

January 2012

# NEWS

**Committed to those we serve**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Manager's Letter

### 2012 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 17th ~ our annual meeting will be held that day in the high school auditorium in Zumbrota. Dad's Belgian Waffles will be served from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at which time the business meeting will start.

### 75 Years

This year will be our 75th annual meeting. We hope you will join us in celebrating 75 years of bringing electricity to the area. We will take a look back at the history of the cooperative and the changes that have taken place. A special attendance prize will be given out along with other prize drawings.



Doug Fingerson  
General Manager

### Absentee Ballots

The nominating committee met in early January to nominate candidates for our board of directors. Three directors will be elected at the 2012 annual meeting. The directors whose terms expire are David Hernke of Cannon Falls, Rob Tate of Cannon Falls and Richard Sviggum of Nerstrand. Richard Sviggum has decided to not run again.

Absentee ballots will be available to those members unable to attend our annual meeting. You may request an absentee ballot by phone, mail or at our office. Ballots will be available the middle of February and the completed ballot must be received in our office by noon on Friday, March 16th.

## THE BEGINNING OF GOODHUE COUNTY COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC BY HARRIET JACOBSON\*

In 1936, when I was working in the courthouse in Red Wing, George Schwartau and I prepared a loan application which was sent to the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington DC. It was approved in the amount of \$377,000 and that was the beginning of your cooperative.

In May of 1937, the office was opened here in Zumbrota in a building on the corner of Main and Fourth Streets, where the 411 dress shop is now. Line construction was begun that year. At that time if someone asked for George, you didn't know who would answer. The contractor was George Donovan; the first engineer was George Taus; the manager was George Bleecker, the assistant manager was George Schwartau and two of the board members were George Burch and Grover George.

The first meter was installed August 20, 1938, on the Haugen farm at Hader. That was an exciting day! The first five years I was the only girl in the office and my equipment consisted of a typewriter, adding machine and telephone.



*This picture was taken on the S.O. Haugen farm in Wanamingo Township across the highway from the Hader Substation on 8/20/38 marking the first meter installed. Harriet is pictured in front.*

It has been very interesting watching the organization develop from nothing to a multi-million dollar business with 4,000 members. I am glad to have been a part of it and my wish for the cooperative is continued success in the future.

Harriet (Hagander) Jacobson

*\*Harriet wrote this article in 1997 for our 60th annual meeting. Harriet retired in 1977 and passed away in 1998.*

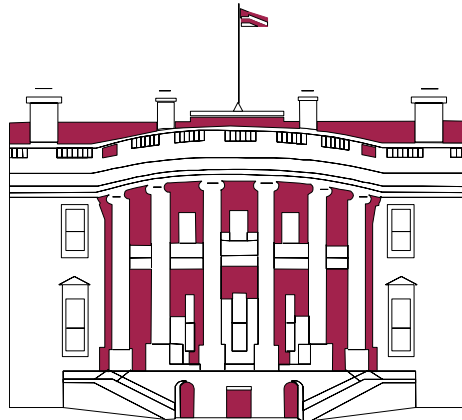


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# Youth Tour to Washington DC

Our Cooperative will again be sponsoring an area youth on an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC June 16-21. The winner will join hundreds of young people from all over the country to tour our nation's Capital. You will spend a day on Capital Hill observing the House and Senate in session and visit members of Congress in their offices.

The contest is open to students who are sophomores, juniors or seniors in the Zumbrota/Mazeppa, Kenyon/Wanamingo, Pine Island, Goodhue,



Lake City, Red Wing and Cannon Falls schools. You do not have to be a member of the Cooperative. The winner will be announced at our annual meeting in March.

To enter the competition, please contact our office for an application form or go to our website at [www.gceca.com](http://www.gceca.com), click on news and information and then education/youth. Completed applications must be returned by February 13th. If you would like more information about the trip, please give us a call.

## Notification to Members

In order to comply with Minnesota Statute 216B.164 and the final published rules of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions and become a qualifying facility. Goodhue County Cooperative Electric Association is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any disputes over interconnection sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the MPUC. Interested members should contact the cooperative office.

## Operation Round-Up

The Operation Round-Up Board will be meeting on February 8th. If you know of a nonprofit organization in our area that would like to submit an application for a donation, please call our office for an application or they are available on our website [www.gceca.com](http://www.gceca.com) under customer service.

## Energy Saving Tips

**Fan it up** ~ Run ceiling paddle fans on low & reverse the rotation to blow air up in winter. This keeps warm air circulating without cooling you.

**Free Vents** ~ Your HVAC system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers & vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or drapes. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.

**Garage Drain** ~ Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage in winter will save energy.

**Hot Savings** ~ Set your water heater no higher than 120 degrees. For households with only one or two people, 115 degrees works.

There are other ways to conserve energy too. Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use. When you are not watching TV or using lights, computers and other electronics, turn them off. Find more ways to save at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).



# Goodhue County Cooperative Electric 2012 Rebates

GCCEA offers our members the following rebates. To apply for a rebate, provide us with a completed rebate form and a copy of your sales receipt. Rebate forms are available at our office and on our website [www.gccea.com](http://www.gccea.com). We have a limited amount of money available for rebates this year, so please call our office to check on availability.

Energy Star Refrigerator or Freezer with recycling of replaced unit \$75.00.

Compact fluorescent lighting is eligible for 50 percent of the total cost up to a maximum of \$1.00 per Energy Star bulb.

Rebates are available on electric water heaters. A \$200 rebate is available to members replacing a non-controlled electric water heater with a high-efficient electric water heater that is put on our load-control program. For new construction, a \$100 rebate is available to members installing a high-efficient electric water heater that is put on our load-control program.



We also have rebates on the new Energy Star heat-pump water heaters (HPWH) with a energy factor of 2.0 or higher. A \$200 rebate is available to members replacing a non-controlled electric water heater with a HPWH and \$100 is available for new construction. These units are not required to be on any load control program to receive the incentive.

Members who install a central air conditioner or heat pump with a qualifying SEER rating are eligible for a rebate. To qualify for a rebate, you must use a qualified contractor who is registered through [www.hvacreduction.net](http://www.hvacreduction.net).

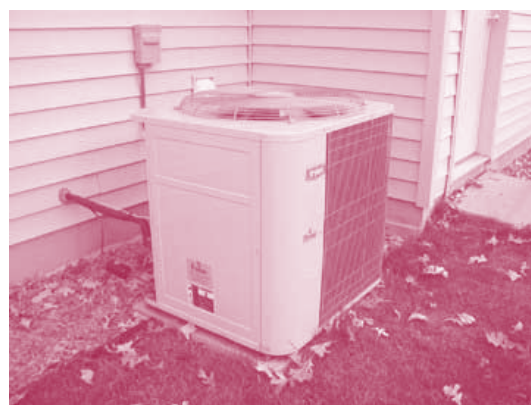
## Heat Pumps

Air Source with a SEER of 13-14	\$330
Air Source with a SEER of 14.5	\$480
Air Source with a SEER of 15	\$580
Air Source with a SEER of 16+	\$630

Ground Source \$200 per ton

## Central Air Conditioning

14.5 SEER	\$180
15 SEER	\$280
16 SEER+	\$330



GCCEA also has grant money available through our commercial and industrial energy grant program. This program is intended to encourage new energy-saving projects for farms and businesses such as energy-efficient lighting, ventilation and heat recovery. Electric motors, pre-heaters, plate-coolers, heat lamps and electric mats for hog operations are examples. The program is sponsored through our power supplier, Great River Energy, with a limited amount of grant money available.

***For more information on any of these money-saving programs, please call our Member Services Director Darel "Butch" Birmingham at 800-927-6864.***

**GOODHUE COUNTY  
COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC**

1410 Northstar Drive • Zumbrota MN 55992  
(507) 732-5117 or (800) 927-6864  
Office Hours Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Web site: [www.gccea.com](http://www.gccea.com)  
For Underground Locations  
Call Gopher State One-Call 1-800-252-1166

**STAFF**

Doug Fingerson, General Manager  
Dennis Wilson, Financial Manager  
Darel Birmingham, Member Services  
Doug Borgschatz, Line Supt.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ed Bauman, President	Dist. No. 2
David Hernke, Vice-President	Dist. No. 4
Rob Tate, Secretary	Dist. No. 5
Gary Shelstad, Treasurer	Dist. No. 8
Gerald Puppe	Dist. No. 1
Mary Lindahl	Dist. No. 3
Richard Sviggum	Dist. No. 6
Gene Bang	Dist. No. 7
Don Buck	Dist. No. 9

## Peak Alerts

On extremely cold days, listen to radio stations KCUE AM 1250 Red Wing or KDHL AM 920 Faribault between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for Peak Alerts. We encourage our members to then cut back on their electric usage between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to help keep energy rates down.

## METER NUMBERS

Joe Newinski of Welch, Henry Swiggum of Cannon Falls, Dennis Gunhus of Kenyon and Kaye Gullikson of Welch found their meter numbers in the December issue of the News and received credit on their electric bill. Micky Nesseth of Wanamingo missed his meter number. The following meter numbers are worth \$10.00 each. If your meter number is one of the following numbers, notify us by February 6th 2012 and you will receive a \$10.00 credit on your electric bill:

**30-171 30-1990 30-5186 30-1320 30-735**

## MONTHLY RECIPE CONTEST

Members of GCCEA are asked to send in their favorite recipes. We will then select two winners each month to print and they will each receive a \$10 credit on their electric bill so send in your favorite recipes today.

*Bernice Stenhaug of Dennison  
sent her recipes for*

### **Crockpot Cabbage Soup**

1 can cream of celery soup  
1 soup can milk  
2-3 soup cans water  
1 med onion grated and chopped  
1 C celery, chopped  
2 polish sausages cooked & sliced into pieces  
1 cube chicken bouillon or 2 T chicken bouillon  
2 or more cups chopped cabbage  
1/2 C carrots, slivered or sliced  
salt & pepper to taste  
Cook on low approx 6 hrs or on high 4 hrs. Stir occasionally if home.  
Serve with fresh bread. Enjoy ~ Very Good!

### **Fluffy Pancakes**

Combine 1 C flour, 1 T sugar, 2 t baking powder, 1/2 t salt  
Stir into dry ingredients: 3/4 C milk, 1 egg, 1/4 C shortening melted

### **Salad Yummy**

8 oz Cool Whip  
1 can Borden Sweetened Condensed Milk  
1 can pie filling ~ cherry, blueberry or strawberry  
Nuts  
Mix all together!

*Michael Olson of Cannon Falls  
sent his recipe for*

### **Different Chocolate Chip Cookies**

1 C butter  
1/4 C white sugar  
3/4 C brown sugar  
2 eggs  
1 t vanilla  
2 1/4 C unsifted flour  
1 pkg instant vanilla pudding mix  
1 t soda  
12 oz pkg chocolate chips  
1 C chopped nuts  
1/4 C ground flax

Bake on ungreased cookie sheets at 375 for 8 min. Makes 7 doz. Michael says this is his mother's fantastic recipe for different chocolate chip cookies ~ really yummy and healthy!