



LOOK UP AND LIVE!

Be aware of your surroundings this harvest season. This little reminder could save you time, money, and even your life!

REA wishes area farmers a safe and successful Harvest!

NEWSLINE

October 2024

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October is Cooperative Month! A whole month dedicated to celebrating cooperatives. So, what even is a cooperative, and what makes it different than other electric providers? Well, the short answer is a cooperative is owned and governed by the members it serves. (THAT'S YOU!) Electric co-ops like REA were created by the members for the members, so serving you is our #1 priority! Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable power. However, there are lots of other great perks of being a co-op member, like capital credits!

In celebration of co-op month, REA will have cookies from Country Blossom Farm and apple cider in the REA lobby all month long! Be sure to stop by for a treat!



Utility Scam Awareness

We want to warn our members to be on guard for scams targeting payment on their electric bill. Here are some things to look for in a potential scam call:

- » Caller will contact you and inform you that your power will be disconnected in a short period of time if you do not make an immediate payment on your account.
- » Caller will ask for payment with a prepaid credit card or gift card.
- » Caller will ask for personal and financial information.

Know that REA will never call and demand quick payment over the phone while threatening disconnection with no prior communication. REA members who are delinquent will receive a disconnect notice by mail and REA will attempt phone calls (if we have correct phone numbers) prior to disconnection. Contact REA if you receive a questionable call.



REMINDER

If you attended the REA Annual Meeting in April and received a gift certificate, please remember to redeem your certificate at one of the participating REA businesses listed below **before 12/31/24**.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 2100 Chophouse at Arrowwood Resort
320-762-1124 | Carlos Creek Winery
320-846-5443 | Lake Reno Bar & Grill
320-283-5030 |
| 22 Northmen Brewing
320-846-5443 | Chet's Lakeside Inn
218-943-2471 | L'Etoile du Nord Winery
320-298-4686 |
| Beau Coffee Company
320-239-2078 | Country Blossom Farm
320-334-1620 | Long Lake Lodge
320-808-3426 |
| Blairview Saddle Shop
320-762-5664 | Diamond Waves & Wags Car Wash
320-759-8040 | Rolling Forks Vineyards
320-634-7655 |
| Brother's Market - Carlos
320-852-7331 | Doraisamy Farm
320-524-2513 | Selective TV
320-763-5924 |
| Brother's Market - Miltona
218-943-3333 | Jim & Judy's
320-852-7604 | Stivland Gardens
320-283-5227 |
| Burr Vineyards
651-726-4397 | Kadejan Market
320-460-8710 | Stoke & Sizzle
320-846-5443 |
| | Lake Miltona Golf Club
320-852-7078 | Tipsinah Mounds Golf Course 218-685-4271 |



Al Haman
CEO

A Note from the CEO

A Simple Way to Impact Area Communities

Operation Round Up

October is National Cooperative Month, and I find it fitting that we would also celebrate Operation Round Up. When I reflect on the cooperative way of doing business, the Operation

Round Up program is a unique community service that sets us apart from other utilities.

After seeing Operation Round Up come to life in electric cooperatives across the country, REA Management brought an advisory vote to the attendees of the REA Annual Meeting in 2002. With overwhelming approval, the program was launched by the end of that year, and grants were awarded for the first time in early 2003. Since that time, over 2,400 grants have been awarded, totaling over \$1.2 million!

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the thirty REA members who have served on the REA Operation Round Up Community Trust Board since 2002. Representing each of REA's seven districts, the board

meets quarterly to review applications and distribute grants. This is a voluntary board that is appointed by the REA Board of Directors and operates independently of the REA Board. Let us know if you would like to serve on the Trust Board, and we'd be happy to pass your name along to your district director.

Nearly 65% of our members allow their bills to be rounded up to the next dollar. Thank you! You make this program possible. Your contributions are truly appreciated and are making a significant impact. On average, participating members contribute \$6.20 yearly.

Check out the recent check distribution on page 3. If you would like to participate or don't know if you're participating, simply call our office, and we will fill you in. You can also look at your monthly statement to see if there is an Operation Round Up line item.

Also, I hope you help us celebrate Cooperative Month by stopping by the REA office during the month of October for Country Blossom Farm cookies and apple cider. Wishing everyone a happy fall!



The original REA Operation Round Up Trust Board of Directors in 2003. From left to right: District 2 - John Beem, Milona; District 3 - Gerald Johnson, Evansville; District 4 - Jeff Dreier, Elbow Lake; District 1 - Tom Burquest, Eagle Bend; District 7 - Jerome Hagen, Cyrus; and District 5 - Kathy Nelson, Nelson.



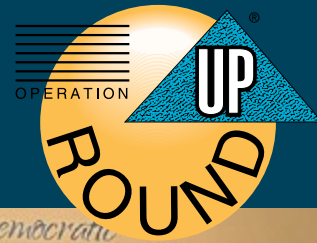
Today's REA Operation Round Up Trust Board of Directors: Front row: District 1 - Mary Bettermann, Parkers Prairie and District 3 - Pat Soberg, Elbow Lake. Back row: District 6 - Jeff Gaffaney, Glenwood; District 7 - Rich Moen, Glenwood; District 5 - David Lundy, Alexandria; District 4 - Richard Duncan, Kensington and District 2 - John Rolf, Garfield.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - August 2024

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for July 2024. Sales remain behind budget 10.5% and down 9.5% from last year through July.
- » REA Purchasing Agent Derick Swenson reviewed 2023-2025 large equipment purchases and projected delivery dates.
- » STAR Energy Service CEO Lois Croonquist provided an update on the organization's structure, employee recruitment and retention, building density within geographic footprints, locations for growth, and opportunities for new products and services.
- » Approved a senior capital credit retirement request in excess of \$10,000 per REA Policy C12 - Capital Credits.
- » CEO Haman reviewed the presentation of the director's compensation resolution to the Member Advisory Council at the August 1st Council meeting. No action was taken. The Council will vote on the compensation resolution in November.
- » **The regular October Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

REA Members Support Their Communities

Operation Round Up Distributes \$11,814 in September!



Representing some of the organizations receiving Operation Round Up® grants in September, front row l to r - Paulette Solvie, West Central Area Churches; and Deb Hadley, Denise Hadley and Pat Baukol, KT Humble Hearts. Middle row l to r - Tara Bitzan, Friends of Christmas; Renee Hills, Lake Mary Cemetery Association; Nancy Doebbert, Alexandria Small Mall; Barb Rolf, Zion Lutheran Quilters; and Shirley Ross, Alexandria Senior Quilters. Back row l to r - John Rolf and Jeff Gaffaney, Operation Round Up Trust Board Members; James Erickson, Aeneas Cemetery Association; Jim Hartman, Hudson Cemetery Association; and Richard Schlosser, Veterans Memorial Honor Guard.

Through the contributions of Runestone Electric Association's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved **\$11,814** to assist local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

REA's Operation Round Up Trust Board, a voluntary board of seven REA members, reviewed and considered 24 grant applications and distributed funds to 22 projects and programs this past quarter. Community-based projects and programs have received over \$1.2 million since the program's inception in 2003. On average, participating REA members contribute **\$6.20 for the year**. Proof that small change adds up. Best of all, 95% of all funds collected are distributed as grants.

Fire Departments & First Responders:

- » Leaf Valley First Responders - Lucas CPR device (\$1,000)

Community:

- » Lake Mary Cemetery Association - cemetery maintenance (\$300)
- » Veterans Memorial Honor Guard - formation of honor guard (\$1,000)
- » Hudson Cemetery Association - cemetery maintenance (\$300)
- » KT Humble Hearts - grief support services (\$1,000)
- » Cycling Without Age Alexandria - cycling equipment (\$500)
- » Alexandria Area Branch of AAUW - Project Book Shelf (\$250)
- » Lutheran Social Service - LSS Meals Long Prairie Area (\$500)
- » Bethel Memorial Cemetery Association - cemetery maintenance (\$300)
- » Aeneas Cemetery Association - cemetery maintenance (\$300)
- » Lake Amelia Cemetery - cemetery maintenance (\$300)
- » Friends of Christmas - Holiday light parade (\$500)

- » Runestone Museum Foundation - Oletober Fest (\$500)
- » Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery Association - cemetery maintenance (\$300)
- » Zion Lutheran Church - Community service outreach (\$300)
- » Lincoln Lutheran Cemetery Association - cemetery mapping stand (\$300)
- » West Central Area Churches - Feed My Starving Children event (\$564)
- » Norunga Lutheran Cemetery Association - cemetery maintenance (\$300)
- » Alexandria Small Mall - Christmas shopping event for children (\$500)
- » United Communities Advocating Non-Violence - Domestic abuse/violence awareness event (\$1,000)
- » Radiothon to Prevent Child Abuse - Radiothon event (\$1,000)

Youth:

- » Grant County Child & Youth Council - Changemaker Halloween Carnival (\$500)

Seniors:

- » Alexandria Senior Quilters - Quilting supplies (\$300)



Is your Dual Fuel System ready for winter?

If you have a dual fuel heating system, also known as an off-peak system, now is the time to be sure your off-peak controls are functioning and your back-up system is prepared. Your fuel supply should be checked and chimneys cleaned.

Summer storms can damage equipment controls within off-peak heating systems. It is the member's responsibility to contact an electrical contractor should the system not be functioning correctly.

If you have electric heat, but are not sure if you are on the dual fuel program, please call REA at (800) 473-1722.

Dual Fuel Participants **Tips & Reminders:**

During the heating season, the electric heat portion of your dual fuel system may be controlled up to a maximum of 400 hours, however this is rare.

- » Control will not exceed 12 hours per control event.
- » If you're on dual fuel, check the electric and non-electric (dual) parts of your heating equipment now.
- » Fill your fuel tank full in case it needs to run for hours at a time.
- » We anticipate more control in the morning.
- » Check on the likelihood of control by visiting www.RunestoneElectric.com and select "Today's Load Control"
- » **Sign up to get text messages on control days - text #loadcontrol to 22300.**



Plans to escape the cold this winter?

Stop and read BEFORE turning off your water heater at your electrical panel

Turning off your water heater when leaving on extended trips can be a good idea as long as you follow these tips:

1. Check your breakers

Don't turn off the breaker if you have a yellow sticker (pictured) or if your electrical panel lists your water heater circuit powering your off-peak meter and controller. If the breaker is turned off, you will miss out on the value of off-peak rates while you're away.

2. Disconnect Switch

Have your electrician install a disconnect switch. Installed next to the water heater, a disconnect switch lets you shut off your water heater while maintaining power to the off-peak meter and controller.

Still have questions?

Feel free to contact REA.

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District 3: Open

District 4: Dave Staples, Secretary

District 5: Mike Loken, Vice President

District 6: Joel Seela, Director

District 7: Matthew Mattson, Treasurer

Editorial Staff

Al Haman, CEO

Sue Lundeen, Editor

Ally Koudela, Communications Specialist

In Case of a Power Outage

- » Please call 800-473-1722 for 24-hour service. Please report any tree branches in lines, twisted wires, broken poles and if your neighbors are also out of power.
- » Be sure to have a corded phone or a charged cell phone in the house, because cordless phones won't work when the power is out.
- » Program the number above into your cell phone for easy access.
- » Never assume we know you are without power. Always call to report an outage.

REA will use reasonable diligence to furnish adequate and dependable electric service, but it cannot and does not guaranty continuous and uninterrupted service

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Sign up to get text messages from REA on control days!

Simply text #loadcontrol to 22300
Msg and data rates apply



Call 811 or visit
gopherstateonecall.org
before you dig