



Minnesota Rural Electric Association

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What We Do: Bringing Value to Our Members

This list describes some of the ways we serve and partner with cooperative directors and employees and promote 'Cooperation among Cooperatives.' Should something be added? Let us know your ideas.

- **Educational Training:** Organize and conduct over 80 events every year for our members.
 - Develop new offerings as needs arise.
 - Include events focused on all aspects of the cooperative mission.
 - Our premier education program, focused on rural electric cooperatives in our evolving environment, is best in class.
- **REMA Conferences:** Coordinate and facilitate REMA meetings, activities, and budget, providing opportunities for five electric cooperative employee groups.
- **Vendor Member Program:** Create partnerships and knowledge exchange between cooperatives and vendors.
- **MREA.org, MREA.coop and MinnesotaUtilityMarketplace.com:** A source of information and a portal to connect with Minn. electric co-op employees and vendors.
- **MREA Report:** Monthly newsletter sent email to 3,000+ electric utility professionals. This newsletter keeps our members updated on important news and activities occurring at MREA and cooperatives around the state and nation.

- **Safety Service Days:** Instructors visit every cooperative five times or more annually to provide safety training, inspections, observations, and other services.
- **Apprenticeship Program:** Administer lineman certification program across the state.
- **RESAP:** Coordinate the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program for our membership, and help them achieve success in this important safety program.
- **Speak Up, Listen Up:** Safety culture training to ensure employees speak up about safety concerns.
- **Public Safety:** Provide tools and information to assist in our member's public safety efforts, such as the Hazard Hamlet, a hands-on demonstration tool.
- **Safety Pays Program:** Gather and share information across the membership regarding accidents, near misses, industry safety updates, and innovative ideas from co-ops, to enhance safety by learning from each other.
- **Driving Simulator:** Driving is a dangerous activity; our members can use this driving simulator to help their employees stay safe behind the wheel.

- **Legislative Representation:** Present a unified front for all rural electric cooperatives in the state, working proactively to pursue beneficial policies and warding off threats.
- **Regulatory Representation:**
 - Most legislative actions require regulatory implementation.
 - Weigh regulatory and legislative options for pursuing change.
 - Represent cooperatives with Minn. agencies or coordinate between cooperatives and regulators.
 - Work with Federal regulators, in coordination with NRECA.
- **Grassroots Strength:** Rural electric cooperatives influence policy by working together to influence legislators across the state. MREA leads this effort through numerous programs and activities that build our grassroots strength.
- **Legislative Day and Grassroots Day:** Work on cooperative issues in St. Paul, in conjunction with our Annual Meeting and then make our voice heard as the Minnesota legislature heads toward the finish line.
- **Legislative Updates:** During the legislative session, provide weekly conference calls and regular bulletins, keeping our membership updated in real time.
- **REPAC and ACRE:** Lead the Rural Electric Political Action Committee, to support Minnesota Legislators who support rural electric cooperatives. Coordinate Action Committee Rural Electricity (ACRE) activities in Minnesota..
- **Legal Perspective:** Stay abreast of legal concerns our membership is grappling with, and serve as a resource in tackling thorny questions.
- **Stray Voltage:** Developed and maintain the web site housing the *Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide*. Work with stakeholders throughout the state to develop and implement a consistent approach for dealing with stray voltage concerns.
- **Federal energy policy:** Conduct three trips a year to bring our grassroots efforts to the nation's capital. In coordination with NRECA, work with MN's Federal delegation on national issues.

- **Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.:** We organize and lead a tour for Minn. youth to experience Washington, D.C., meet with Legislators, and learn about cooperatives.
- **Drug and alcohol testing and compliance:** with program assistance through Trust in Us.
- **The Network:** Administer participation in this ethics hot line, allowing our membership to readily provide whistleblower protections to their employees.
- **Crisis support for cooperative family:** Raise funds for cooperative family members experiencing a crisis and support the three Minnesota Burn Centers.
- **Gathering and Sharing Information:** We gather data and information for membership:

<i>Membership Directory & Buyers' Guide</i>	<i>Lineman's Compensation Survey</i>
<i>Glossary of Electric & Telecommunication Terms</i>	<i>Cooperative Electric Rates Survey</i>
<i>Emergency Contact Assistance Manual</i>	<i>Safety Newsletters</i>
- **Partnerships:** Cooperative Network, Midwest Rural Energy Council, Minn. utilities, MTA, Minn. Energy Workforce Consortium, and many others.
- **On site updates:** Let us know when you'd like us to attend a board meeting, annual meeting, or employee meeting, to listen and provide background on various topics.