Ashbacher on the ground. 4. Tying the neutral to the truck to keep it out of the way. 5. Applying cover-up in preparation to untie the energized phase.



1



2



4



3



5

# out & about in your COMMUNITY



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

#### OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday by appointment.  
**IOWA** 24049 Highway 9, PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136  
**MINNESOTA** 31110 Cooperative Way, PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971  
 \*\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.\*\*

#### PHONE NUMBERS

**LOCAL** 563-547-3801 (Cresco); 507-864-7783 (Rushford)  
**TOLL-FREE & 24/7 OUTAGE REPORTING** 800-432-2285  
**PAYMENT LINE 24/7** 855-941-3631  
**UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING** 811

#### ONLINE

**WEBSITE** [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop)  
**SOCIAL MEDIA** Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**DISTRICT 1** Dennis Ptacek, secretary and vacant seat  
**DISTRICT 2** Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens, vice chair  
**DISTRICT 3** Don Petersen, treasurer and Skip Wieser  
**DISTRICT 4** Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks  
**DISTRICT 5** Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

#### MANAGEMENT STAFF

**BRIAN KRAMBEER** president/chief executive officer  
**SHELLY HOVE** chief financial officer  
**JILL HUFFMAN** broadband chief operating officer  
**STEVE OIAN** vice president of electric operations  
**VASSIL VUTOV** vice president of information technology  
**MIKE WALTON** vice president of engineering and planning  
**KENT WHITCOMB** vice president of member services

#### MINEWS STAFF

**MEAGAN MOELLERS** communications specialist, editor  
**ANNIE HOILAND** communications specialist  
**BRENDA TESCH** marketing and communications manager

#### 2024/2025 OFFICES CLOSED

**DECEMBER 17** Employee Development Day  
**DECEMBER 24-25** Christmas Holiday  
**DECEMBER 31** New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.  
**JANUARY 1** New Year's Day

#### IOWA MEMBER NOTICE ON SALES TAX EXEMPTION

There is a tax exemption that could save you money if your business is agricultural, manufacturing or processing related.  
 Since January 1, 2006, residential customers are no longer subject to state sales tax. State sales tax rates are applicable for non-residential customers, unless a sales tax exemption certificate is filed with the cooperative. If you use electricity for processing/agriculture, you may be eligible to file a sales tax exemption certificate for the portion of your electric use that qualifies.  
 The certificate may be valid for up to three years and you can also file for refunds for past years, up to a maximum of three years.  
 You are not required to have exempt usage metered separately, but are required to calculate the percentage of exempt and non-exempt usage.  
 Contact Iowa Department of Revenue for instructions and the refund form by visiting [www.tax.iowa.gov](http://www.tax.iowa.gov) or calling 800-367-3388.



### LOCAL FOOD DRIVES – RUSHFORD & CRESCO

Employees of MiEnergy collected monetary donations and distributed to area food banks to help local families during the holiday season. We donated \$444 to local food banks in Rushford and Cresco. MiEnergy's Wendy Jacobson (upper left) dropped off \$272 to Rushford's SEMCAC Food Shelf collected by the Minnesota employees, and Brad Pecinovsky and Mike Walton (upper right) dropped off \$172 to the Howard County Community Action food bank in Cresco raised from the Iowa employees.

### CAREER EXPO – SPRING VALLEY

MiEnergy's Brenda Tesch and Mark Dornink represented the cooperative at the 2nd Annual Spring Valley Area Career Expo at Kingsland High School on November 12. The event provides an opportunity for 150 students to learn more about career opportunities at local businesses.



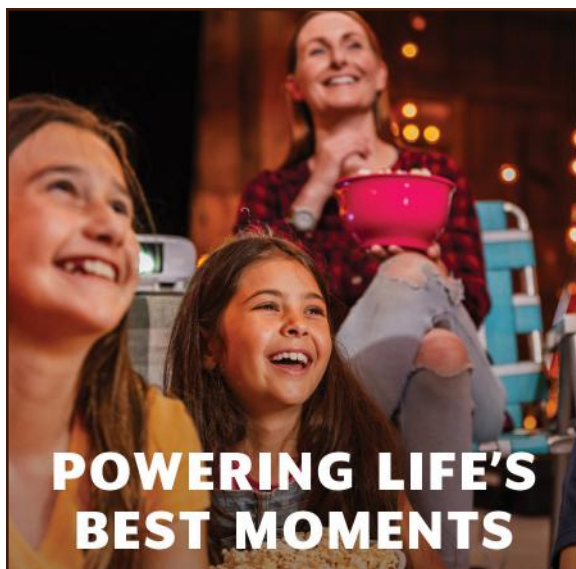
MiEnergy is hosting American Red Cross community blood drives. These blood drives are open to the general public. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter MiEnergy to schedule an appointment.



**January 9, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
Cresco office

**February 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
Rushford office

**American Red Cross**



**POWERING LIFE'S  
BEST MOMENTS**

It's good to know your Touchstone Energy® cooperative is always there so you can keep doing all the things that are important to you. Our commitment is to give you the energy you need to enjoy life's moments.



**YOUR SOURCE FOR POWER. AND INFORMATION.**  
 Visit us at: [WWW.TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM](http://WWW.TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM)

MIENERGY'S SCHOLARSHIPS & YOUTH TOUR DETAILS WILL BE

COMING  
*Stay Tuned*  
SOON

APPLICATIONS WILL BE POSTED ONLINE IN EARLY JANUARY AT [WWW.MIENERGY.COOP](http://WWW.MIENERGY.COOP)

**mienergy**<sup>™</sup>  
COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 

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MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

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*2024 Service Milestones*

|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Malachi Bunke<br>Apprentice Lineworker<br>New Employee          | <br>Danielle Gordor<br>Accounts Payable Specialist<br>New Employee | <br>Grady Hengel<br>Apprentice Lineworker<br>New Employee     | <br>Wendy Jacobson<br>Member Service Administrative Assistant<br>New Employee | <br>Cassidy Zawislak<br>Billing Representative/Receptionist<br>New Employee | <br>Greg Becker<br>Journeyman Lineworker<br>5 years      |
| <br>Ryan Dahl<br>Master Electrician<br>5 years                    | <br>Kimberly Larson<br>Billing Representative<br>3 years         | <br>Darrin Peterson<br>Journeyman Foreman<br>5 years        | <br>Kent Whitcomb<br>VP Member Services<br>5 years                          | <br>Tammy Brown<br>Senior Billing Representative<br>10 years              | <br>Kari Steele<br>Operations Assistant<br>10 years    |
| <br>Tom Hart<br>Lead Lineman<br>25 years                          | <br>Dean Nierling<br>Board Director<br>25 years                  | <br>Audra Skalet<br>Director of Member Services<br>25 years | <br>Dave Wilkes<br>Staking/Technology Superintendent<br>25 years            | <br>Tim Anderson<br>Metering Load Management Technician<br>30 years       | <br>Steve Olan<br>VP System Operations<br>30 years     |
| <br>Cory Pederson<br>Metering Load Management Foreman<br>30 years | <br>Randall Ashbacher<br>Journeyman Foreman<br>35 years          | <br>Lori Clobes<br>Director of Accounting<br>35 years       | <br>Brad Dull<br>Line Staking Technician<br>35 years                        | <br>Roger Carman<br>Mechanic<br>Retired 22 years                          | <br>Dennis Young<br>Board Director<br>Retired 20 years |