



Minnesota Rural Electric Association

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

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**2019**

## Report to the members

It's an exciting time to be in the electric utility industry. The pace of change continues to accelerate, with broad impacts to generation and transmission as well as local energy, the distribution grid and consumer activities. We are exceeding renewable energy goals, integrating advanced metering technologies and leading the transition to an electrified economy. The National Academy of Engineers identified the electric power grid as the number one achievement in the 20th Century, and we are increasingly leveraging that grid to build an even better future. And as cooperatives, we do so while charting a course best serving those at the end of the line and strengthening our local communities – an enduring positive for all we serve.

Dealing with the rapid change around us makes cooperation among cooperatives more important than ever. The board and staff of MREA remain committed to serving you in carrying out this purpose. In 2019, we heard our member's call for a unified cooperative voice to better spread our message across the state. We have lots of positive things to share in areas including the cooperative governance model, public safety, economic development, charitable giving, and our public policy work. With the ever-rising level of noise around us, working together to get our message heard is more important than ever. MREA is pleased our members pointed to us as the best organization to tackle this challenge. To equip us in this endeavor, we responded with the



"Strengthen MREA" plan and recommended a modest adjustment in the dues distribution formula.

Safety remains our highest priority. Our safety program facilitates sharing experiences and learning from them, and ensures that every cooperative has access to high quality safety training and materials. In 2019, we safely persevered the devastating Winter Storm Wesley. MREA's safety group used this federally declared disaster as an opportunity to share lessons learned across the state. Of course, the storm hit us financially as well. It is estimated that Minnesota suf-



**WES WALLER**

(LEFT) MREA BOARD CHAIR AND NORTH ITASCA BOARD DIRECTOR

**DARRICK MOE**

(RIGHT) MREA PRESIDENT AND CEO

ferred \$70 million in damages from this storm, with the total damages to rural electric cooperatives around \$25 million. We can't avoid stormy weather in Minnesota, but our member-owners are benefiting from our recent work ensuring rural electric cooperatives are eligible for federal and state disaster relief funding.

With today's rapid pace of change, continual learning is more important than ever. We have built a robust education program together and enjoy improving it each year. Our work at the legislature and numerous regulatory venues impact-

ing cooperatives remains more important than ever. Even issues that get no public attention often have major impacts. Our successful efforts during the 2019 legislative session to protect cooperatives from onerous new data gathering requirements related to taxing property outside incorporated jurisdictions is one example. As we wade into the 2020 legislative session, it is critical that we continue to work as a unified front identifying and tackling policy priorities. We always enjoy getting in the trenches with our grassroots network — each of you participating across the state — in carrying out these efforts.

Thank you for another year of carrying out our vision of *strength through unity*.

Stay in touch,

*Wes Waller*  
*Darrick Moe*

Wes and Darrick

# Contents

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	5
TRAINING	6
COMMUNICATIONS	8
YOUTH TOUR	15
SAFETY	12
VENDOR MEMBERSHIP	11
FINANCIAL REPORTS	16
MREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF	20
ACRE HONOR ROLL	22
REPAC HONOR ROLL	23
VENDOR MEMBERS	24
IN MEMORIAM	26



## 2019 Session Review

The 2019 regular legislative session gaveled to a close on Monday, May 20, and we were happy with the overall results.

One big win was in the area of property tax reporting. We worked with the bipartisan tax committee chairs in the House and Senate to pass critical legislation to fix an issue impacting many of Minnesota's electric cooperatives. The Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) had begun asking co-ops for granular parcel ID information that co-ops had not previously been required to report. Many co-ops indicated they had never collected this data in rural areas where they pay an alternative tax, and doing so would be time consuming, costly, and would require additional staff. We were able to amend the omnibus tax bill to clarify that property tax data in areas subject to the alternative tax were exempt from reporting.

In addition to the property tax vic-

tory, we were part of a successful effort to secure more than \$40 million in one-time funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Program. Perhaps our biggest success was stopping several bills that were harmful or created burdensome mandates or regulations on electric cooperatives, including 100% carbon-free by 2050 and an unworkable "clean energy first" bill.

While our CIP reform bill (SF 1915/HF 1839) failed to become law, a bill that would have made the CIP program far worse also died. Our CIP reform proposal easily passed the Senate Energy Committee as part of the Senate energy omnibus bill. However, the House energy omnibus bill contained CIP language that included more spending and oversight requirements than current law, and overall was worse than the status quo. While we spent countless hours during session with numerous stakeholders attempting to reach an agreement, the House and

## Government Affairs

the Department of Commerce tied our CIP modernization reform provision to an ultimatum that we support the House/Governor's clean energy first and 100% carbon-free provisions. In the end, our CIP modernization bill was not included in the final bill, but thankfully neither were the House CIP provisions. We are continuing to work on this issue during the 2020 session.

Overall it was a successful session for rural electric cooperative priorities in a difficult legislative environment.

## REPAC

Our REPAC revitalization efforts paid off in 2019, with receipts increasing by nearly 15% over 2018! Additionally, we were able to more than double our contributions to candidate committees and political party units. These contributions are critical for MREA to continue to be a strong force at the capitol, and all the more important in the current difficult political environment. Thanks to all of you in our grassroots network for your continued support! (See page 22 for the 2019 REPAC honor roll)



# Training

## Leadership training

Of Minnesota's 2,974 electric cooperative employees, 15% were eligible to retire in 2019. MREA is committed to assisting its members prepare future leaders through leadership training that combines AchieveForum's award-winning corporate leadership modules with a curriculum designed specifically for rural electric cooperatives.

### 2019 Leadership Training Graduates

Chris Bechthold, BENCO Electric Cooperative  
 Cody Black, BENCO Electric Cooperative  
 Tim Braulick, BENCO Electric Cooperative  
 Jon Bosman, East Central Energy  
 Angie Clifton, People's Energy Cooperative  
 Mike Beck, People's Energy Cooperative  
 Joe Diethelm, East Central Energy  
 Shavonn Eastlee, People's Energy Cooperative  
 Jacob Engebretson, Crow Wing Power  
 Darla Honkomp, Stearns Electric Association  
 Brian Hoppe, Runestone Electric Association  
 Adam Johnson, South Central Electric Association  
 Vonda Johnson, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Jolene Kallroos, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 John Kuehn, Red River Valley Co-op Power Association  
 Tina Lanhart, East Central Energy  
 Ben Lundberg, Crow Wing Power  
 Lisa Marks, East Central Energy  
 Felicia Skaggs, Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association  
 Amanda Smith, Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services  
 Kim Wilson, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric  
 Donna Winters, East Central Energy  
 Ashley Wright, People's Energy Cooperative

## Education & training

Throughout 2019, MREA offered 78 education & training events for directors, CEOs and employee groups. In addition to our formal partnerships with NRECA, MMUA and Central Lakes College, we contract with a wide variety of independent professional speakers, consultants and subject matter experts across the cooperative network.

MREA's education program relies on the generous support of CFC, CoBank and NCSC. In addition, we appreciate the various resources each of these organizations provide to assist in delivering timely, relevant and valuable information to the membership. Thank you for your ongoing support!

**2,528** **78**  
 registered attendees in 2019 onsite education & training opportunities in 2019

## Director education & training

Minnesota has 356 directors, second only to Texas. In 2019, directors attended training, meetings and conferences to develop and advance their knowledge and skills necessary to govern their cooperative and navigate the complex electric industry. More than 200 directors have earned the NRECA credentialed cooperative director (CCD) and just over 20% have earned their NRECA board leadership certificate (BLC).

Our 2019 annual meeting brought more than 330 directors, CEOs and co-op staff to St. Paul where cooperative leaders spent time in training, meeting with legislators and attending the MREA business meeting. MREA's flagship event, Energy Issues Summit, was held in St. Cloud where we discussed consumer trends, evolving business models, rate design, and heard from Dr. Scott W. Tinker on the energy transition.

Please join us in St. Cloud August 10-13, 2020 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Energy Issues Summit!

## NRECA's Director Certificates Earned

NRECA's Director Certificate Programs (offered in three levels, from fundamental to advanced) are designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles

and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.

### Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD)

Terry Genelin, BENCO Electric Cooperative  
Bryan McCulloch, Crow WingPower  
Tracy Lauritzen, People's Energy Cooperative

### Board Leadership Certificate (BLC)

Michael Forsman, Lake Country Power  
Craig Olson, Lake County Power  
Larry Huhn, Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association  
Gary Haberman, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative  
Audry Hjelle, Runestone Electric Association

### Director Gold Credential (DGC)

Orvin Gronseth, Agralite Electric Cooperative  
Jerry Tvedt, East Central Energy  
Diane Zimmerman, East Central Energy  
Robert Bruckbauer, Lake Country Power  
Craig Carlson, Lake Country Power  
Ronald Stevens, MiEnergy Cooperative  
Brent Lawrence, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative  
Arthur Friedrich, People's Energy Cooperative  
John Beal, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric  
Geraldine Lienke, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Of the **356**  
directors in Minnesota

**68%**  
have earned the CCD

**21%**  
have earned the BLC

**8%**  
have earned  
Director Gold





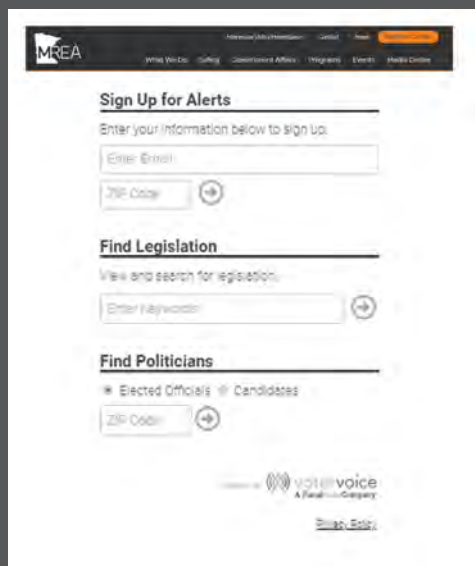
# Communications

**MREA worked to enhance existing and add new member communication vehicles to better serve the membership.**

## MREA WEBSITE

With an average of 3,400 monthly visitors, mrea.org is MREA's primary communication tool providing vital information to the public and our members.

The new site features simpler navigation and content, along with a new grassroots advocacy platform, VoterVoice, for fast and easy communication with your statewide elected officials. With VoterVoice, we can notify you quickly to contact your legislators on a specific issue during the legislative session. You can sign up on the newly created "Take Action" page.



## ARCMEDIA PARTNERSHIP

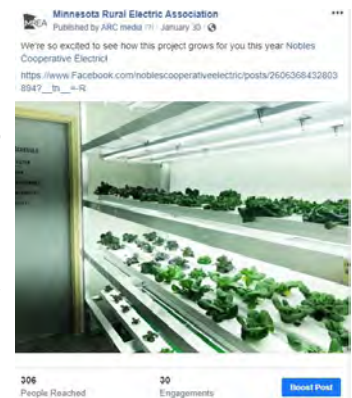
To help us share our collective stories with audiences across social media platforms, MREA began working with ARCmedia (ARC), a full-service media company, in September 2019.

With ARC managing our social media platforms, MREA is building engagement with non-traditional, but important, audiences. Our top audience cities are consistently Minneapolis and St. Paul, with men between the ages of 25-34 as the leading force among our fans. Our goals include:

- Enhancing the member's efforts to raise awareness of the innovative work cooperatives are doing related to the integration of new technologies,
- Promote cooperatives as energy experts to ensure our voices are included in energy policy discourse, and
- Celebrate the integral role cooperatives play in their communities.

The membership also asked MREA to do more to educate urban legislators and voters, and special interest groups about how the cooperative governance model differs from

investor-owned utilities and why energy policy can impact rural electric consumers differently, and often adversely. Similar to our grassroots legislative activity, together we can build a powerful social media platform to amplify the cooperative story!

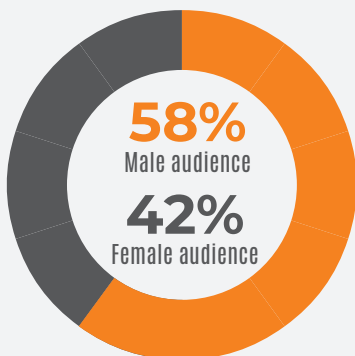




**1,585**  
Facebook fans



**45,804**  
Total engagements



MNRuralElectric	MNRuralElectric	MNRuralElectric
Thu 4/11/2019 1:38 pm PDT	Fri 10/4/2019 9:25 am PDT	Tue 3/12/2019 8:45 am PDT
Our thoughts and prayers go out to those impacted by Winter Storm Wesley. Thank you for your support.	Thank you, U.S. Senator Tina Smith, for cosponsoring the RURALAct! The tax-exempt!	KEEPING SAFETY IN MIND THIS SPRING...We have had a winter to remember and th...
<b>Total Engagements</b> 21,801	<b>Total Engagements</b> 1,103	<b>Total Engagements</b> 830
Reactions 3,318	Reactions 932	Reactions 79
Comments 381	Comments 19	Comments 2
Shares 505	Shares 56	Shares 30
Message Clicks 17,597	Message Clicks 96	Message Clicks 719

## PROACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

In 2019, MREA introduced a sample article series and provided the membership with 10 articles to use in communications with their membership. Additionally, the MREA Report was refreshed to incorporate more industry specific content and highlight member projects or accomplishments.



MREA also introduced a mobile event application to better manage communication and information at events. The mobile app allows users to view the agenda, access presentations and meeting materials, rate speakers and the overall event, and connect with sponsors and other members.



## Mark your calendar

**Annual meeting**  
InterContinental Hotel  
St. Paul, MN

**2021** February 28-March 3  
**2022** March 13-16  
**2023** February 19-22  
**2024** March 17-20

**Energy Issues Summit**  
Rivers Edge Convention Center  
St. Cloud, MN

**2021** August 9-12  
**2022** August 1-4  
**2023** July 31-August 3  
**2024** August 12-15

## Our Cooperative Members



Employ approximately  
**2,974 PEOPLE**



Total members served  
**855,002**



Median sized co-op has  
**8,267 CUSTOMERS**



Co-ops range in size between  
**1,883 TO 133,567 CUSTOMERS**

# 16,683

MWH per year supplied

# 135,258

Miles of electric distribution lines  
(the largest distribution network  
in the state - by far)

# Average 6.6

Consumers per mile of distribution line



Approximately  
**2,974**  
Minnesota co-op employees

**437** are eligible  
for retirement

## MREA district map of Minnesota cooperatives



## Vendor Membership

The MREA vendor membership program is valuable for both electric cooperatives and utility vendors and suppliers. The most exceptional value for our members is they can learn about several products and services needed to fulfill cooperative initiatives at a local trade show, saving countless hours of research at the co-op. The most significant benefit for our vendors is meeting new customers as well as making face-to-face connections with those already know.

MREA's vendor members were busy networking and advertising in 2019

**129**  
total vendor members

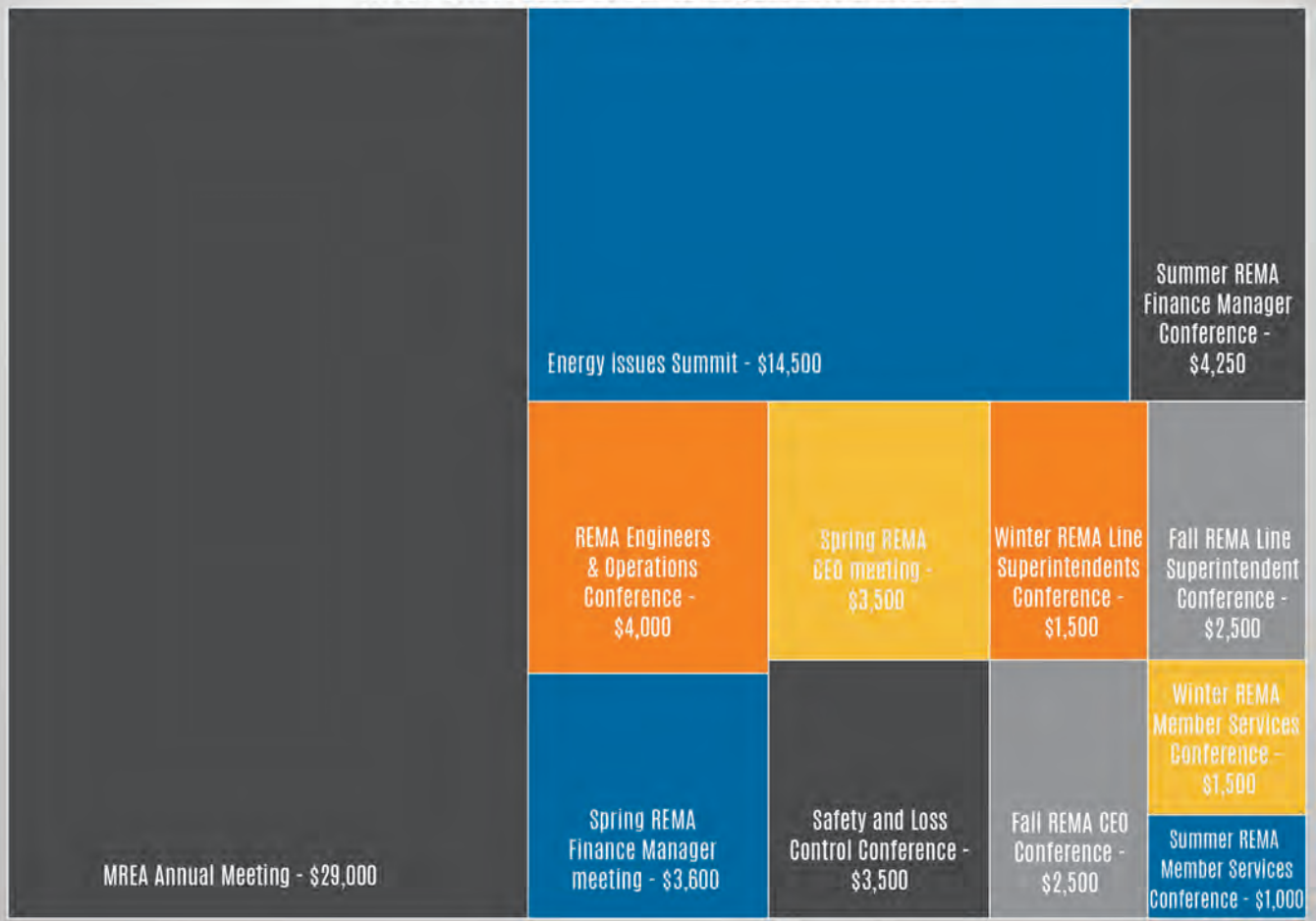
**532**  
vendors attended at  
13 trade shows

**22** vendor member  
ads in the MREA Report

**1,304** company  
listings in Minnesota Utility  
Marketplace

**104**  
total advertisements  
in the MREA Directory  
& Buyer's Guide

MREA received \$72,350 sponsorship dollars from vendor members,  
which offset costs of our 12 largest conferences.





# Safety

## STRENGTHENING THE CULTURE OF SAFETY FOR OUR COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY

### Developing skilled employees through engaged training

With over 82 training labs available in the key areas noted below, our member co-op employees are balanced in their safety skills and knowledge. We developed a lineworker safety curriculum roadmap in 2018 to track the progress on a 3-year cadence.



Core (6)
Overhead (10)
Underground (5)
System (14)
Fleet (11)

Environmental (14)
Health/Wellness (8)
Response (9)
Skills (8)
Safety Industry (3)



### Influencing a RESAP standard of safety

In Minnesota, 35 cooperatives participate in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program. These cooperatives completed their 3-year actions in 2019.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agralite Electric Cooperative     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nobles Cooperative Electric      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> East Central Energy               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People's Energy Cooperative      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renville-Sibley Cooperative      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake Region Electric Cooperative  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roseau Electric Cooperative      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Runestone Electric Association   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MN Valley Co-op Light & Power     |  |

***“Thank you for all you do to keep our people safe in an engaging way.”***

*“Thanks, I really appreciate your presentation to my crews today. I have heard nothing but good comments.”*

*“Honestly, you guys have been a real partner for us. Heard a lot about how some statewides weren't meeting member needs...and all I could do was tell them how extremely satisfied we were with ours!”*

## Promoting safety for all

We are in the business of protecting families! Therefore, we reach out and engage all members of our safety community. In 2019, we made these connections.

- Online safety lessons developed by MREA and targeted for inside employees
- Presented Electrical Safety at the Minnesota State Fire/EMS/Rescue School
- Published "Four Things We Shouldn't Say" article in a national magazine.

**In 2019, we provided a full safety service day, in addition to training, to connect all employees with our experienced safety staff and ambassadors.**

INSPECTIONS 550

CREW OBSERVATIONS 328

RANDOM SAFE ACTS 992

6

MREA SAFETY STAFF

153

YEARS OF UTILITY EXPERIENCE

88

YEARS OF SAFETY EXPERIENCE

## Offering tools to use in a safe environment

MREA provides tools to co-ops so they can learn skills in a safe environment and promote safety.

- The Overhead Transformer Connections software and voltage regulators are available for co-ops to check out and use.
- The driving simulator has 10 lessons to "drive"
- The Hazard Hamlet electrical display supports your public safety presentations



## Apprentice Completions

Kyle Blade, Runestone Electric Association  
 Josh Carolan, MiEnergy Cooperative  
 Ashmore Chase, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Dustin Cole, Minnesota Valley Co-op Light & Power  
 Tyler Doherty, Runestone Electric Association  
 Travis Donnelly, Stearns Electric Association  
 Joseph Erickson, Lake Region Electric Association  
 Seth Felland, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Adam Huot, Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association  
 Brady Kerkhoff, Brown County Rural Electric Association  
 Tyler Kuechle, Irby Construction Company d/b/a/ Okay Construction  
 Lucas Larson, Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
 Noah Manning, MiEnergy Cooperative  
 Logan Mistic, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Daniel Morris, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association  
 Sawyer Moser, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative  
 Nathan Oberlander, Irby Construction Company d/b/a/ Okay Construction  
 Nathan Pavek, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Cody Regan, Connexus Energy  
 Ryan Vogel, Lake Country Power  
 Jacob Wurm, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

How many co-ops  
use each of our  
apprentice programs?

**14**

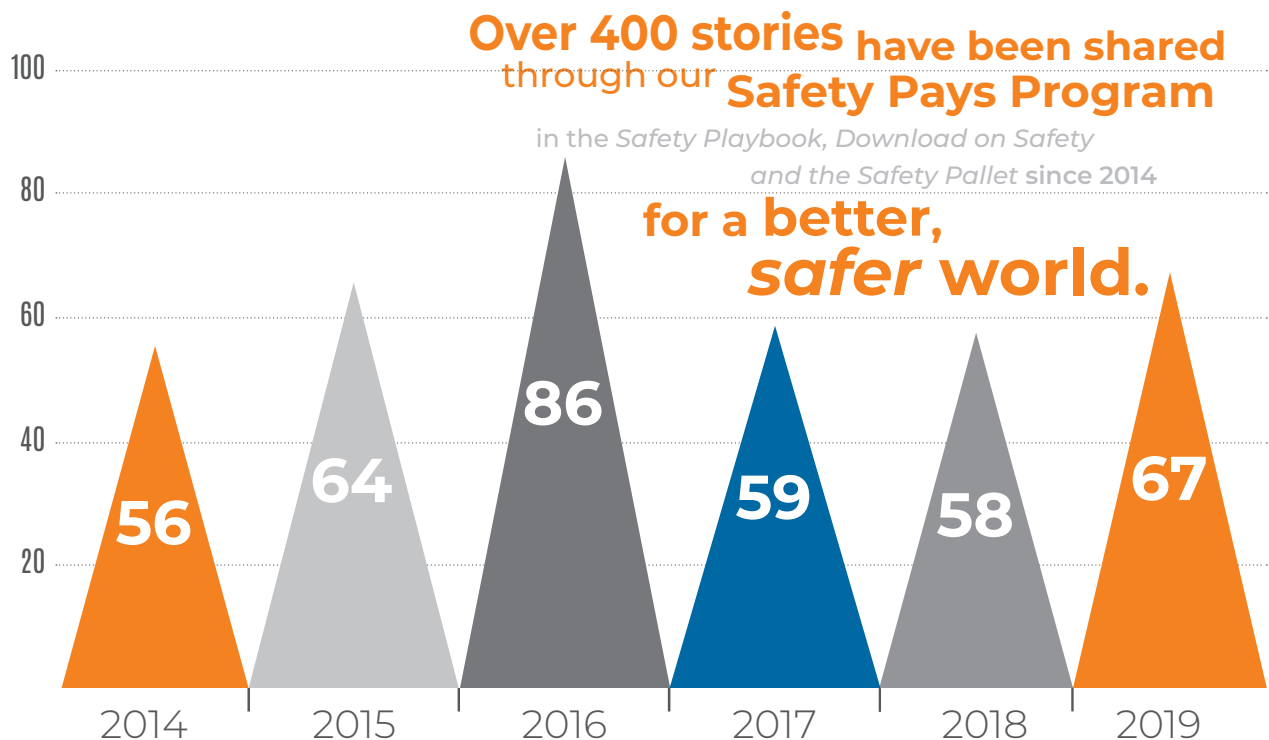
Merchant program

**16**

T&D Powerskills CDL online

**2**

Northwest Linemans College





## 2019 saw another successful National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Last June, electric co-ops across the nation brought 1,833 student delegates to D.C. with 308 staff and chaperones from 42 participating states. 27 Minnesota electric cooperatives sponsored a total of 37 students for the tour. The event featured countless historic monuments and museums, as well as a visit to George Washington's residence at Mount Vernon, Virginia and a Co-ops 101 presentation by Adam Schwartz. Students also got the opportunity to visit with their congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol. Ethan Price, sponsored by Redwood Electric Association, was selected as Minnesota's youth representative for the 2020 NRECA annual meeting.

## Youth tour

**27**  
MN co-ops  
participate  
in youth tour

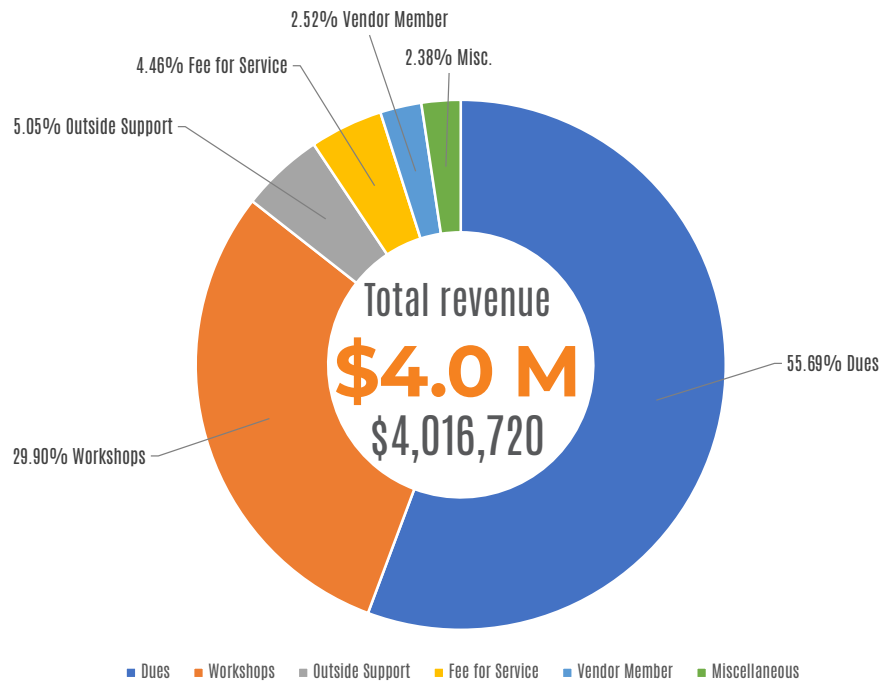


## 2019 Financial reports

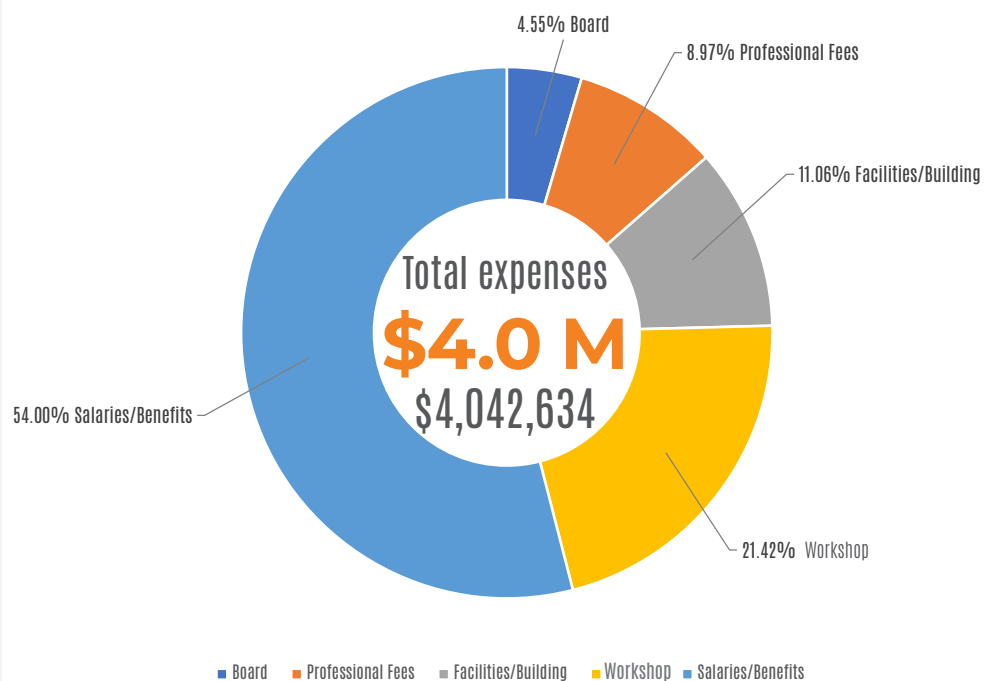
MREA's 2019 actual revenue mix was 55.69% from dues and 44.31% from workshops, outside support, fee for services, vendor member program, and miscellaneous income. Workshops and program revenue make up close to \$1.2 million of our overall revenue, or 29.9%. Of the total workshops held in 2019, ten were unbudgeted and four were cancelled. Our fee for services has grown from \$78,000 in 2013 to \$182,500 in 2019.

MREA's staff is the infrastructure of the organization and account for 54% of our overall expenses with \$2.18 million. Workshops, such as education events, play a key role in our finances. Expenses for these events make up 21.42% of total expenses at \$865,800. Professional fees is an area MREA is using more of from IT support, safety ambassadors, contract lobbyists, and communicators at the expense of \$362,600 or 9%.

### 2019 REVENUE SOURCES



### WHERE DID THE 2019 RESOURCES GET SPENT?





**MINNESOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2019**  
**ASSETS**

	<b>2019</b>
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	580,818
Investments - short term	1,175,000
Prepaid expense	87,453
Prepaid pension expense - current portion	47,096
Accounts receivable	20,468
Total current assets	1,910,835
Investments - long -term	167,322
Property and equipment:	
Land	101,845
Building and building improvements	629,214
Office furniture and equipment	179,826
Automobiles	204,560
Equipment	91,641
	1,207,086
Less: accumulated depreciation	(792,012)
Net property and equipment	415,074
Other Assets:	
Prepaid pension expense net of current portion	157,417
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,650,648</b>

The audited financial statements will be available at [www.mrea.org](http://www.mrea.org) in MREA's member community following the 2020 annual meeting.

**MINNESOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2019**  
**LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY**

	2019
Current liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	13,637
Accrued Expenses:	
Vacation and paid time off	57,889
Salaries and other expenses	43,191
Deferred revenue	252,231
Other current liabilities	7,307
Current portion of note payable	54,554
 Total current liabilities	 428,809
Long-term liabilities:	
Note payable net of current portion	207,100
Deferred compensation	62,000
 Total long-term liabilities	 269,100
Members' equity - without donor restrictions	
Membership certificates - \$5 face value - 53 issued	265
Board designated funds for:	
Investment in land and building	466,063
Undesignated	1,486,411
 TOTAL NET ASSETS	 1,952,739
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	 <b>\$2,650,648</b>

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**MINNESOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	2019		Total
	without donor restriction	with donor restriction	
Support and Revenue			
Membership dues	\$2,156,292	\$ -	\$2,156,292
Safety, loss control and miscellaneous	630,864	-	630,864
Education program fees	293,642	-	293,642
Annual meeting	124,350	-	124,350
Energy issues summit	142,441	-	142,441
Safety and loss control insurance contribution	113,546	-	113,546
Youth program	93,808	-	93,808
Vendor member dues	101,150	-	101,150
Government affairs support	43,500	-	43,500
Rural Electric Managers Association	161,822	-	161,822
NRUCFC	25,600	-	25,600
District meetings	13,930	-	13,930
Interest	47,768	-	47,768
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8,684	-	8,684
CoBank contribution	20,000	-	20,000
Other	39,323	-	39,323
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$4,016,720</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$4,016,720</b>
Expenses:			
Programs			
Education	602,068	-	602,068
Safety and loss control	1,115,371	-	1,115,371
Legislative	629,834	-	629,834
Membership	99,207	-	99,207
Supporting activities			
Administrative and other	1,596,154	-	1,596,154
Total expenses	4,042,634	-	4,042,634
Change in members' equity	\$(25,914)	-	\$(25,914)

The audited financial statements will be available at [www.mrea.org](http://www.mrea.org) in MREA's member community following the 2020 annual meeting.

# MREA Board of Directors



**WES WALLER**  
CHAIR, MREA DISTRICT 2  
North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc.



**TOM WOINAROWICZ**  
1ST VICE CHAIR, MREA DISTRICT 1  
PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**RICK COE**  
2ND VICE CHAIR, MREA DISTRICT 1  
Beltrami Electric Co-op, Inc.



**JANET LEKSON**  
TREASURER, MREA DISTRICT 7  
Dakota Electric Association



**RON STEVENS**  
SECRETARY, MREA DISTRICT 6  
MiEnergy Cooperative



**JIM CONNELLY**  
MREA DISTRICT 4  
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative



**KEN FIERECK**  
MREA DISTRICT 7  
Connexus Energy



**SANDY LUDEMAN**  
MREA DISTRICT 5  
Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**WARREN RAU**  
MREA DISTRICT 3  
Agralite Electric Cooperative



**RON SCHWARTAU**  
MREA DISTRICT 5  
Nobles Cooperative Electric



**JERRY TVEDT**  
MREA DISTRICT 4  
East Central Energy



**TIM VELDE**  
MREA DISTRICT 3  
MN Valley Co-op Light & Power



**JOHN WELLS**  
MREA DISTRICT 6  
BENCO Electric



**BARB WELTY**  
MREA DISTRICT 2  
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

## MREA Staff



**KRISTA BENJAMIN**  
DIRECTOR, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION



**LIDIA DILLEY-JACOBSON**  
DIRECTOR, SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL



**TERRY EHLI**  
SAFETY SPECIALIST



**CURT FREUDENBERG**  
SAFETY SPECIALIST



**JENNY GLUMACK**  
MANAGER OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



**CAROL HENDRICKS**  
EXECUTIVE & MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR



**GAYLE KAROL**  
DIGITAL MEDIA & MARKETING COORDINATOR



**KAREN MILLER**  
EVENT & MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR



**DARRICK MOE**  
PRESIDENT & CEO



**JOYCE PEPPIN**  
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS  
& GENERAL COUNSEL



**ANDREW SJOLIE**  
SAFETY SPECIALIST



**MELISSA STACHOVICH**  
DIRECTOR, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



**SHARI WORMWOOD**  
MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR

## 2019 ACRE HONOR ROLL

### 100% BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

Agralite Electric Cooperative  
 Beltrami Electric Cooperative  
 BENCO Electric Cooperative  
     100% PRESIDENT'S CLUB  
 Brown County Rural Electrical Association  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 Cooperative Light and Power Association  
 Dakota Electric Association  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 Freeborn-Mower  
 Lake Country Power  
 Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative  
 Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association  
 Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
 Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Association  
 Nobles Cooperative Electric  
     100% BOARD VICE PRESIDENT'S CLUB  
 North Star Electric Cooperative  
 People's Energy Cooperative  
 PKM Electric Cooperative  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 Sioux Valley Energy  
     100% MANAGEMENT CENTURY CLUB  
 Stearns Electric Association  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 Wild Rice Electric  
 Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association  
     100% CENTURY CLUB

### 100% BOARD

Connexus Energy  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 Crow Wing Power  
 East Central Energy  
 Federated Rural Electric Association  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
     100% SPOUSE PARTICIPATION  
 Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services  
     1% OR MORE CO-OP OWNER PARTICIPATION  
 Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association  
 McLeod Cooperative Power Association  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 MiEnergy Cooperative  
 Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
 South Central Electric Association  
 Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric  
     100% CENTURY CLUB  
     100% SPOUSE PARTICIPATION  
     1% OR MORE CO-OP OWNER PARTICIPATION  
 Traverse Electric Cooperative  
     100% Management  
 Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative  
 Lake Region Electric Cooperative  
 Redwood Electric Cooperative  
 Roseau Electric Cooperative  
 Runestone Electric Association



## 2019 REPAC HONOR ROLL

### 100% BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

Agralite Electric Cooperative  
 Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 BENCO Electric Cooperative  
 Brown County Rural Electrical Association  
 Connexus Energy  
 Cooperative Light & Power Association  
 Dakota Electric Association  
 East Central Energy  
 Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services  
 Lake Country Power  
 Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 McLeod Cooperative Power Association  
 Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association  
 MiEnergy Cooperative  
 Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
 Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Association  
 Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative  
 Nobles Cooperative Electric  
 North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 People's Energy Cooperative  
 Redwood Electric Cooperative  
 Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association  
 Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Runestone Electric Association  
 Sioux Valley Energy  
 Stearns Electric Association  
 Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric  
 Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative  
 Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

### 100% BOARD

Crow Wing Power  
 Federated Rural Electric Association  
 Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association  
 Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association  
 Kandiyohi Power Cooperative  
 PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 South Central Electric Association

### 100% MANAGEMENT

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 Dairyland Power Cooperative  
 Lake Region Electric Cooperative



## VENDOR MEMBERS

### PLATINUM VENDOR MEMBERSHIP

Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO)

### GOLD VENDOR MEMBERSHIP

Border States Electric Supply

Carr's Tree Service Inc

Dakota Supply Group

ENGIE North America, Inc.

FS3, Inc.

Generac Power Systems

Highline Construction

Juniper Networks

Karian Peterson Power Line Construction

Kotapay

NISC

Northern Clearing, Inc.

Power System Engineering, Inc. (PSE)

Sensus

STAR Energy Services, LLC

### SILVER VENDOR MEMBERSHIP

ALTEC Industries

Anderson Underground

Bell Lumber & Pole Co.

Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C.

Calix

Ecessa Corporation

Eide Bailly, LLP

ElectroTec, Inc.

Ellingson Infrastructure Management

Emblom's Midwest Powerline Construction, Inc.

Global Transformer Solutions

HomeServe USA

Irby Utilities

Legacy Power Line, Inc.

Primoris Aevenia, Inc.

Skyline Utilities, Inc.

TelCom Construction, Inc.

The Okonite Company

### TRADE VENDOR MEMBERSHIP

2040 Energy

ABM Equipment & Supply, LLC

Amaril Uniform Company

American Power & Communications Group

ARC Media

Aspen Equipment Company

Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC

B & B Transformer, Inc.

Bashlin Industries, Inc

Bauman Associates, Ltd.

Buckingham Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Burndy, LLC

Burns & McDonnell

CarlsonSV

Central Applicators

Century Fence Company

Channell

CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP

Convergent Energy + Power

Cooperative Response Center, Inc.

Creative Culture Media

Dairyland Power Cooperative Publication Services

DG Energy

Ditch Witch Of Minnesota, Inc

Dolan Feldhaus Company

Eagle Marketing

Eaton's Cooper Power Systems

EMS Partners, Inc.

Energis High Voltage Resources, Inc.

Energy Product Sales

EUSCO

Evans Lipka & Associates

Excellence Opto, Inc.

EZ Spot UR, Inc.

Foxtail Utilities

FRESCO, Inc.

Gaynor & Associates, Inc.

Hartigan Power Equipment

Heartland Consumers Power District

Hendrix Aerial Cable Systems

Homestead Funds

HRExpertiseBP, LLC



Hubbell Power Systems  
 IML North America  
 Insight Environmental  
 J.P. Morgan Chase  
 K Fence, Inc. & PROstapler  
 Key Contracting, Inc.  
 Kingsway Marketing  
 Locators and Supplies, Inc.  
 Manitoba Hydro  
 Market & Johnson, Inc.  
 Massaging Insoles  
 MC Sales, Inc.  
 McFarland Cascade  
 MEI - Moorhead Electric  
 Michels Corporation  
 Microwave Networks, Inc.  
 Milwaukee Tool  
 Minnkota Sales / Rouzer Group  
 Mi-Tech Services, Inc.  
 MP Nexlevel, LLC  
 Netsecuris, Inc.  
 New Age Tree Service  
 NFP  
 NRECA Market Research Services  
 NRTC  
 Osmose Utilities Services, Inc.  
 Otto Transfer, Inc.

Pinnacle Marketing Group  
 Preferred Sales Agency, LTD  
 Primus Marketing Group, Inc.  
 Professional Computer Solutions, LLC  
 Pro-Tech Power Sales  
 PUSH, Inc.  
 RDO Vermeer  
 Rheem Marathon Water Heaters  
 SkySkopes  
 Solomon Corp  
 Steffes Corporation  
 Super EZ Work Tool, Inc.  
 T&R Electric  
 Terex Utilities  
 The Electric Orphanage of N. America, Inc.  
 TorcUP, Inc.  
 Transworld Systems, Inc.  
 Truck Utilities, Inc.  
 Upper Midwest Utility Sales  
 Utility Sales Associates  
 Utility Tool Repair / Black's Linemen Supply  
 Vannguard Utility Partners, Inc.  
 VF Workwear  
 WaterFurnace International  
 Wilson Company Marketing and Promotion, Inc.  
 ZOLL Medical Corporation





## In memorium

**Betty Mezzenga**, age 95, of Crosslake, passed away February 28, 2019. Bette served on numerous boards of directors, including Crow Wing Power for 23 years, 12 of which she served as board president.

**Donald Wellendorf, Jr.**, of Ortonville, Minnesota, passed away on April 4, 2019, at the age of 87. Donald served as board president for Agralite Electric.

**Gary Bergan**, of Hawley, Minnesota, passed away April 13, 2019 at the age of 79. Gary served as director on the Wild Rice Electric board for 21 years.

**James Cox** passed away at age 78 on April 29, 2019. Jim served the members of North Itasca Electric Cooperative for 29 years and was board chair for 10 of those years.

**Lyle Schleif**, age 91, passed away on May 23, 2019. He served on the Anoka Electric Cooperative/Connexus Energy board of directors from 1974-2000, and was secretary/ treasurer from 1983-2000.

**Steffen "Steve" Pederson**, of Farewell, Minnesota, passed away at the age of 50 on May 25, 2019 after a four-year battle with cancer. He had served on the Runestone Electric Association board of directors since 2014.

**Thomas "Tom" Wittry**, of Dorchester, Iowa, passed away on May 28, 2019. Tom was a dedicated lineman to MiEnergy for 36 years. He was 57 years old.

**Bill O'Brien**, of Nelson, Minnesota, passed away on October 6, 2019. Bill was director for Runestone Electric Association for 36 years. During that time he also held leadership roles on both the REA and Great River Energy boards. He was 85.

**Philip "Phil" Tideman**, of Wahkon, Minnesota, passed away December 2, 2019 at the age of 93. Phil served as director for 15 years with North Pine and East Central Energy along with being a director of United Power Association in Elk River and president of the board for eight years.

**Janet Lekson**, age 68 of Lakeville, passed away unexpectedly on February 29, 2020. Janet served as a director for both Dakota Electric Association and MREA. She was also a REPAC trustee and an MREA Resolutions Committee member.

## Contact



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Minnesota Rural Electric Association

**2019**