



Operation Round Up Funds Distributed

Operation Round Up has donated \$1,705 to the following seven local organizations: Open Door Health, Boy Scouts, LEEP, Youth Health Conference, Pemberton Fire & Rescue, Children's Museum and Lake Crystal Baseball.

It's so easy to help those in need. Just let us know you're willing to let BENCO round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. If your bill was \$84.78, your bill would be rounded up to \$85 with the extra 22 cents going to Operation Round Up. Your donation would never be more than 99 cents a month, and on average the total you give each year would be around \$6, and it's tax deductible.

If you're interested in helping organizations like these, call the office to sign up at 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626; or go online at www.benco.org and sign up to participate in Operation Round Up today. If you would like an application for funding, call the office.

Thanks for your help. Because of you, a little change can go a long way.



Tiffany Bengtson, Nancy Graham, Dr. Tranby, Jessica Rybak and Katie Schulte - Open Door Health

Mandy Hunecke - LEEP, Carol Reedstrom - LEEP, Becky Kunst - LEEP and Kathy Gerber - BENCO Electric.



Heartland Security Wins GE Security Award



Board pictured from left to right: Mark Vogt - Wright-Hennepin Cooperative, Brian Krambeer - Tri-County Cooperative, Rick Burud - Federated Rural Electric Assn, Kris Ingenthron - McLeod Cooperative Power Assn, Guy Adams - Heartland Security, Wade Hensel - BENCO Electric & Brown County REA, Terry Bruns - Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Tim Mergen - Meeker Cooperative, Jim Krueger - Freeborn-Mower Cooperative, Rick Banke - Runestone Electric & Stearns Electric, Elaine Garry - People's Cooperative Service and Dave George - Kandiyohi Power Cooperative

UTC Fire & Security, which recently acquired GE Security, has named Guy Adams and Heartland Security the 2009 Western Division Security Pro Dealer of The Year, citing their steadfast dedication to providing outstanding service to their customers and the communities of western and southern Minnesota as well as northwest Iowa.

"This is truly a great honor for Heartland Security and shows how our dedicated employees believe in

our commitment of providing the best in life safety and property protection throughout the communities we serve," stated Guy Adams, Heartland Security's General Manager.

Heartland Security is owned locally by BENCO Electric and remains focused on delivering world-class security, safety, and lifestyle products and services to residential and commercial customers.

For more information about Heartland Security, its products and services, please visit our Web site www.heartlandss.com or call 888-264-6380.

All Aboard for Coal Creek Station

August 10, 11 & 12

Trip includes:

- Accommodations for two nights at the Ramkota
- Transportation by motorcoach
- Tour of Coal Creek Station
- Tour of Falkirk Mine
- Lunch on tour day
- Two buffet breakfasts at hotel

Optional sights to see include:

- A city tour
- ND Heritage Center
- Shopping at the mall

Registration Form - \$125 per person for members

Names of all guests: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Account #: _____

Tour Date: August 10, 11 & 12

Number of places to reserve: ___Members ___Non-Members

Room Preference:

___Nonsmoking single (1 bed) ___Nonsmoking double (2 beds)

___Smoking single (1 bed) ___Smoking double (2 beds)

Send in your payment (by check) with your reservation to Kathy. If you have any questions please call Kathy at 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626.

Trip open to members that have not been to Coal Creek Station.

PCA Update

Actual PCA for May
\$0.0264

Estimated PCA for June
\$0.0377

Estimated PCA for July
\$0.0372

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

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.

From the Board

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Blake Meshke Presided

The board reviewed and approved:

- The minutes of the March 26 board meeting and April 10 reorganizational meeting.
- Capital Credits to estates totaling \$7,930.24.

Dave reviewed with the board a request by the Faribault County Fair Board for a loan to build a building through the revolving loan fund. The committee reviewed the proposal and recommended to the board that they approve the loan. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the loan committee recommendation.

The Operation Round Up Trust Board recommended that the BENCO Board reappoint John Eilertson, Fred Hanson and Marilyn Lynch to another three-year term. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the three appointments.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to set April 2, 2011, for the next annual meeting to be held at the Verizon Center.

Wade reviewed plans for the 2010 Strategic Thinking Session.

Chuck reviewed the recent legal issues he had helped the coop with.

Directors' reports were as follows:

Brad reported on the GRE Board meeting. The resolution to assign fixed resources for Federated REA rate class was reviewed. The 10% option was reviewed.

CTV board members reported that a marketing plan is being developed.

Harvey reported on MREA activities.

Harlan reported on Cooperative Network activities.

Gary reported on the REMA Board Presidents meeting he attended.

New business:

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Federated Rural Electric Association Welcome Wind Purchase, and Designation of Welcome Wind Purchase and Elk River Peaking Station as Fixed Resources for Federated Rural Electric Association Rate Class resolution.

How to Use a Programmable Thermostat Properly



A programmable thermostat is ideal for people who are away from home during set periods of time throughout the week. Through proper use of pre-programmed settings, a programmable thermostat can save you about \$180 every year in energy costs.

How Do You Choose the Right One for You?

To decide which model is best for you, think about your schedule and how often you are away from home for regular periods of time—work, school, other activities—and then decide which of the three different models best fits your schedule:

7-day models are best if your daily schedule tends to change; for example, if children are at home earlier on some days. These models give you the most flexibility and let you set different programs for different days—usually with four possible temperature periods per day.

5+2-day models use the same schedule every weekday, and another for weekends.

5-1-1 models are best if you tend to keep one schedule Monday through Friday and different schedules on Saturdays and Sundays.

You can use the table below as a starting point for setting energy-saving temperatures, and then adjust the settings to fit your family's schedule and stay comfortable.

Setting	Time	Setpoint Temp
Wake	6am	> 78°F
Day	8am	Setup at least 7°F
Evening	6pm	> 78°F
Sleep	10pm	Setup at least 4°F

Air Conditioner Rebate Request



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

BENCO offers a \$300 - \$450 rebate for customers installing an Energy Star central air conditioning unit or an air source heat pump with a SEER rating of 14 to 16 + Energy Star. Rebates are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; funding is limited.

Call John Hutchens at 387-7963 or 1-888-792-3626 to get more details on this great offer.

Rebate Amount

- Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio
 - 14.0 (SEER) - \$300
 - 15.0 (SEER) - \$400
 - 16.0 + (SEER) - \$450
- Installed between January 1, 2010 and December 15, 2010.
- Completed rebate request form
- Copy of air conditioner or heat pump invoice.
- Must be cycled for two years.

Call before you dig!
811
It's The Law

Anyone planning to dig more than 12 inches is now required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance before digging takes place. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried electrical lines, city water and sewer lines, TV cable, telephone lines and gas lines can be located.

TWO-FOR-ONE ADMISSION

with this coupon

This coupon good for one free admission with one paid admission to any Minnesota Historical Society site or museum - there are more than 20 to choose from.

WWW.VISITMINNHISTORY.ORG

Valid through 2010. Not valid for group tours or special paid programs.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Minnesota History Center
St. Paul, 651-291-3000 | James J. Hill House
St. Paul, 651-293-2935 |
| Mill City Museum
Minneapolis, 612-541-7935 | North West Company Fur Post
Pine City, 520-629-6354 |
| Historic Fort Snelling
St. Paul, 612-728-1171 | Jaffees Petroglyphs
Cambridge, 507-628-9591 |
| Split Rock Lighthouse
Near Two Harbors,
218-229-6972 | Lac Seul Parle Mission
Near Montevideo, 320-269-7636 |
| Alexander Ramsey House
St. Paul, 651-296-8760 | Lower Sioux Agency
Near Morton, 507-697-6321 |
| Wich Cooke Battlefield
Near Morton, 507-693-6321 | Marlow Hill
Marlow on St. Croix, 507-699-6321 |
| Charles A. Lindbergh
Historic Site
Little Falls, 320-646-5421 | Mill Lake Indian Museum
and Trading Post
Near Onamia, 320-552-7652 |
| Comstock House
Nearhead, 218-299-4218 | Minnesota Depot
Minneapolis, 651-238-6263 |
| Folsom House
Taylors Falls, 651-465-3125 | Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, 651-296-2887 |
| Forest History Center
Grand Rapids, 218-527-4462 | Oliver W. Kelley Farm
Eka River, 763-441-6816 |
| Fort Ridgely
Near Fairfax, 507-425-7888 | Sibley House Historic Site
Mendota, 651-452-0596 |
| Harkin Store
New Ulm, 507-354-8866 | Traverse des Sioux
St. Peter, 507-934-2160 |
| Historic Forestville
Near Princeton, 507-765-2785 | W. M. Noyes House
Le Sueur, 507-645-3258 |



Watch for information on the 11th Annual Touchstone Energy Co-op Night with the Minnesota Twins Game Day: Saturday, October 2

MANUFACTURERS COUPON EXPIRES JULY 31, 2010

SAVE \$3.00

on any GE ENERGY SMART® ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lighting product multi-pack



Because of the presence of mercury, CFLs must be recycled. In Minnesota, it is illegal to place them directly in the garbage.

Consumer: Coupon valid only on your purchase of any GE ENERGY SMART® ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lighting product multi-pack. You pay sales tax. Coupon may not be reproduced or combined with another offer and is non-transferable. Void if transferred, exchanged, sold or reproduced. Offer limited to one purchase in U.S.A., its territories and military exchanges. Retailer: GE will reimburse you the face value plus 8¢ handling provided you have accepted this coupon in accordance with GE's Coupon Redemption Policy. Void where prohibited. Cash value 1/100 of 1¢. For copy of policy and/or coupon redemption mail to: GE Consumer & Industrial Lighting Products, P.O. Box 880650, El Paso, TX 78888-0650. Coupon expires: July 31, 2010 D204023 47603





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What's Cookin': Fire & Ice Marinade
From the Kitchen of: Renee Statham

Fresh Vegetables: Cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, green/red/yellow/orange peppers

Combine the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 3/4 c white vinegar | 1 tsp garlic salt |
| 1 c sugar | 1 tsp salt |
| 1 1/2 tsp mustard seed | 1 tsp olive oil |
| 1 tsp celery salt | 1/2 tsp basil |
| 1/2 tsp black pepper | |

Boil for 1 minute, cool. Slice vegetables. Pour cooled marinade over them and refrigerate. This can be used two or three times, by adding new vegetables to the marinade.

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

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 Dave G. or Jill at 387-7963 or 1-888-79BENCO.

R
Mary Jo Read, New Ulm
Rex Rector, Pleasant Hill CO
Alden Redning, Mankato

Debra Reed, Mankato
Curt Reese, St. Peter
Harold F. Revier, Mankato
Richard L. Rice, Mankato
Erwin G. Richardson, Elmore
Todd Rieck, Mankato
Matti Riikonen, Trophy Club TX
Arthur Ringham, Wells
Duwayne Robers, Eagle Lake
Brian Rodning, Nicollet
Michael R. Rollefson, Andover
Robert C. Rosenquist, St. Peter
Michael Roy, North Mankato
Charles Rucker, Eagle Lake
Roger M. Rush, Traverse City MI
Robert Ryg, Madison Lake

S
Mark Saari, Esko
Gerald A. Saldana, Mankato
Tracy Sandberg, Mankato
Lorie K. Schaible, St. Paul
Jeffrey Schmidt, Mankato
Scott Schmisek, Eagle Lake
Joseph Schmidt, Mankato
Joseph Schreder, Eagle Lake
Greg R. Schultz, Granada
William Schumacher, Mankato
David Sears, Burnsville
Brent Shepherd, Mankato
Lynn Shuck, Huron SD
Karl Sickman, Arlington
Everett Sinclair, Caledonia

Patrick & Shelly Slator, Duluth
Douglas J. Smith, Eagle Lake
George E. Smith, North Mankato
Randy Smith, Lake Crystal
David Southward, Marshall
Mark P. Spletzer, Grafton WI
Melvin Stanford, Burnsville
Dave Stanley, Albert Lea
Lawrence Stansbarger, Albert Lea
Kevin & Julie Steichen,
Cottage Grove
Robert Sterling, North Mankato
George Sundstrom, Mankato
Tony Sundstrom, North Mankato
James P. Swenson, New Ulm