



District Meetings Set for January

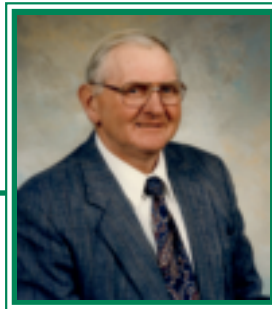
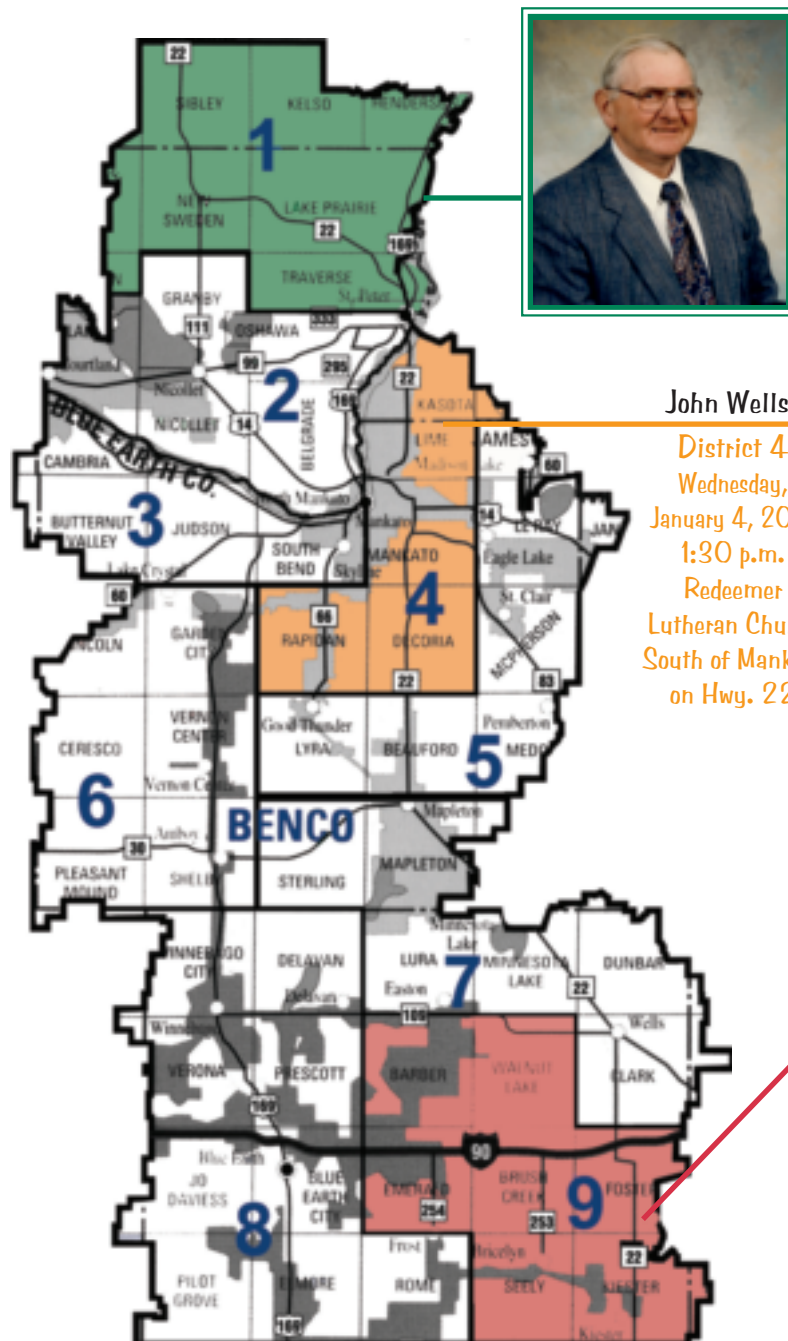
District meetings will be held for BENCO Electric Cooperative members in Districts 1, 4, and 9. If you live in one of these districts, you're invited to attend your district meeting. It's your opportunity to meet your district's director, talk with BENCO's General Manager Wade Hensel, and meet with staff members.

Come and learn more about your electric cooperative and have your voice heard as you place your vote for the director of your choice.

Voting will take place for district directors whose terms expire in April of 2012. The three directors' terms that will expire: District 1 - Garfield Eckberg; District 4 - John Wells; and District 9 - Scott Johnson.

This is where you as a BENCO Electric member can decide who will represent your district before it goes to the general membership at the Annual Meeting on April 14, 2012, at the Verizon Wireless Civic Center. Please note the date, time and location of your district meeting.

See you there!



Garfield Eckberg
District 1
Tuesday,
January 3, 2012
1:30 p.m.
Scandinavian Lutheran Church
Norseland



John Wells
District 4
Wednesday,
January 4, 2012
1:30 p.m.
Redeemer
Lutheran Church
South of Mankato
on Hwy. 22



Scott Johnson
District 9
Thursday,
January 5, 2012
1:30 p.m.
Kiester Fire Hall
Kiester

From the Board

Thursday, October 27, 2011
Blake Meshke Presided

The board reviewed and approved:

- The minutes of the September 29 board meeting.

- Capital Credits to estates totaling \$1,875.54.

John reviewed with the Board situations where members have installed or plan to install wind generators that should be less than 40 kW.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow State guidelines and pay wind generators according to GRE schedules for the month or months that the wind generator goes over 40kW.

Dave presented the nominating committees proposed for the 2012 board districts up for election. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the following nominating committees.

District 1

Willis Anthony - Chair,
Brian Brandt, Charles Johnson, and
Steve Molnau

District 4

Marion Cords, Mark Daby - Chair,
Gloria Hoppe, Allan Schenk, and
Karl Tischer

District 9

Vern Draheim, Mike Gormley -
Chair, Tom Legred, Mark
Obermeyer, and Pat O'Rourke

Dave presented the proposed district meetings for 2012. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the following District Meetings:

District 1 Meeting

Tuesday, January 3, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church
Norseland

District 4 Meeting

Wednesday,
January 4, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
South of Mankato on Hwy. 22

District 9 Meeting

Thursday,
January 5, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Kiester Fire Hall
Kiester

Archie presented the safety report, reviewed the minutes of the Safety Committee meeting and reviewed a safety walk-through done by Federated Insurance.

A meeting with Lake Crystal municipal electric and city officials was discussed.

Wade reviewed policies 304-306 with no changes recommended.

Wade reviewed a meeting with Congressman Tim Walz.

Chuck reviewed recent legal work for the cooperative, including a Legal Seminar through MREA.

Directors' reports were as follows:

Brad reported on the GRE Board meeting, and they reviewed a capacity sale and the 2012 rate increase.

CTV directors reported that there will be a meeting in November.

Harvey reviewed MREA activities.

Harlan reported on the upcoming Cooperative Network annual meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve revised Policy 302.

BENCO ELECTRIC

This newsletter is published monthly by BENCO Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, Mankato, MN 56002-0008.

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Phone: 387-7963 or 1-888-79BENCO

Outages/After Hours: 387-7963 or
1-888-792-3626

Dave Sunderman - *Member Services Manager*

Kathy Gerber - *Editor*

Board of Directors:

Blake Meshke - *President - District 6*
Duane Ehrich - *Vice President - District 8*
Harvey Hesse - *Secretary - MREA Director - District 5*
Harlan Lanz - *Treasurer - MAC Director - District 2*
Garfield Eckberg - *District 1*
Brad Leiding - *GRE Director - District 3*
John Wells - *District 4*
Gary Stenzel - *District 7*
Scott Johnson - *District 9*
Wade Hensel - *General Manager*
John C. (Chuck) Peterson - *Attorney*

Board Meetings: The last Thursday of each month - members are welcome to contact directors with items of interest or concerns in advance of the meetings.

PCA Update

Actual PCA for November
\$0.0122

Estimated PCA for December
\$0.0129

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is due to changes in the monthly wholesale rate from our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE).

Need A Free Wooden Reel?



Are you in need of a wooden reel? BENCO Electric has several on hand and you can have them for FREE!

Reels are available on a first-come, first-served basis and they are only available at the Mankato office.

Contact Ron Prange at 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626 if you are interested.

BENCO will help you load the reels.

**BENCO Electric will be closed
Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Load Management Controls Will Be Replaced

If you have bought a water heater or had a control put on your air conditioner, heat pump or dual fuel system, BENCO will be updating your control.

The Federal Government has sold off the frequency that the controls were on and now BENCO has to use a new frequency. This means that BENCO will need to change out all the load management controls.

If we have your current phone number on file, you will be notified by the phone notification system when the contractors are working in your area. The two contractors working on this project will be BC Electric and Schroeder Electric. The project will begin this October and will be finished toward the end of 2012.

If you have any questions, please call John at 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626.

Where, Oh Where?

The following is a list of former BENCO Electric members whose capital credit checks were returned by the post office as undeliverable. Any information you can give us regarding the current whereabouts of these individuals or their relatives would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Jill at 387-7963 or 1-888-79BENCO.

K

Michael Koehn, Jackson
LeRoy Koestler, Kiester
Michael Koestler, Frost
Richard Kons, St. Peter
Bruce Korth, Ladson SC
Karyl Kraft, Richmond VT
Bruce Kranig, Mankato
Armin Krause, Chaska
Kirk Krempel, Mankato
Todd Krenz, Bloomington
Carol Krueger, North Mankato
Steve Krueger, Mankato

Lori K. Krupp, Waterville
Donald Kruse, Mankato
Greg Kuebler, North Mankato
L
Patrick Lane, Mankato
George H. Lange, Lake Crystal
Andrew Langehough, Woodbury
Janet Larkin, North Mankato
Cary G. Larson, Owatonna
Richard Larson, Grand Forks ND
Gregory Leavitt, Issaquah WA
Robert Lebowitz, Lakeville
Terry A. Lee, River Falls WI
Douglas M. Legg, Quincy IL
Scott Leinen, Mankato
Dan Leseman, Duluth
J. Michael Lewis, Fremont NE
Kathy Libby, Mankato
Michael E. Liegel, Menomonee Falls, WI
Todd Lindemann, Mankato
Cory Lindrud, Waseca
Nathalie Llorca, Raleigh NC

Michael D. Lloyd, Shakopee
Kent Lock, Janesville
Annette Loeffler, Mankato
Gerald T. Lohman, Sioux Falls SD
Larry D. Lorenzen, Mankato
Julie Louwagie, Apple Valley
Arthur Lucast, Plymouth
Mike Ludvik, Chaska
David R. Lundberg, Monument CO
Mark & Phyllis Lyte, Eagan

M

John & Sarah Maass, Good Thunder
Dale Magoon, St. Peter
Mary K. Mahoney, Minneapolis
Mohsen Mahyari, Eden Prairie
Glenn Maier, Mankato
Judith Marks, Granada
Susan Marsh, Hinkley
Alfredo Martinez, Mankato
William Marxen, Franklin
LuVerne Maserek, Hopkins
Bettie J. Mass, Mankato

Ken Matzdorf, Elkhart Lake WI
Annette Matzke, Bloomington
Lee Matzke, New Prague
Christopher Mau, Mankato
David Maus, LeSueur
Lorrie Mayberry, Alexandria VA
Penny McCormick, LaCrosse WI
Linda McCullough, Mankato
Roger McMahan, North Mankato
Kenneth H. McKay, Winnebago
Cheryl Meger, Albert Lea
Dale & Deb Mehr, Mankato
Arlene M. Meier, Lake Crystal
Mark Mellum, Mankato
Lawrence Menezes, Mankato
Chris E. Menk, Pelican Rapids
Steve Mesia, Lafayette
Metz Baking Co., St. Louis MO
Daniel J. Meyer, Prior Lake
Dennis R. Meyer, Lake Crystal
Sheldon E. Meyer, Lake Crystal
Paul Meyers, Eagle Lake
Leo J. Michels, Eagle Lake



COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 8
Mankato, MN 56002-0008
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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What's Cookin': 1 Hour - 1 Everything Goulash From the Kitchen of: Kent Wilson Jones Company

- 1 T olive oil - put in large kettle (Dutch Oven)
- 1 cup chopped sweet onions - cook in large kettle until barely brown
- 1 lb ground beef - add to browned onions (low heat)
- 1 tsp white pepper - mix these three ingredients together; add to onions and hamburger (low heat)
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1 large bay leaf
- 1 T Worcestershire sauce - add to onions and hamburger
- 1 lb wide egg noodles - boil for four minutes, drain, do not rinse
- 1 stick butter - mix butter into drained noodles
- 1 cup Heinz 57 - mix these three liquids together and add to buttered noodles
- 1 cup Heinz ketchup
- 1 can Hunt's lasagna sauce

Mix egg noodles (with sauces added) into seasoned onion hamburger mix. Bring the goulash to a boil for one minute (until hot), stirring once. Remove bay leaf and serve goulash with sliced tomatoes, kosher dill pickles, and/or green salad.

Options:

- A. 1 tsp Cumin - slight chili taste - add with pepper and salt
- B. Prepare one or more hours before serving - steps remain the same except once goulash has come to a boil reduce heat to low. Stir once every hour until ready to serve; right before serving bring to a boil, remove bay leaf and serve.
- C. Family size - not as spicy - use same recipe; add second pound of hamburger (2 lbs total) and 1 small can of Campbell's tomato soup to augment other liquid seasonings.

You can receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill, if you send in your favorite recipe and it gets printed in the newsletter. Send your favorite recipes to: Kathy
BENCO Electric
PO Box 8
Mankato, MN 56002