

# THE HIGHLINE BY LINE

A NEWSLETTER FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE



## 30 YEARS OF HISTORY, 60 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE

*Arrowhead Cooperative has a rich legacy in delivering electric service to its members. While it is bittersweet to see two of our Line Workers retire, it is also an occasion for celebration that we invite our members to share in.*



Arrowhead Line Workers (L-R): Brian Schroeder (retiring), Aaron Sjogren (lineman), Jerry Paine (retiring).

In December 2023, we bid farewell to Journeyman Crew Leaders Jerry Paine and Brian Schroeder, who retired after dedicating 30 years of service to our Cooperative. Both Jerry and Brian joined us in late fall of 1993, a time when Arrowhead Cooperative's landscape and operations differed significantly from what we see today.

Over the three decades of their service, the Cooperative underwent substantial transformations in its building, equipment, and personnel. Through countless late nights, enduring long days, and confronting the challenges of nature, Jerry and Brian stood as the steadfast backbone that kept our members' lights on. From navigating snow-covered landscapes on snowshoes to dragging transformers on snow shovels, climbing poles in winter's grasp to venturing into the wilderness with tracked buckets, their stories have become legendary.

They weathered unforgettable events like the "Blow down" of 1999 and the Gunflint Trail fires six years later, the latter, from a lineman's perspective, mitigated by the prior blowdown. As these linemen led the charge, Arrowhead Cooperative experienced remarkable growth in membership, line miles, and staff. What began in 1993 with installing over a hundred new electric services annually has evolved, and by the end of 2023, Arrowhead boasts nearly 4500 members. The cooperative's footprint expanded significantly in both line miles and territory served.

Linemen, typically shying away from the limelight, respond to problems, fix them, and return home. Jerry and Brian,

exemplifying this dedication, leave a benchmark that will be challenging to match. While a simple "thank you" may seem insufficient to express our appreciation, it signifies our recognition and gratitude for their enduring commitment.

As these linemen retire, the challenge arises in finding replacements. The field demands immense commitment and entails various dangers. Arrowhead Cooperative seeks skilled linemen who can fill these roles, providing the same dedication and commitment to our membership. It is crucial that our new linemen become integral community members, contributing to building and maintaining the infrastructure that supports and enhances the quality of life for our members.

Our cooperative thrives when our membership thrives. If you know individuals looking to contribute to the safe, reliable, and environmentally friendly utility services of Arrowhead Cooperative, please direct them our way. Today and in the future, we are connecting the Arrowhead.

### SPARK YOUR CAREER AT ARROWHEAD COOP!

**We're hiring Journeyman Lineworkers.**

*Competitive pay, robust benefits, signing bonus,  
rewarding work on Minnesota's North Shore.*

**LEARN MORE:** [www.arrowheadcoop.com/employment](http://www.arrowheadcoop.com/employment)

# PROGRAMS OFFER CO-OPS GRID MANAGEMENT FLEXIBILITY, SAVINGS

*More than 370,000 appliances owned by cooperative members like you are playing a role in managing the reliability of the regional electric grid and saving the entire membership money at the same time.*

Arrowhead Cooperative and the other 26 member-owner cooperatives that receive wholesale electric power from Great River Energy offer voluntary programs that empower members to use the grid efficiently and economically by reducing demand during periods of stress and shifting energy consumption to off-peak times.

By choosing to enroll an electric appliance, such as a water heater or room heating system, into one of your cooperative’s “demand response” programs, you are helping keep electricity reliable and affordable.

Arrowhead Cooperative provides two ways for its members to make contributions toward helping manage the grid while receiving rebates or other incentives for their participation: 1) interruptible programs and 2) off-peak programs.

Using the example of an electric water heater, a member who enrolls this home appliance into an interruptible program gives permission for their cooperative to pause service to the water heater to eliminate its load from the system for up to eight hours when wholesale energy market prices are high.

“Through the flip of a switch, this strategy helps reduce our monthly billing peak,” said Sara McManus, Member Service Manager at Arrowhead Cooperative. “Water heaters enrolled in this program do have sufficient storage capacity to supply hot water over the peak period while service is paused so members aren’t left in the cold.”

Members are also not caught off guard during times of interruption. Participants are often alerted in advance of a control event by Arrowhead Cooperative and have access to a website that shares the schedule up to a day in advance.

This strategy is employed mostly to avoid high wholesale energy prices and to reduce the monthly billing peak



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### OFF-PEAK WATER HEATING

The Off-Peak Water Heating program conserves energy by heating water on weekdays during off-peak hours when electric costs are the lowest. Your water heater will heat overnight and then distribute hot water throughout the day. (No control on weekends or holidays.)

### PEAK SHAVE WATER HEATING

The Peak Shave Water Heating program is designed to reduce demand on the electrical system on days of high demand and peak pricing. These are typically the hottest or coldest days of the season. This program also reduces demand for electricity during system emergencies.

### REQUIREMENTS AND BENEFITS:

- Participants must have a 90% efficient and large volume water heater.
- Participants receive electricity used for water heating at discounted rate.
- Rebate are also available.

### WATER HEATING PROGRAM REBATES:

- New Water Heater Enrolled in Off-Peak Water Heating (ETS Water Heating) Program \$400
- New Water Heater Enrolled in Peak Shave Water Heating Program \$200
- Hot Water Circulating Pump \$50
- Heat Pump Hot Water Heater \$500

of Great River Energy's member-owner cooperatives. Participants experienced 40 pauses to their water heater service in 2023 according to data provided by Great River Energy.

If you are more interested in the off-peak program, you would receive a rebate for a high-efficiency water heater that is "charged" overnight with sufficient storage capacity via less expensive electricity to supply your home's hot water needs. Program participants can expect their water heaters to recharge for eight hours, typically between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. This strategy only applies to weekdays, excluding weekends and holidays unless billing peak control is needed.

"Participation in this program helps provide significant economic relief to the overall membership by shifting heating load to the overnight hours, resulting in more favorable rates," said McManus. "This also helps us defer wholesale energy purchases to off-peak hours that would otherwise cost more to purchase during on-peak hours."

Contact Arrowhead Cooperative at (218) 663-7239 or (800) 864-3744 for more information on our demand responses programs and how you can get enrolled.

## CO-OP NEWS

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD?

Arrowhead Cooperative Directors are members just like you who understand and listen to the community. They represent you on the Cooperative's Board, while responsibly overseeing the business of the Cooperative and determining its strategic direction. Each year an election takes place to ensure that every member has a voice in the governance of this organization and that any member in good standing may seek election for the Board of Directors. In 2024, there are three districts up for election:

District 2: Maple Hill/Colvill  
District 4: Rosebush/Devil Track  
District 5: Cascade/Pike Lake

If you are interested in serving on the Arrowhead Cooperative Board you must obtain a petition form from Arrowhead Cooperative by calling our office to request or downloading from our website. Petition forms need to be signed by 15 members from your district and returned to the Cooperative by 4:00pm on April 3.

### APPLY NOW FOR AN OPERATION ROUND UP GRANT

Nearly \$400,000 has been donated to over 100 organizations thanks to Arrowhead Cooperative members and subscribers who allow the Cooperative to simply "round up" their monthly bills to the next highest dollar.

Operation Round Up funds are given to local civic organizations and worthy causes through an application and selection process. Grant guidelines and application forms are available online at [www.arrowheadcoop.com](http://www.arrowheadcoop.com). Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 5 by 4:30 p.m. and awards will be distributed at Arrowhead Cooperative's Annual Meeting in June. For more information, please email [roundup@arrowhead.coop](mailto:roundup@arrowhead.coop).

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

# EXPERIENCE SAVINGS AND CONVENIENCE WITH AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

*Considering a shift from a gas-powered vehicle to an all-electric car may seem challenging, especially if you're accustomed to traditional options. However, the increasing affordability of electric vehicles (EVs), the convenience of home charging, and the environmental benefits make it a practical choice.*

## **COST SAVINGS:**

While upfront costs for EVs are higher, incentives like a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 for a new or used EV and \$1,000 for charging equipment significantly offset the initial expense. Long-term ownership costs, including fuel, are lower, with EVs being three times more energy-efficient than gas-powered vehicles. Electricity prices are more stable than gas prices, translating to substantial fuel cost savings, potentially around \$1,300 annually for a driver covering 12,000 miles.

## **CONVENIENCE:**

Charging an EV at home aligns with existing habits of charging electronic devices. Additionally, EVs require minimal maintenance, reducing costs associated with parts replacement. The simplicity of EV design, with fewer moving parts, enhances reliability, and their quiet operation stands in contrast to the noise produced by combustion engines.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:**

EVs contribute positively to the environment due to their higher efficiency and lower energy consumption, coupled with zero tailpipe emissions. As the electricity grid becomes greener, the environmental impact of EVs further improves.

## **CHARGEWISE PROGRAM:**

Arrowhead Cooperative's voluntary ChargeWise program offers qualified members the opportunity to charge their EVs at home during off-peak hours (11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.), taking advantage of lower market prices. Members can benefit from a \$500.00 rebate for installing a Level 2 charger as part of the ChargeWise program.

Learn more about electric vehicles, tax incentives, charging and more at [www.energywisemn.com/evs](http://www.energywisemn.com/evs). For more information about ChargeWise, contact our office at (218) 663-7239 or (800) 864-3744 or visit [www.arrowheadcoop.com](http://www.arrowheadcoop.com).



## **MARCH CALENDAR WINNER**

*Submitted by: Faith Carter*



## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

*Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening. If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush.*

## **ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE**

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