



## YOU'RE INVITED: JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JULY 16

**As a member-owner of McLeod Co-op Power, you are also an owner of the cooperative. As an owner, you have a voice in the operation of our organization. Through attendance at the Annual Meeting and the election of Directors, you help set the future direction of our Cooperative. Be informed about your Cooperative and have your voice be heard!**

Join us on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at the Crow River Winery. The day will kick off with registration at 9:00 a.m., followed by the official commencement of the meeting at 10:00 a.m. To ensure your spot, kindly RSVP by calling (320) 864-3148 or toll-free at (800) 494-6272. Alternatively, you can send an email to [mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com).

As a token of our gratitude, members registered at the meeting will receive an insulated reusable grocery bag. Guests will also have a chance to win a variety of door prizes including a battery-

operated leaf blower, weed whip, and several other prizes. Remember, you must be present to win, and the door prizes are subject to change without notice.

After the meeting, relish a delectable buffet lunch prepared by Chef Craig, fostering camaraderie among fellow members. Residents in Districts 4, 5, and 6 hold the privilege of electing their district director – candidate profiles are included in our newsletter.

Ballots submitted by mail must be received by July 15. Alternatively, you can bring your ballot to the Annual Meeting. Election results will be announced thereafter.

At McLeod Co-op Power, we value your active engagement and steadfast support. Join us to strengthen our community bonds and shape our collective future.

### OFFICES CLOSED

McLeod Co-op Power will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024 in observance of Independence Day. In the event of an outage or emergency, please call (800) 927-5685.

### COLLECTIONS UPDATE

Starting this month (June 2024), 1st collection notices for past due accounts will be mailed instead of physically dropped off by our employees. As part of this process update, those receiving a collection notice will also receive an automated phone notification letting them know they will be receiving a mailed notice.

### LOAD MANAGEMENT NOTICE

McLeod Co-op Power will be replacing radio receivers in Collins and Acoma Townships over the next couple of weeks. These are the receivers that are utilized as part of load control events. They are being replaced with models that integrate with our new load control system at no cost to our members. We appreciate everyone's assistance as we move ahead with the replacement process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (800) 494-6272.

# SUPPORTING THE FUTURE: SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

McLeod Co-op Power is excited and honored to award our \$500 Lineworker Scholarship to Parker Burdorf.

Parker is the son of Craig and Teri Burdorf, and graduated from Sibley East Arlington Senior High School. He will be attending Minnesota West Community & Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota this fall. Parker believes the job of a line worker is very important to the economy and will always offer opportunities for employment, which is very appealing to him. He also appreciates that the job provides a variety of experiences on a regular basis. Parker has prepared for this career by talking to several journeymen line workers and touring the McLeod Co-op headquarters to gain a comprehensive understanding of the job.

For those considering a career as an electrical lineworker, the next round of scholarship applications will be due in April 2025.

Learn more at:

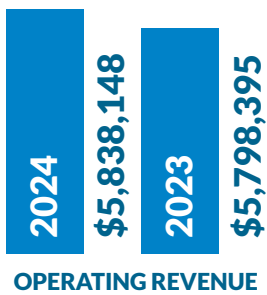
<https://www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/>



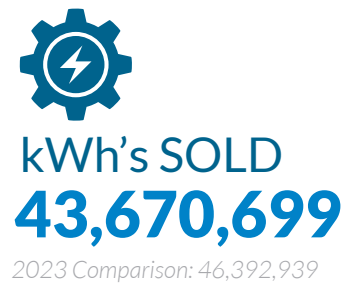
"I'm drawn to the line worker profession because it offers consistent employment opportunities and a diverse range of experiences," shared Parker.

## BY THE NUMBERS | Q1 2024

McLeod Co-op Power's leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the Co-op's operations, including ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our First Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



	2024	2023
Cost of Purchased Power	\$3,405,368	\$3,579,005
Other Operating Expenses	\$2,420,835	\$2,139,397
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$5,826,203	\$5,718,402



### TOTAL MARGINS

**\$87,023**

2023 Comparison: \$105,869

	2024	2023
Operating Margins	\$11,946	\$79,993
Non-Operating Margins	\$75,078	\$25,876



2023 Comparison: 7,009

**AVERAGE kWh's**  
used by residential members



**1,523**  
**PER MONTH**

2023 Comparison: 1,679

# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

## EMPOWERING MEMBERS: The Crucial Role of Voting in Co-op Board Elections

While the hum of electricity powers our homes and businesses, it's the collective voice of the community that powers the decisions shaping our cooperative's future. Members of McLeod Co-op Power in Districts 4, 5, and 6 will be receiving their ballots in the mail towards the middle of the month, the importance of active participation and voting cannot be overstated.

At the heart of any cooperative, like McLeod Co-op Power, lies the principle of democratic control. Unlike investor-owned utilities, where decisions often prioritize profit margins, cooperatives are owned and governed by their members. This means that every vote cast in the Board of Director elections directly influences the direction and priorities of our cooperative.

One of the key reasons voting in these elections is crucial is the representation it ensures. The Board of Directors is responsible for making decisions that affect the entire cooperative, from setting rates to approving capital improvement projects. Having representation from each district ensures that a wide range of perspectives and interests are considered in these decisions. By casting your vote, you help ensure that your district's voice is heard and represented at the highest level of governance.

By participating in elections, members can hold directors accountable for their actions and decisions, ensuring transparency and accountability in the cooperative's operations. Directors are entrusted with the responsibility



of acting in the best interest of the cooperative and the members.

Another compelling reason to vote is the opportunity it provides for member engagement and empowerment. By actively participating, members strengthen the cooperative's democratic foundation and foster a sense of ownership and belonging within the cooperative. Voting isn't just about selecting candidates; it's about shaping the future of McLeod Co-op Power.

It's important to remember that every vote counts. In a cooperative setting, where decisions are made collectively for the benefit of all members, each vote carries significant weight. By taking the time to research candidates, understand their platforms, and cast an informed vote, members contribute to a stronger, more resilient cooperative.

As the election season approaches, let's embrace our role as a member of the cooperative. Let's make our voices heard and shape a future that reflects the values and priorities of our community. Voting in the Board of Director elections isn't just a right; it's a responsibility and an opportunity to have your voice heard.

### Cooperatively

Dan Ehrke  
Member Services Manager

# MAY 2024 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on May 28, 2024, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. The nine board members, attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The April 2024 outage report totaled 75 outages, affecting 412 consumers.
- Operations Manager Emerson Brady reported that the current work plan projects have all the poles set and is prepared for the contractor to install wire.
- The Bell substation was energized on April 30th by GRE and MCPA personnel and all energy from the old substation has been transferred to the new.
- TreeStory has been working on vegetation management in Hassen Valley Township and will be working back through missed areas in Winsted and Hale Township.
- A motion was carried accepting the Slate of Candidates for the 2024 Board of Directors Elections as approved by the Nominating Committee. Ballots will be mailed to members in Districts 4, 5, and 6 on June 14th.
- Manager of Finance Steph Jakel reviewed the April financials.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2024-05-01 Retired Capital Credit – Gain Account.
- Wendy Youngren, President of Heartland Security, presented on the History of Heartland Security Services.

# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

### TO THE MEMBERS OF MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER GLENCOE, MN

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be held at the Crow River Winery at 14848 MN State Hwy. 7 East, Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on July 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 4, 5 and 6. The polls for the election of directors will be opened at the meeting place at 9:00 a.m. and will be closed at 10:00 a.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
3. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

*Susan Anderson, Secretary*



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Left to right: District 5 - Steve Wendorff, Morris Rettman, Lynn Mackedanz; District 6 – Don Mader, Shelia Henke, Rachel Lueth; District 4 – Christine Rath, Glen Kurth, Doug Toren.

## DISTRICT 4

*Kingman, Boon Lake, Preston Lake, Brookfield, Hector, Osceola, Melville, Bird Island, Norfolk, and Palmyra Townships in Renville County, and a portion of East Lake Lillian Township in Kandiyohi County, served by McLeod Cooperative Power.*



**Doug Kirtz**

Doug is currently the director for District 4, where he serves as the board president for McLeod Co-op Power. He operates Kirtz Farms, a farrow to wean hog operation, by Hector with the assistance of his wife Lorie and children Seth, Eli, and Sadie. Lorie is also a full-time financial advisor with Ameriprise. Doug and his family are members of St John's Lutheran Church near Cedar Mills. He is currently serving as the president of the church council. He has also served in leadership positions with the Renville County Pork Producers, BLHS Scouts, and youth sports. Doug has served on the MCPA board for the past 20 years. He is committed to keeping your Cooperative fiscally sound now and for years to come, with good reliable service for its members. He believes having affordable electrical rates as well as identifying new programs and services that can add value to the Cooperative and its members are priorities in the years ahead. Environmental stewardship is also a priority for Doug. He will strive to keep the Cooperative strong for those that rely on McLeod Co-op Power for their energy and consumer products for homes, farms, and businesses.



**Paul Rettmann**

Paul and his family live in Buffalo Lake. He has had a long career in agriculture, including operating his family's dairy farm until 2003. For the past 20 years he has worked as a herdsman at another dairy farm in the Fairfax area, while also operating his own farm. This has given him a great deal of experience in business management and the unique challenges and opportunities that local businesses face. He is a current member of Central Region Co-op and United Farmers Co-op. His leadership experience includes board positions with the Farmer Co-op Elevator Board, Buffalo Lake-Hector School Board, and Boon Lake Township. Paul is also currently serving as the Board Chair for Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo Lake. In his free time, he enjoys officiating various youth sports in the area. He believes it is important that McLeod Co-op Power continues to provide for the energy needs of its members at a cost that won't inhibit economic growth while also sustaining the capital investment into the co-op so that it stays viable. If elected, he looks forward to becoming more educated in the workings of the cooperative.

## DISTRICT 5

*Lynn and Acoma Townships in McLeod County and Ellsworth Township in Meeker County.*



**Allan Duesterhoeft**

Allan lives about eight miles southwest of Hutchinson. He sold his dairy herd in 2009 and now buys bull calves and feeds Holstein steers. Allan is a member of Zion Lutheran Church and serves as congregation treasurer. He is also a member of Heartland Corn Products and the Hutchinson Co-op. Allan would like to continue as a director because of the tremendous importance electricity has in our lives. Allan would like to see McLeod Co-op Power continue to prioritize reliable service to its members at affordable rates. One of his priorities is offering time of use rates for members. Additionally, he believes Great River Energy's initial work with energy storage technologies could be an important advantage for meeting increased energy demand. He looks forward to providing leadership and direction as these matters are being considered and ultimately implemented. Allan is committed to working with the other board members and management team on a strong long-term future for the Cooperative.



**Karl Reinhard**

Karl resides just north of Hutchinson and is a 7-year Co-op member. He served in the U.S. Army for 28 years – retiring as a Colonel in 2010, then completing his Ph.D. in Electric Power Engineering in 2017. Karl gained broad leadership experience commanding the 3rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Battalion (2000-2002), 71st EOD Group (2005-2008), and Combined Joint Task Force Troy (counter-IED, Iraq, 2006-2008). Following these assignments respectively, he served in the Pentagon on the Army (2002-2004) and Department of Defense (2008-2010) Staffs – working with large, complex organizations delivering high-quality, meaningful outcomes. Karl gained a detailed understanding of power generation, transmission, distribution, and renewable energy sources as a Ph.D. student and Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He worked as a Director at Open Systems International (specializing in power system control room software, 2019-2020, Medina MN). He is a licensed Professional Engineer. Karl's interest in serving the membership by understanding current power needs, anticipating future requirements in a rapidly evolving energy delivery landscape, and working in concert with the McLeod Co-op staff to continue exceptional power delivery to all cooperative members.

## DISTRICT 6

*New Auburn, Green Isle, Arlington, and Dryden Townships in Sibley County and Penn Township in McLeod County.*



**Gary Burdorf**

Gary farms 120 acres (beef and crops) in Green Isle Township, Sibley County. He has lived on the farm for 44 years, where along with his wife Carol, they raised four children. They also have seven grandchildren. Gary is a graduate of Sibley East High School. He served in the US Army and is a Vietnam veteran. He is a life-long member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Arlington. Gary is retired from driving school bus for the Sibley East School District. He has served as a Green Isle Township Supervisor for 24 years, board member for the MN Association of Townships, and a trustee for MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust. Gary has served on the Governor's Clean Water Council. He has experience working with elected officials at the state and federal level advocating for electrical cooperatives. Gary would like to work together with the current board and management team to ensure our Co-op continues to run smoothly. He feels that it is very important to stay in tune with local, and particularly rural, needs. One of Gary's priorities is for the Co-op to focus on providing reliable service to its members.



**Michael Checketts**

Michael and his family live in Arlington and have been long time McLeod Co-op Power members. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Manufacturing Engineering and has had a long career in the medical device manufacturing industry. He has 40 years of management experience which includes responsibilities in manufacturing, operations, and design/development. Product cost reduction has been a focal point throughout this time. Outside of his professional career Michael is an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints serving in various leadership positions. He believes that the Cooperative must be strategic and proactive in expanding its renewable energy portfolio. He's invested in renewables himself and believes that perspective as well as his management and leadership experience would be an asset to McLeod Co-op Power if he's elected.





# 5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.



**Raise your thermostat.** The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.



**Install window coverings** like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.



**Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.



**Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.



**Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.

## OFFICE PHONE

(320) 864-3148  
(800) 494-6272

## 24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE

(800) 927-5685

## WEBSITE

[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)

## EMAIL ADDRESS

[mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com)

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Ronald Meier

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Dan Ehrke and Fuller Creative

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(320) 583-0997

District 9: Susan Anderson  
Secretary-Treasurer  
(952) 250-3109

**McLeod Cooperative Power is an equal opportunity employer and provider.**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy?

Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs. Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.



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## KNOW WHAT'S BELOW: STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! If you are planning a digging project, call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

When putting in a mailbox  
**CALL 811**



When planting a garden  
**CALL 811**



When building a deck  
**CALL 811**



When adding a fence  
**CALL 811**



Keep your family, friends and neighborhood safe by remembering these five easy steps to ensure safe digging.

1

NOTIFY



Call 811 or submit a request online two to three days before you start. The utilities affected by your project will be notified.

2

WAIT



Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

3

CONFIRM



Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.

4

RESPECT



Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.

5

BE CAREFUL



Dig carefully. If you can't avoid digging near the markers, consider moving your project location.