

## ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE'S ANNUAL MEETING: CELEBRATING PROGRESS AND EXPANDING SERVICES

We are thrilled to share a recap of our recent Annual Meeting, where we gathered as a community to discuss our cooperative's achievements, and plans for the future, and engage with our valued members. The event, held at the Arrowhead Center for the Arts in Grand Marais, was a resounding success with approximately 52 members and 80 attendees in total. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for us to connect, exchange ideas, and celebrate the progress we have made together.

During the meeting, CEO/GM John Twiest delivered an informative presentation that covered several important topics. First, he provided an overview of our current service territory for electric and broadband services, emphasizing our commitment to serving the needs of our members effectively.

John highlighted the notable achievements of 2022 and expressed gratitude to the members for their support in passing the bylaw and articles of incorporation changes. These changes have increased efficiency within our cooperative and allowed for the allocation of capital credits to broadband subscribers for the first time.

Another noteworthy event mentioned during the meeting was the successful tree giveaway organized by our Right-of-Way (ROW) department. The giveaway aimed to educate our members about the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program and promote the use of native, low-growing plants.

The Member Services team has made significant progress by replacing nearly all of the load control receivers in the field. This ensures that our demand-side management programs operate optimally, resulting in cost savings for the cooperative as a whole. By improving the efficiency of our services, we can provide better value to our members.

John also touched on the recent mandates by the State of Minnesota to have 100% carbon-free energy by 2040. Arrowhead Cooperative and its trusted partners, Great River Energy, and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association have worked hard to prepare for the impact this legislation will have on rates, reliability, and our members while navigating a path toward this goal.

Great River Energy has secured over 1800 MW of competitive wind contracts, ensuring a reliable source of carbon-free energy. This significant capacity exceeds the mandated 60% requirement by 2027. Additionally, GRE possesses 1400 MW of natural gas peaking capacity in Minnesota, offering a flexible and reliable energy source to meet fluctuating demands. Looking towards the future, GRE aims to provide retail electric sales with a 90% carbon-free power supply by 2035, aligning with the Minnesota carbon-free standard. Furthermore, they strive to achieve a 90% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels.

Regarding broadband expansion, we have made remarkable strides. We have secured permits, and materials, and are actively working on individual easements for the expansion of fiber and power to the McFarland Lake area. Looking ahead, our goal for 2024 is to expand into the Greenwood Lake, Tom Lake, and Lost Lake areas. Our efforts have already proven successful, with Arrowhead Broadband surpassing the 70% take rate threshold. This achievement is nearly double the forecasted "break-even" take rate established in 2010, demonstrating the strong demand for reliable high-speed internet in our community.

In terms of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) expansion, we completed the first year of construction successfully. Sawbill Lake and Two Island Lake areas were connected to the electrical and fiber grid, bringing immeasurable benefits to the community. Dan and Clare Shirley, owners of Sawbill Canoe Outfitters, expressed their gratitude for finally being connected after 66 years. The provision of power and reliable communication has enhanced their business operations, improved safety, and made employee housing more comfortable.

The meeting concluded with the results of the Board of Directors election, in which Roger Opp was re-elected to serve as the representative of members in District 1.

As we reflect on our Annual Meeting, it is evident that our commitment to enhancing the lives of our members and community remains steadfast. We are excited about the progress we have made and the opportunities ahead as we continue to provide essential services. Together, we have the power to transform and improve people's quality of life.



## KEEP YOUR COOL AND SAVE ENERGY

As the summer heat kicks into high gear, it's not uncommon to see a significant spike in energy consumption. However, with a few simple adjustments, you can keep your cool and reduce your energy bills. To help you get started, we thought we'd share some effective energy-saving tips to help you beat the summer heat without breaking the bank.

### **HARNESS NATURAL VENTILATION:**

Make the most of cooler evenings by opening windows and letting fresh air circulate throughout your home. Use window coverings or shades to block direct sunlight during the hottest parts of the day. Additionally, planting trees or installing awnings can provide shade and reduce indoor temperatures.

### **SEAL AND INSULATE:**

Properly seal your windows and doors to prevent warm air from entering your home and cool air from escaping. Consider adding insulation to your attic, walls, and floors to maintain a comfortable temperature inside, reducing the load on your cooling systems.



## CONVENIENT AND SECURE ONLINE ACCOUNT ACCESS

*Arrowhead Cooperative offers the latest technology to help you manage your account 24/7 by computer, smartphone or tablet with a free online application called SmartHub.*

- Review your account.
- Access energy usage graphs.
- Make a payment securely.
- Review billing history.
- Sign up for Auto Pay.
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### **EMBRACE ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING:**

Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient options such as LED lights. LEDs produce less heat, last longer, and consume significantly less energy.

### **OPTIMIZE APPLIANCE USAGE:**

Plan your daily chores strategically to minimize energy consumption. Run major appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers during off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. Hang clothes outside to dry instead of using the dryer, and opt for energy-efficient appliances when it's time to upgrade.



### **LANDSCAPING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY:**

Strategically plant trees, shrubs, and vines around your home to provide natural shade and block direct sunlight. This helps to cool your home and reduces the need for excessive air conditioning.

By implementing these simple yet effective summer energy-saving tips, you can keep your home comfortable while reducing your energy consumption. Stay cool, save energy, and make the most of your summer!

**Save energy this summer and reap the benefits! Not only will you lower your utility bills, but you'll also help reduce strain on the power grid, leading to a more reliable and sustainable energy system. It's a win-win for both you and your Cooperative.**

## **CO-OP NEWS**

### **OPERATION ROUND UP® TRUST BOARD OPENING**

Operation Round Up® is a volunteer community support program designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile projects and charities in our area. Arrowhead Cooperative is currently seeking a volunteer to fill an opening on the Operation Round Up® Trust Board.

The board convenes once a year in April to evaluate grant applications and distribute funds. The role requires approximately 2-3 hours of preparation, followed by a 2-3 hour meeting. It is a volunteer position without any reimbursement. Those interested can express their interest by contacting Sara McManus at [smcmanus@arrowhead.coop](mailto:smcmanus@arrowhead.coop). The appointment of Operation Round Up® board members is made by the Arrowhead Cooperative Board.

### **COGENERATION NOTICE**

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules Relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Arrowhead Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Following Arrowhead Cooperatives's policies and Minnesota Statute 216B.1611, all new distributed energy resources are required to follow the Cooperative Minnesota Distributed Energy Resource Interconnection process (C-MIP), which was updated by the State of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Arrowhead Cooperative will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements upon request. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors. Members interested in further information can visit our online portal available at [arrowheadcoop.com/renewable-energy](http://arrowheadcoop.com/renewable-energy); or contact our office at (800) 864-3744, or [DER@arrowhead.coop](mailto:DER@arrowhead.coop).

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in observance of Independence Day. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

July 27, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

# SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY: OPERATION ROUND UP® MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*At Arrowhead Cooperative, we believe that even small contributions can have a significant impact. That's why we introduced the Operation Round Up® program, allowing our member-owners and Arrowhead Broadband subscribers to give back to the community through their spare change. By rounding their bill up to the nearest dollar, members have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.*

Through the Operation Round Up® program, the rounded-up funds, ranging from 1¢ to 99¢ each month, are placed in a trust fund. These funds are then administered by the Operation Round Up Board of Directors, who carefully distribute grants to local non-profit organizations and community service programs.

Since its inception in 2003, Arrowhead Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program has been instrumental in supporting our community. We are proud to announce that we have awarded over \$400,000 to more than 100 local non-profit organizations and community service programs. This demonstrates our unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life in our service area.

In June 2023 alone, thanks to the participation of our members, the Cooperative and Operation Round Up® were able to contribute a remarkable \$32,000 to ten deserving area organizations. These funds have made a tangible difference in our community, touching the lives of many.

2023 OPERATION ROUND UP RECIPIENTS   \$31,999.98	
Boreal Community Media - Summer Camp for Cook County Youths	\$2,100
Cook County Community YMCA - Camp Scholarships	\$5,000
Cook County Curling Club - Refurbishing Curling Stones	\$2,640
Cook County Hockey Association - Hockey Equipment	\$3,000
Cook County Snowmobile Club - Tools and Tool Storage	\$2,853
Grand Marais Playhouse - After School Programming	\$5,000
Lutsen Ski Club - Ski Boots	\$3,000
MN Firefighter Initiative - Mental Health Support for Firefighters	\$1,500
Oral Health Task Force - Preventative and Restorative Dental Care	\$5,000
Tofte Historical Society - Digitize Tapes and Slides	\$1,906.98

At Arrowhead Cooperative, we are guided by a set of principles that prioritize the best interests of our members. Being a responsible member of the community is at the core of our values, and we strive to meet the needs of our service territory in every possible way. The success of our Operation Round Up® program is a testament to the dedication and generosity of our members. By participating, they have become a part of a network of individuals helping one another. Together, we are making a positive impact and improving the lives of those in need.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members who have embraced the Operation Round Up® program and contributed to its success. Your spare change may seem small, but it is truly making a significant difference in our community.



**Arrowhead Cooperative is currently seeking a volunteer to serve on the Operation Round Up Trust Board. Learn more on page 3.**



**JULY CALENDAR WINNER**  
*Submitted by: Dana Grosslein*



**EFFICIENCY TIP**  
*Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for cooling.*

**ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE**

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