

# ATTENTION High School Seniors! It's Time to Apply!

Apply for one of **nineteen \$1,000 scholarships** available through a random drawing.

**Deadline to apply is March 1!**



Scan to  
Apply

# NEWSLINE

February 2025

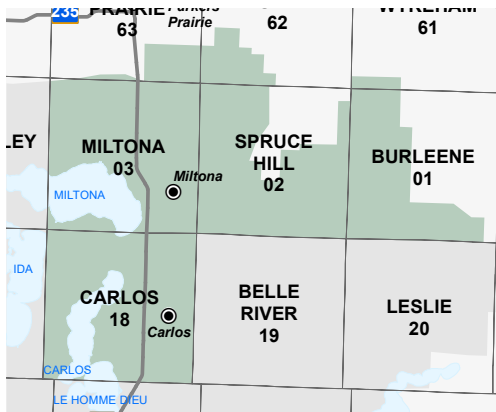
Pole Inspections pg 3 Age 80 Capital Credit Retirements pg 4

## Attend Your District Meeting!

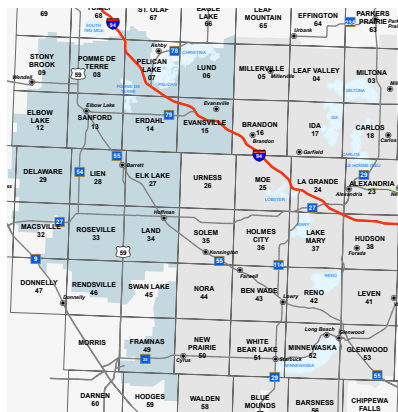
**Enjoy a meal, nominate directors, and visit with neighbors!**

District Meetings offer REA members an opportunity to have a light meal, nominate one or more candidates for the office of director, learn more about their electric cooperative, talk with their elected representatives, and visit with neighbors. In addition, all members in attendance will have their name entered in a drawing to win door prizes. We look forward to seeing you!

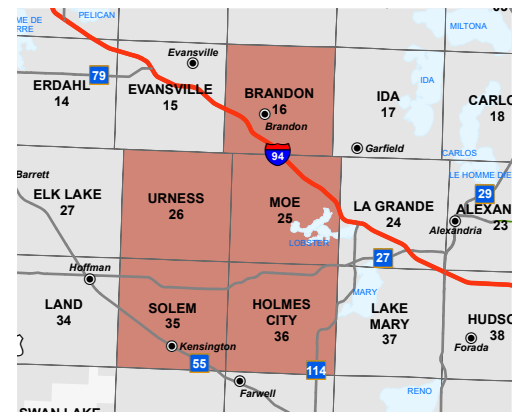
Please RSVP by calling REA at 800-473-1722, emailing [rea@runestoneelectric.com](mailto:rea@runestoneelectric.com), or on our Facebook event.



**District One**



**District Three**



**District Four**

### District One Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

**Miltona Community Center**  
5590 Co Rd 14 NE, Miltona

5:30 p.m. Light Meal  
6:00 p.m. Meeting

### District Three Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

**Hoffman Community Center**  
127 Main Ave, Hoffman

5:30 p.m. Light Meal  
6:00 p.m. Meeting

### District Four Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025

**West Moe Lutheran Church**  
16249 Co Rd 8 NW, Brandon

5:30 p.m. Light Meal  
6:00 p.m. Meeting

## Note to members in District 3

(blue townships in map above)

Members will nominate candidates at the District 3 Meeting in 2025 to fill the remainder of the open term. Then, in 2026, members will nominate candidates to fill the 2026 - 2029 term.



**1968 District Six Meeting**  
Read more at [runestoneelectric.com](http://runestoneelectric.com)





**Al Haman**  
CEO

# A Note from the CEO

## Transmission is key to keeping the lights on

There has been much talk about the transmission of electricity on a local, regional and national level. Transmission lines play a vital role in keeping your lights on. Just ask our members in the western portions of our service territory.

located across our service territory (see red triangles on the map below). Many of these lines can be networked into various temporary configurations during emergencies.

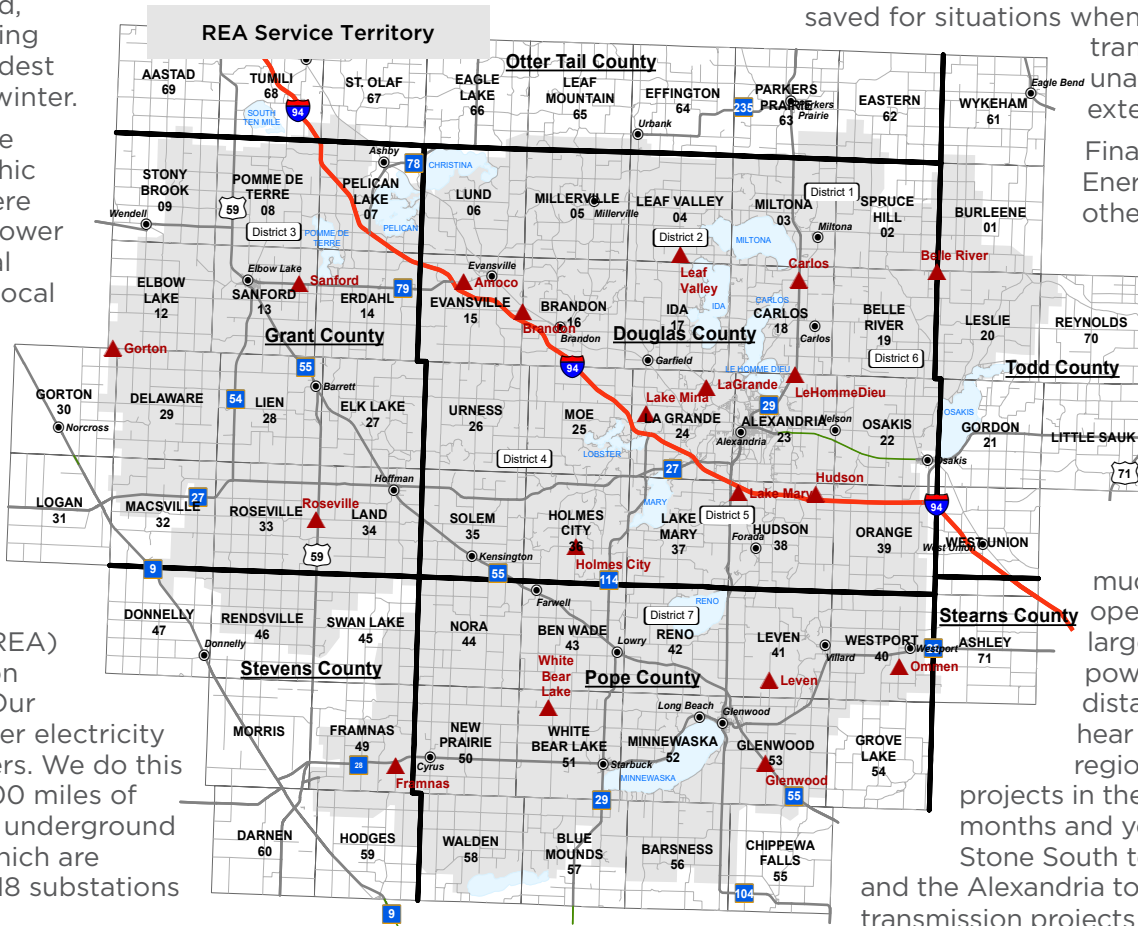
The substations are fed by local transmission systems owned by Great River Energy, Xcel Energy and Ottertail Power. Many people are surprised to learn that our power travels over lines owned by utilities other than Great River Energy.

When the transmission system causes an outage, as it did on January 20, REA's linemen can generally move load from one substation to another. Because this work can take up to two hours or more, it is usually an option

Early on the morning of January 20, a piece of equipment in the transmission line that feeds four of our substations failed. Many factors can cause a switch to fail, but what matters is that we were able to backfeed the load and restore power in about two hours. Outages are never good, especially during one of the coldest nights of the winter.

As you can see from the graphic on page 3, there are types of power lines - regional bulk transfer, local load serving transmission, and distribution.

Let's start with the distribution system. Runestone Electric Association (REA) is a distribution cooperative. Our role is to deliver electricity to our members. We do this with over 3,000 miles of overhead and underground powerlines, which are energized by 18 substations



saved for situations when we know the transmission will be unavailable for an extended time.

Finally, Great River Energy and many other utilities own and operate regional transmission systems. An example is the large structures along Interstate 94. These

lines are much larger and operate to move large quantities of power over great distances. You will hear more about regional transmission

projects in the coming months and years as the Big Stone South to Alexandria and the Alexandria to Big Oaks transmission projects come to life.

## REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - December 2024

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for November 2024. Energy sales continue behind budget, but expenses are also lower, allowing us to maintain an REA margin close to budget. The Lake Mary Substation job was closed, as were other large work order projects.
- » Approved transferring the 2023 Uncollectible Accounts to the reserve for bad debt. Efforts are made to continue to collect on accounts even after the account has been written off.
- » Representative Tom Murphy (District 9B - Underwood) and Senator Jordan Rasmusson (9 - Fergus Falls) joined the meeting for an education session on REA.
- » President Anderson reported on the December Great River Energy (GRE) Board Meeting and the committees in which

he participates. He shared that GRE will be involved in developing the MISO Tranch 2.1 transmission projects that were recently approved. The \$21.8 billion portfolio includes 24 projects throughout the Midwest with several 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and a 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission backbone in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

- » Approved refunding the oldest membership allocation - balance of 1997 and part of 1998. Checks will be mailed in April.
- » Approved the 2025 Budget with \$6.2 million in capital plant additions and an REA operating margin of \$1,400,000.
- » **The regular February Board Meeting will be Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

# THREE LEVELS OF TRANSMISSION

BIG, STRONG,  
SERVES THE MARKET

## REGIONAL TRANSMISSION

Transports bulk electricity across the region at high voltages. Are usually supported on tall metal towers. Often 230-kV and up.



MEDIUM SIZED,  
CONNECTS COMMUNITIES

## LOCAL TRANSMISSION

Transmission lines that deliver electricity to the communities we serve. Generally supported by wooden poles. Often 41.6 to 115-kV.



SMALLER, CONNECTS HOMES,  
FARMS AND BUSINESSES

## DISTRIBUTION

Delivers lower-voltage electricity to homes, farms and businesses over a shorter distance. Generally supported by wooden poles. In certain situations, distribution lines are buried underground. Often 35-kV and under.

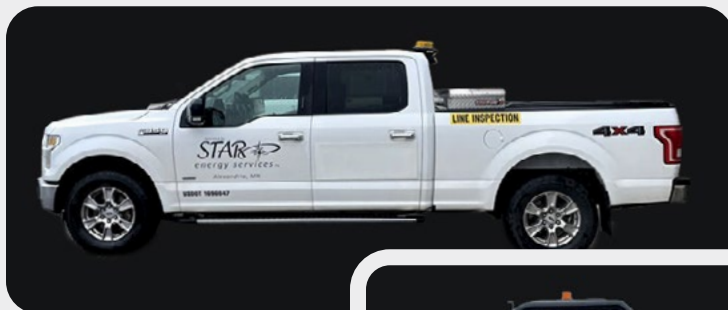


## Pole Inspections in Grant County

STAR Energy Services, a subsidiary of REA, will be conducting pole inspections in the next couple of months. So, if you live in Stony Brook, Pomme De Terre, or Sanford townships, you may see a vehicle or side-by-side UTV during this time with a STAR Energy Services logo and a Line Inspection decal on it. Please see samples below.

Please be patient with the crew as they help to ensure the safe distribution of your electricity.

If you have any questions, call REA at 800-473-1722 or email [rea@runestoneelectric.com](mailto:rea@runestoneelectric.com).



Star Energy  
Service's line  
inspection truck  
and UTV.



# 2025 Residential Rebates

## Heating & Cooling

### Air Source Heat Pump

HSPF<sup>2</sup> 7.5 or greater - \$500  
(No Quality Installation Required)

CEE Tier 1 (Path A or B) - \$900  
(Quality Installation Required)

Central Air Conditioner  
SEER<sup>2</sup> 14.3+ - \$50  
(Quality Installation Required)

Ductless Air Source Heat Pump  
\$200

Air Source Heat Pump Paired with Plenum  
Heater or Boiler

Efficiency Rebate  
\$100

Geothermal Heat Pumps  
\$400

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)  
Space Heating & Room Storage Heating  
\$50/kw up to \$5,000 or 100kw

Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)  
Many of today's high-efficiency furnaces  
include an ECM that would qualify for this  
rebate. (Excludes new construction)  
\$25

Smart Thermostat  
\$25

## Appliances

Must be purchased or recycled after 1/1/2025

Clothes Washer  
\$25

Clothes Dryer  
\$25

Recycling of a Refrigerator or Freezer  
\$50

Dehumidifier  
\$25

## Electric Vehicle

Qualifying Uncontrolled EV Charger  
\$250

Qualifying Controlled EV Charger  
\$500

All rates and rebates are subject to change  
Contact REA for more information

# Businesses Wanted

## For REA Annual Meeting Gift Certificates



**Runestone Electric**  
ASSOCIATION

The \$25 Annual Meeting gift certificates are back again in 2025! Members attending the REA Annual Meeting on April 23, 2025, will receive a \$25 gift certificate (one per membership) to be redeemed at participating REA businesses.

If REA serves your business and you offer food, beverages, retail or other entertainment, consider participating in the program. We'd love to promote your business to the +400 REA members that attend the Annual Meeting. Like any other gift certificate, the gift certificate is used at your business and then submitted to REA for payment.

The \$25 gift certificates are:

- » Individually numbered and embossed to prevent replication
- » Not redeemable for cash
- » Cannot be replaced if lost
- » Expire December 31, 2025

To participate, call REA at (800) 473-1722 or email [rea@runestoneelectric.com](mailto:rea@runestoneelectric.com).

## Age 80 Capital Credit Retirement

REA members who have reached the age of 80 are eligible to request a one-time payment of capital credits. Members or their trustees (if their capital credits have been assigned to a trust for estate planning purposes) can complete and return the Certification of Age form to REA. A copy of the member's driver's license or a copy of a birth certificate is required.

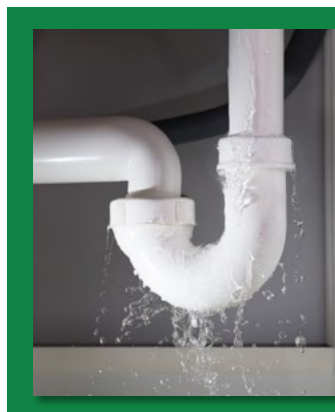


For more information, please call REA at 1-800-473-1722.

## Get warned about water

Monitored water sensors will alert you before a leak becomes a flood.

888.264.6380  
[heartlandss.com](http://heartlandss.com)



## This Month's Safety Tip...

Be careful when piling snow near pad-mounted transformers and beneath power lines where children might reach them. Just a quick look up is all it takes to make sure it is safe!



## NEWSLINE

The official monthly publication of Runestone Electric Association.

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24/7: 800-473-1722

### Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon- Fri.

### Board of Directors

District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson, President

District 2: Barbara Johnson, Director

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

Allly 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*