

December 2022 Vol. 6 Issue 12  
A monthly publication for members of  
MiEnergy Cooperative.

# MiNews

## Getting a bird's-eye view

Employees take drones to new heights in the field

**CHANGES TO  
WINTER ENERGY  
MANAGEMENT  
SCHEDULES**

**Scholarship and trip  
opportunities for students**

Applications  
due for board  
election

**DO WE OWE YOU?  
CAPITAL CREDIT  
RETURN LISTING**

A trio of MiEnergy employees use drones to reduce operating costs and increase reliability for the co-op. Licensed drone operators pictured from left to right are Cole Kingsley, Lucas Gravos and Dave Wilkes.



## Supporting member-owned solar

MiEnergy Cooperative is proud to support our members that have installed member-owned distributed energy resource (DER) systems, which are mostly solar, on our electric distribution system. We have over 800 participants in this program, which is two times more than any Minnesota or Iowa electric cooperative on a per member basis, making us a solar leader in both states.

We have witnessed a substantial increase in DERs on MiEnergy's system over the past several years -- some of it installed or procured by MiEnergy and some installed by members. MiEnergy considers this a welcome development with DERs now providing over 4% of MiEnergy's annual electric sales.

However, we are also experiencing saturation levels on our system that will likely raise member costs or limit the ability of other members to install DER systems in the future. Currently, there are periods when solar generation is greater than member consumption leading to the overloading of circuits.

The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022 (IRA) will again increase tax incentives for members to install more DER systems on our distribution grid. Therefore, we've developed a plan of action to allow all members of the cooperative the opportunity to install a DER system at their discretion.

This summer MiEnergy staff met with affected stakeholders, including solar contractors and our advisory committee. We held a member information meeting to discuss possible

changes in policy to address this saturation issue and maximize DER opportunities for all members.

Taking into consideration the input from members, contractors and existing solar stakeholders, MiEnergy's Board of Directors voted to revise our net-metering policy for new DER systems beginning January 1, 2023. The new policy addresses system saturation and helps ensure every cooperative member has opportunity to install a DER system.

The revised net-metering policy is commonly referred to as sized to load. Under this revised policy, members that sign a uniform contract with MiEnergy for net metering on or after January 1, 2023, will have a maximum output that does not exceed the member's expected electricity use. This is based on the member's electric use during a representative 12-month period in the three years prior to installation.

This new sized-to-load policy will NOT impact Minnesota members with existing DERs that have a signed uniform contract with MiEnergy prior to January 1, 2023, or any of our Iowa members that are already following the sized-to-load agreement.

The new policy will benefit members by eliminating the need for most supplemental reviews and the \$3,000 cost members are required to pay for those reviews. It will reduce delays in approval of new systems. Most importantly, it will allow all MiEnergy members the opportunity to install a DER in the future. Without this new policy, saturation levels and costs associated with the review and possible aid-to-construction costs would likely limit the opportunity for many members to install DER systems. It will also allow all MiEnergy members to adhere to the same policy. MiEnergy's Iowa members have been operating DER systems under this sized-to-load policy since 2017, and we've seen more systems installed in Iowa with few overgeneration issues.

Net-metered compensation will be provided for all members that size their system up to 105% of the member's actual use. Excess banked kilowatt-hours (kWh) from a member's DER generation will be trued up at the end of March each year and up to 2,000 kWh of excess DER generation can be rolled over each year.

Members interested in installing a DER system are encouraged to talk with our office prior to purchasing their system. Existing DER members have been mailed a letter further communicating their grandfathered uniform contract.

MiEnergy looks forward to continuing our close working relationship with our members on DER systems, energy efficiency, energy management programs, economic development and all of our other member-focused initiatives.

We focus on "all energy resources" to provide safe, reliable, sustainable and affordable electric energy to our membership. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## How electric co-ops put drones to use

The idea of getting a bird's-eye view of distribution power lines without deploying a crew is of great interest to electric cooperatives across the country.

MiEnergy began using drones in 2021 and has been using them to inspect equipment as part of routine maintenance and following major storms. Co-ops are also using these systems to record vegetation growth in order to more accurately trim trees.

Drones are common topics in the news. Amazon wants to use drones to deliver your packages. There is a rumor of a northern Minnesota retailer wanting to use them to deliver beer to ice fishermen. Farmers are testing them for crop management -- and so on.

But how can your co-op use a drone? Assessing storm damage springs to mind.

With ground access frequently blocked by debris or flooding, getting a comprehensive assessment of damage is both time consuming and dangerous. Flying a drone over the area can capture detailed images of the situation. It allows the operator to capture a bird's-eye view close up to help the co-op dispatch the right crews with the right materials to the right location. This kind of intelligence gets members' lights back on faster.

Drones have significant potential in preventive maintenance. A drone allows the operator to capture a live look in close range that may otherwise require a lineworker to scale up a pole. This eliminates a lot of time and expense patrolling rights-of-way.

In the future, MiEnergy anticipates having a drone with an infrared (IR) camera to search for hot spots on power lines or inside substations. Problems could be solved before causing an interruption to your service.

The use of 3-D imaging to



Normally MiEnergy lineworkers would use binoculars to try to spot issues and something like the photo above might not be easily noticed. This pole was six spans deep into the right-of-way.



Lucas Gravos, Cole Kingsley and Dave Wilkes are licensed to operate MiEnergy's two drones. The situation pictured at the right was spotted deep into the right-of-way with a drone in a matter of a few minutes instead of requiring a lineworker to physically walk the line to find the problem.

assess the condition of poles and towers in hard-to-reach areas is a future possibility. Likewise, the impact of construction on wildlife could also be monitored if required by government agencies. Once in widespread use, you can be sure many more applications will develop. Maybe even delivering light materials to field crews!

However, getting a drone in the air is not a trivial matter. Since recreational use of drones has created



some issues, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is regulating their use for commercial activities. The co-op was required to get approval from the FAA to operate its drones and the pilots are FAA licensed, backed by dedicated and certified ground support. This keeps drones out of regular airspaces and away from sensitive areas.

As with all technology MiEnergy deploys, drones are used to reduce operating costs and increase reliability.

### Board room highlights | Nov. 30, 2022

- CFO Shelly Hove gave a favorable year-to-date financial report.
- Reviewed and approved the 2023 capital budget of \$10.5 million which includes over \$9 million in electric system improvements.
- Approved the amendments to the Distributed Energy Resource/Net-Metering Policy.
- Reviewed and approved the unclaimed property report.
- Approved granting \$70,000 for 70 scholarships to high school seniors and registration fees for two high school delegates to attend the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. Both opportunities are funded by unclaimed capital credits.
- Approved Resolution 22-16 Authorizing Execution of Department of Natural Resources permits.
- Reviewed and approved 2023 District 1 director application materials.
- Approved presenting bylaw amendments to the membership.
- Acknowledged Director Don Petersen for receiving the National Rural Electric Association's Gold Certificate Credential status.
- Approved changing office hours to 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Fridays are open by appointment only. The hours are effective January 1, 2023.

Next board meeting will be at the Cresco office on December 29 at 9am.



CAPITAL CREDITS NOTICE

In October 2022, MiEnergy distributed nearly \$2.2 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 jmdadsen@MiEnergy.coop. Watch for more listings in the January issue.

**A**  
Abrahamson, Elizabeth & Bahl, Riley, Phoenix, AZ  
Afseth, Larry, Preston, MN  
Aldredge, Nichole & Hudson, Austin, Ridgeway, IA  
Amundson, Harlan & Lois, Cresco, IA  
Amy, Julie, Chatfield, MN  
Anderlik, Claire, Lime Springs, IA  
Anderson, Cody, Waukon, IA  
Anderson, Lucas, Barnesville, MN  
Anderson, Marion J, Eitzen, MN  
Attleson, Marjorie, New Hampton, IA  
Aune, Marshall & Schmidtkecht, Gennafer, Winona, MN

**B**  
Babb, Ronald Estate C/O Jim Myrah, Rochester, MN  
Bachman, Jerry & Renee, Owatonna, MN  
Bakke, Cathy Jr, Decorah, IA  
Bakken, Bill, Decorah, IA  
Bakken, Eric, Ridgeland, MS  
Bakken, Shawn & Dixie, Marshalltown, IA  
Bantle, Russell & Sandra, Onalaska, WI  
Barnes, Allen, Decorah, IA  
Barnes, Frances, Cresco, IA  
Barr, Chester, C/O Barr Enterprises, Lansing, IA  
Barr, Lowell, Albert Lea, MN  
Barrientos, Angel, Decorah, IA  
Bartlett, Steve, Decorah, IA  
Bauer, Lisa, Grand Marais, MN  
Beck, William & Sonya, Box Elder, SD  
Bell, Nathaniel, Eugene, OR  
Beninga, Eileen & Ernst, Diane, Decorah, IA  
Benish, Jerry, LaCrescent, MN  
Benson, Kenneth, Rushford, MN  
Berg, Samantha & Danielson, Joshua, Lime Springs, IA  
Berg-Williams Family Farms Corp, Decorah, IA  
Bernau, Thomas & Heidi, Waukon, IA  
Berzinski, Bradley, Winona, MN  
Bestor, Jill & Chad, Chatfield, MN  
Biedermann, Mary & Scott, Olathe, KS  
Biel, Russel, Harmony, MN  
Bierschbach, Dan & Tracie, Rochester, MN  
Bigalk, Kathryn, Harmony, MN  
Bischoff, Mark, Calmar, IA  
Black, Jason, Minn City, MN  
Block, Alton & Marilyn, Winona, MN  
Blue, Cindy, Calmar, IA  
Boardman, Robert, Decorah, IA  
Bolstad, Albert, Houston, MN  
Bonelli, David, Decorah, IA  
Bormann, George & Merion, Tempe, AZ  
Botcher, Charlene, Houston, MN  
Bouapaengphan, Kasin & Daeng, Decorah, IA  
Bourcier, Thomas, Saginaw, MI  
Boutte, Amber, Decorah, IA  
Bradt, Dorothy, Chatfield, MN  
Brewster, Mark, Lanesboro, MN  
Brewster, Michael, LaCrescent, MN  
Brion, Rodney, Lewiston, MN  
Bristle, Sonna , C/O Bristle, Gary, Spring, Grove, MN  
Britt, Kirk & Davis, Luanna, New Hampton, IA  
Brosnahan, Paul & Jan, Winona, MN  
Brown, Dustin & Angela, Ennis, MT  
Bruns, Jay & Karen, Elma, IA  
Bublitz, John Sr, Tomah, WI  
Bucknell, Dennis, Nashua, IA  
Builta, Tricia & Jason, Orange, TX  
Burgart, Norb, New Hampton, IA  
Byrnes, Terri, Decorah, IA

**C**  
Carlson, Carol & Holm, Steven, Spring Valley, MN  
Chabane, Yacine, Sugar Land, TX  
Christensen, David & Patti, Decorah, IA  
Clark, Kevin, Ben Wheeler, TX  
Clark, Martin, C/O Clark, Diane, Dorchester, IA  
Clarke, Valerie, Lewiston, MN  
Clement, Melissa & Scott, Rose Creek, MN  
Colbert, James, LaCrescent, MN  
Conlan, Pat, Brookings, SD  
Cook, Tanya, Lanesboro, MN  
Cordes, William, C/O Schroeder, Nancy, Dorchester, IA  
Corson, Nancy, Preston, MN  
Courtney, Cody & Danielle, Cresco, IA  
Cowell, Russell & Diane, New Hampton, IA  
Cox, Clint & Susan, Byron, MN  
Cullen, Rose, Utica, MN  
Culp, Deborah, Winona, MN  
Czaplewski, John & Shannon, Winona, MN

**D**  
Dahl, Dora, Prescott Valley, AZ  
Dansdill, Brad, New Market, MN  
Davenport, Kristin, Caledonia, MN  
DeFlorian, Jeremy, Houston, MN  
Degnan, Tom, Boynton Beach, FL  
DeHaan, Henry & Lynne, DeWitt, IA  
Demmer, Vincent, Westby, WI

Dempsey, Roland, Lawler, IA  
Derouin, Anthony, Rochester, MN  
DeWalle, Betty, Cresco, IA  
Dibley, Scott, Winona, MN  
Dieter, John, West Plains, MO  
Dishinger, Lonnie, Lime Springs, IA  
Dobbs, Joseph, Abts, Crystal, LaCrosse, WI  
Dolezal, Jeffrey & Janice, Hickory, NC  
Donahue, Lawrence, C/O St Mary, Duane, Caledonia, MN  
Donaldson, Earl & Mary, Grants Pass, OR  
Dorsey, Jay, Columbus, OH  
Douglas, Kimberly, Altus, OK  
Driscoll, Joseph & Melissa, Brownsville, MN  
Dulek, Jesse, Dakota, MN  
Dunn, Rick, Alta Vista, IA  
Durham, Sharon, Winona, MN

**E**  
Earles, Brandon & Kristen, Cresco, IA  
Earles, Willie & Dolores, Jacksonville, FL  
Earp, Eugene & Mary, Davenport, IA  
Eastman, Bob, Clear Lake, IA  
Eastman, David, Riceville, IA  
Ebner, Jon, C/O Ebner, Carol, LaCrosse, WI  
Egland, Lonnie, Houston, MN  
Eichstadt, Richard, Preston, MN  
Eide, Amber, Rushford, MN  
Eidenschink, Dean & Sheryl, Cresco, IA  
Ellingson, Duane & Toni, Cresco, IA  
Ellingson, Lester, Lawler, IA  
Elsbernd, Kristy & Hayek, Phil, Fort Atkinson, IA  
Emery, Dale, Decorah, IA  
Engan, Maynard, C/O Pam Shepard, Anacortes, WA  
Engen, Spencer Jr, Harmony, MN  
Eppens, Rosalyn & Gunderson, Marjorie, Decorah, IA  
Erdmann, Ervin, Dakota, MN  
Erickson, Adeline, Houston, MN  
Esler, Tim, Cresco, IA  
Espe, Robert Estate or Cary, Yvonne, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Everson, Rachel, LaCrosse, WI

**F**  
Faas, Donovan, LaCrescent, MN  
Fabian, Arvin & Janice, Winona, MN  
Fairbanks, Dawn, Chester, IA  
Farrell, Paul, Decorah, IA  
Faux, Tamara & Robert, Chokio, MN  
Fenske, Donald, Rochester, MN  
Fisch, Richard, Forsyth, MN  
Fischer, Jesse, Fort Atkinson, IA  
Fish, Kelly, Rochester, MN  
Fishabaugher, Stanley, Harmony, MN  
Fishabaugher, Stanley & Mark, Harmony, MN  
Fishel, Myles, C/O, Stevens, Judy, Eldon, IA  
Fitting, Dean & Melissa, Mebane, NC  
Folkedahl, Heath & Dryak, Genevieve, Trempealeau, WI  
Forde, Dan, Hiawatha, IA  
Forrester, Mark & Sharon, Caledonia, MN  
Forss, Michael & Jean, LaCrescent, MN  
Fortress Bank, Houston, MN  
Fowler, Kathy, Spring Valley, MN  
Fox, Jack, Racine, MN  
Franzen, John & Volk, Kelsey, Baxter, MN  
Franzen, Kevin, Winona, MN  
Frieberg, D E, Riceville, IA  
Frieberg, Violet Estate, Riceville, IA  
Fritz, Steve & Vicki, Cresco, IA  
Fruechte, Joshua, LaCrescent, MN  
Fryer, Robert & Jean, Austin, MN  
Fuchsel, Lucus & Greenlee, Andy, Hokah, MN  
Fulsaas, Gordon & Joanne, Decorah, IA  
Fulsaas, Patricia, Ridgeway, IA  
Fulsaas, Todd, Decorah, IA

**G**  
Gagnon, Nancy, Cedarville, IL  
Ganka, Terrence & Melina, Wayland, MI  
Gastson, Rodney, Mabel, MN  
Gaustad, Teri, Brownsville, MN  
Gebel, John, Alta Vista, IA  
Gehling, Marie Estate, Gerleman, Judy, Solon, IA  
Geling, Walter, Ossian, IA  
Gensmer, Jode, LaCrosse, WI  
Gensmer, Paul, Spring Valley, MN  
Gerleman, Wendy, Spillville, IA  
Gilbert, Justin, Rochester, MN  
Gilbert, Scott, Fountain, MN  
Gilbertson, Steve, Galesville, WI  
Gilbertson, Vernon, Rushford, MN  
Gillund, Diane, Cook, MN  
Glick, Brian, Harmony, MN  
Glover, Kiley, Decorah, IA  
Goetsch, WM Estate or Goetsch, Darlene, Cresco, IA  
Goldner, Kelli, Winona, MN  
Goodno, Solon, Lansing, IA  
Goplen, Nicholas & Angela, Rochester, MN  
Grabau, Flora, Preston, MN

Graves, Todd & Sandy, LaCrosse, WI  
Green, Phyllis Estate, Cedar Falls, IA  
Growden, Lance, Preston, MN  
Grube, Kim, Riceville, IA  
Gruntzel, Rita, LaCrosse, WI  
Gulbro, Vernon Estate, Decorah, IA  
Gunderseon, Earl, Rushford, MN  
Gunhus, Evelyn Estate, Gunhus, Duane, Cresco, IA

**H**  
Haase, David, Clarksville, TN  
Haedtke, Peter, Cape Coral, FL  
Hageman, Kyle, Decorah, IA  
Hagen, Connie, Waseca, MN  
Hagstrom, David, Rocheste, MN  
Hajosy, Teresa, Rochester, MN  
Halder, AL, Charles City, IA  
Halling, John, Dakota, MN  
Hanks, Neil, LeRoy, MN  
Hanninen, Heath, Virginia, MN  
Hanno, James, LaCrescent, MN  
Hansen, Christopher & Jennifer, International Fall, MN  
Hansen, Connie, Humboldt, IA  
Harding, Wesley & Judith, Lanesboro, MN  
Hareldson, Curtis, Preston, MN  
Harks, Anthony, Sumner, IA  
Harmer, Victoria, LaCrosse, WI  
Harris, Angel & Lund, John, Peterson, MN  
Harvey, Carol Estate, Spring Grove, MN  
Hasler, Timothy & Nicole, Bloomington, IL  
Hastings, Joe, Plainview, MN  
Hauber, Steven & Margaret, Cresco, IA  
Haugen, Sara, Decorah, IA  
Hayek, Susan, Decorah, IA  
Hazelwood, Steve, Rollingstone, MN  
Headington, Beth, Decorah, IA  
Headington, Larry, Cresco, IA  
Heath, Thomas Jr, Lake Mills, IA  
Hefti, Shane & Melissa, Algona, IA  
Hegg, Clifford Estate, Harmony, MN  
Heidenreich, Pam & Kester, David, Marquette, IA  
Helgeson, Justin, Decorah, IA  
Helgeson, Karen, Canton, MN  
Helmke, Daryl, Crystal, MN  
Hendrickson Darin & Stacy, Canton MN  
Hershberger, Anna, Harmony, MN  
Hjelmeland, Deborah & Burfield, Patricia, Mesa, AZ  
Hobson, Bruce & Lynette, Riceville, IA  
Hodges, Janet Estate, C/O Steffen, Jane, Ossian, IA  
Hoff, Brian & Carolyn, Vergas, MN  
Hoffert, Steve, Calmar, IA  
Hoffland, Violet, Decorah, IA  
Holets, Kayla, Stewartville, MN  
Holm, Keith, Riceville, IA  
Holstad, Jeffrey Estate & Robin Spillville, IA  
Holthaus, Gary, Tulia, TX  
Holzwarth, John & Meindel, Donald, Brownsville, MN  
Honsey, Janeen, Maricopa, AZ  
Houdek, Miranda & Gates, Justin, Rochester, MN  
Hovey, Janice, C/O Hovey, Rick, Cresco, IA  
Huffman, Jason, Harmony, MN  
Huggenvik, Ryan & Kindra, Prior Lake, MN  
Huiskamp, Payne, Cresco, IA  
Hungate, Elmer & Traff, Shirley, Hayfield, MN  
Huskisson, James, C/O Kerwin Quin/Rose, Rochester, MN  
Hutmacher, William, Winona, MN  
Hyland, Rick, Spring Valley, MN

**I**  
I And M Rail Link LLC, Sioux Falls, SD  
Ideker, Becky, LaCrescent, MN  
Ideker, Kathleen, LaCrescent, MN  
Ingersoll, Timothy, Winona, MN  
Ingvalson, John, Spring Grove, MN  
Irvine, Daniel, Caledonia, MN

**J**  
Jackson, Scott & Tyra, Lanesboro, MN  
Jacob, Sharon, Decorah, IA  
Jenkinson, Robert, Winona, MN  
Jens, Lycia & Barrientos, Angel, Spillville, IA  
Johnson, Douglas & Margaret, Maple Grove, MN  
Johnson, Elizabeth Estate, Johnson, Alvin, New Hampton, IA  
Johnson, Eric, Zionsville, IN  
Johnson, Gerald & Elaine, Lanesboro, MN  
Johnson, Heather, LaCrescent, MN  
Johnson, Jared & Torey, Harmony, MN  
Johnson, Kevin, Elma, IA  
Johnson, Lyla, Houston, MN  
Johnson, Mari, Decorah, IA  
Johnson, Marlys, New Hampton, IA  
Johnson, Michael & Patti, Brownsville, MN  
Jones, Michelle, Fort Atkinson, IA  
Jones, Roland, Sleepy Eye, MN

Participate in energy management programs?  
New winter time schedule

Grid reliability is front and center for all electric utilities. To ensure generation resources are adequately available year-round, the regional Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) recently updated their requirements for power providers, including Dairyland Power, which has resulted in updates to MiEnergy's energy management programs.

As of November 1, residential electric water heaters on economic management and auto-start generators are no longer part of the Peak Alert schedule, which was 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the summer and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the winter. The new Max Gen Capacity Resource event schedule is as follows:

AUTO-START GENERATORS (FORMERLY PEAK ALERT PROGRAM):

- Enrolled generators can be called on during any month at any time of day with a possible morning control.
- There will be a 2-hour advanced notice. You will be notified in the same way you have been in the past.
- The maximum control period is 4 hours.
- There is a maximum of 16 controls per year. The number of maximum controls is based on the season as follows:  
Spring (March, April, May) – 1 to 3 controls.  
Summer (June, July, Aug) - 1 to 5 controls.  
Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov) – 1 to 3 controls.  
Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) – 1 to 5 controls.

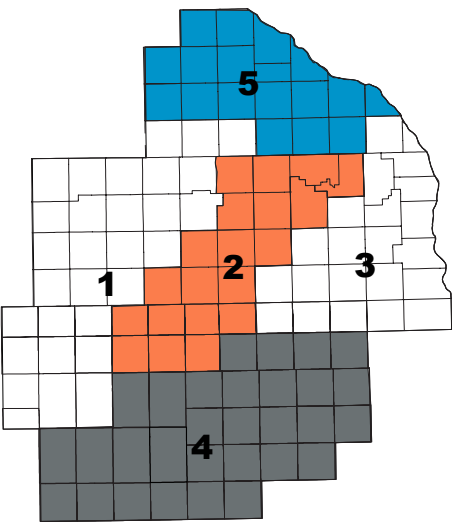
WATER HEATERS (UNDER ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM):

- Enrolled water heaters will be managed as necessary with the auto-start generators. They will continue to be managed when prices are high in the MISO market and for local reliability.

WINTER PEAK ALERT EVENTS:

Peak Alerts will still occur for other managed loads. When issued it will be split into morning (6:55 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.) and/or evening events (5 p.m. - 8 p.m.) December through February.

- **Interruptible Heat/Dual Fuel:** Enrolled heating equipment will be managed in mornings instead of evenings when a Peak Alert has been issued.
- **Dairy Water Heaters/Grain Dryers:** Enrolled equipment will remain on the traditional winter schedule of management when a Peak Alert has been issued.



DISTRICT 1 BOARD ELECTIONS  
DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS DUE

Last month we published information regarding the board election process for 2023. If you are interested in running for a district 1 board seat, contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or hlarson@MiEnergy.coop. The director application deadline is January 13, 2023.

Opportunities for high school students

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

MiEnergy gives scholarships to high school seniors to help them further their education. To be eligible, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must be members of the cooperative. The community service based scholarships are funded through unclaimed capital credits. An application will be posted online December 28 at www.MiEnergy.coop.

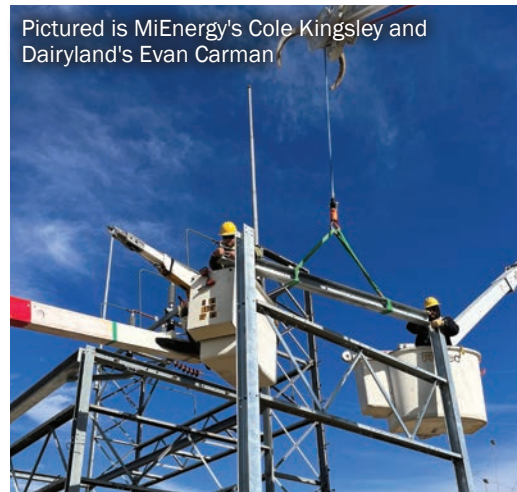
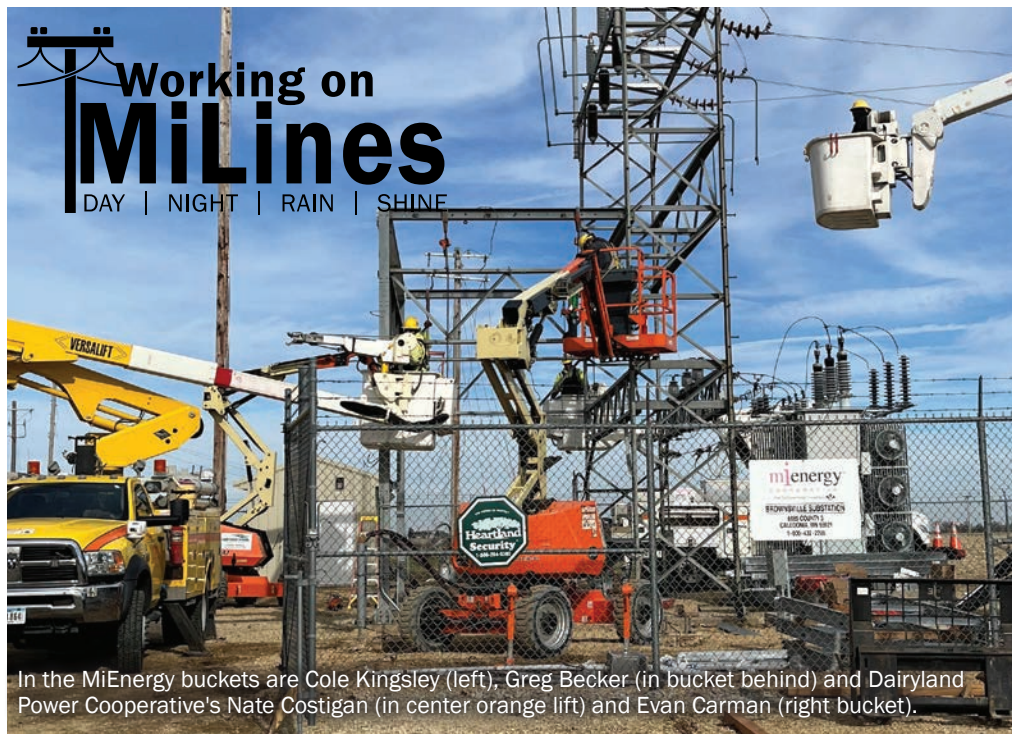
FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Two area high school students will be selected by MiEnergy to represent the cooperative as delegates on the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour in June 2023. To be eligible, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must be members. An application will be available online December 28 at www.MiEnergy.coop.



Watch on YouTube @MiEnergycoop





Following months of planning, MiEnergy crews worked alongside crews from Dairyland Power Cooperative for two weeks to do a complete upgrade of the Brownsville Substation. Substation conductors were upgraded, insulators and switches replaced, substation feeders were converted from overhead to underground line and reclosers were upgraded to electronic models. The upgrade of the substation will help improve safety for workers and power reliability for members.



## Go cozy and confident.

### GET HELP AT HOME OR AWAY WITH THE PRESS OF A BUTTON.

The Belle medical alert pendant has everything you need to keep your independence. Get help from anywhere 24/7, whether you're home or on your next adventure.

**Heartland Security**  
888.264.6380 heartlandss.com  
SECURITY AUTOMATION VIDEO MEDICAL ALERTS



## BUILDING FOR SALE

301 Pleasant Ave N  
Spring Valley, MN

- Corner lot with .81 acres
- Zoned for commercial
- Lot size 198' by 178'
- Building size 50' x 80' and built in 1950.
- Two large overhead doors
- Interior office space with forced-air heat and air conditioning
- Radiant heat in shop
- Bathroom

Property will be sold by sealed bid. Bid forms can be requested by calling Steve Oian at 800-432-2285 or emailing soian@MiEnergy.coop.

Keep Your Holidays

**MERRY & BRIGHT**

Don't add stress to your holiday season. Knowing how to properly use and hang lights could prevent injury or fire.



Make sure your home's electrical system can handle the load.



Unplug lights or decorations before changing a bulb or other parts.



Do not use cords or plugs that are damaged, frayed or cracked.



Only use lights certified by a reputable testing lab.



In addition, consider LED lights when replacing old light strands. LEDs use 80 to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs.

Learn more: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)



### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Employees of MiEnergy collected monetary donations and distributed to area food banks to help local families during the holiday season. We donated over \$300 to local food banks in Rushford and Cresco. Rushford's SEMCAC Food Shelf received \$180. At right, Janelle Sunnes (l) and Ruth Riha (r) dropped off \$122 to the Howard County Community Action food bank in Cresco.



### HOLIDAY PARADE — CRESCO

MiEnergy employee Dave Wilkes and his family participated in the holiday parade in Cresco on November 25.



MiEnergy's Cresco office will be hosting an American Red Cross community Blood Drive on January 18 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The blood drive is open to the general public. Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter MiEnergy to schedule an appointment.



Merry Christmas

#### Board of Directors

Kyle Holthaus • Dean Nierling • Beth Olson • Don Petersen • Dennis Ptacek  
Jeff Redalen • Carl Reicks • Jenny Scharmer • Ron Stevens • Skip Wieser • Dennis Young

Christian Anderson • Tim Anderson • Randall Ashbacher • Brian Bauer • Rhonda Bauer • Greg Becker  
Brittany Benson • Brett Bergan • Jamie Breese • Steve Bronner • Tammy Brown • Roger Carman  
Josh Carolan • Chad Chaffee • Lori Clobes • Bill Cox • Jim Culhane • Travis Cummings • Ryan Dahl  
Mark Dornink • Brad Dull • Tyler Eide • Eric Friedrich • Matt Ginther • Lucas Gravos • Wayne Hageman  
Tom Hart • Jeff Henderson • Annie Hoiland • Chris Horn • Shelly Hove • Kraig Johnson • Cole Kingsley  
Brian Krambeer • Mitch Kuhn • Heather Larson • Kim Larson • Clint Lickteig • Travis Link  
Adrienne Lofgren • Julie Madsen • Noah Manning • Tim McConnell • Marc Mikkelsen • 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 • Dave Wilkes • Jordan Williams

#### Holiday Hours:

Closed Dec. 23, 26 & Jan. 2. Close at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 30.

Outages can be reported 24/7 including holidays by calling 800-432-2285 or via the SmartHub app.

**mienergy**  
COOPERATIVE  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**mienergy**  
COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

#### OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
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 24/7 877-853-6517  
UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

#### ONLINE

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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 Dennis Ptacek, secretary and Jeff Redalen  
DISTRICT 2 Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens, vice chair  
DISTRICT 3 Don Petersen, treasurer, Skip Wieser and Dennis Young  
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  
STEVE OIAN vice president of operations - Minnesota  
VASSIL VUTOV vice president of information technology  
MIKE WALTON vice president of operations - Iowa  
KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

#### MINEWS STAFF

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

#### 2022/2023 OFFICES CLOSED

DEC 8 Employee Development Day  
DEC 23, 26 Christmas Holiday  
DEC 30 Close at 11:30 a.m. (New Year's Eve observance)  
JAN 2 New Year's Day observance

WILL your water heater keep UP TO LAUNDER your family's festive sweaters & socks?



We've got you covered with our co-op member discounts on electric water heaters.



## 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.



IOWA PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136  
MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
DPC



Dennis LeFebvre  
Journeyman Foreman  
*Retired 35 years*



Gordy Johnson  
Metering/  
Load Management Foreman  
*Retired 43 years*



Steve Culhane  
Utility Worker  
*Retired 40 years  
(Dec. 31, 2021)*



Jim Culhane  
Service Center Coordinator  
*Retiring with 37 years  
on Dec. 31, 2022*



Kyle Holthaus  
Board Director  
*New Director*



Chris Horn  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*New Employee*



Mitch Kuhn  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*New Employee*



Shawn Omar  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*New Employee*



Lucas Gravos  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*5 years*



Clinton Lickteig  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*5 years*



Noah Manning  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*5 years*



Kyle Quam  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*5 years*



Tony Rislove  
Journeyman Foreman  
*10 years*



Beth Olson  
Board Director  
*10 years*



Johanna Stayskal  
Director of Finance  
*10 years*



Travis Cummings  
Journeyman Lineworker  
*15 years*



Tyler Eide  
Journeyman Foreman  
*15 years*



Kraig Johnson  
Line Technician  
*15 years*



Adrienne Lofgren  
Manager of Billing &  
Collections  
*15 years*



Charlie Mueller  
Design Technician  
*15 years*



Ron Stevens  
Board Director  
*15 years*



Rhonda Bauer  
Plant Accountant  
*20 years*



Roger Carman  
Mechanic  
*20 years*



Meagan Moellers  
Communications Specialist  
*20 years*



Jeff Redalen  
Board Director  
*20 years*



Brian Krambeer  
President/CEO  
*25 years*

2022  
SERVICE  
MILESTONES