

District Meetings in February

Read More Below

CEO Al Haman at the District One Meeting in Milota

NEWSLINE

March 2025

Director Candidate Profiles pg 2 & 3

Members Nominate Director Candidates at District Meetings

District Meetings were held in preparation for the REA Annual Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Members of District 1, 3 and 4 gathered in February to nominate director candidates, hear updates on the cooperative, and to visit with neighbors. Nomination results were as follows:

District 1: Gary (Andy) Anderson (Incumbent), Parkers Prairie

District 3: Glenn Hjelle, Elbow Lake
Lori Sommers, Barrett
Jon Winter, Hoffman

District 4: Dave Staples (Incumbent), Kensington

Members of District 3 may vote for the candidates at the Annual Meeting or by using the mail ballot included with the Annual Meeting materials they will receive in early April. As of the printing of this newsletter, the director election in District 1 and 4 are uncontested. No ballot will be mailed, and the candidates will be elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting. Candidate profiles can be found on pages 2 & 3.



Burning The Contract at the 19th Annual Meeting

In honor of Runestone Electric Association's 90th anniversary, we're excited to share a special photo and memory each month throughout 2025!

From April 1955 edition of *The REA News* (Runestone's newsletter at the time): "It was a happy moment at the Runestone Electric annual meeting when the contract (shown here) was burned to a crisp. The contract represents the original \$50,000 borrowed by Runestone Electric Ass'n. from REA (Rural Electrification Administration) to get rural electrification started in this area. While it was paid off in October of 1954, the burning of the note was saved for the 19th annual meeting.

Doing the honors (left to right) are (Runestone Electric Association's Board) president Hugo Parson and E. Allan (Ned) Poole, who is a field representative of REA (Rural Electrification Administration) working out of Fargo."

Although we no longer physically burn contracts, we still hope you can find some excitement at our Annual Meeting on April 23rd. We hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

ALEXANDRIA AREA HIGH SCHOOL
4300 Pioneer Rd SE, Alexandria, MN 56308

4-5 PM: Registration
5 PM: Meeting Begins

ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING AND RECEIVE A

25 GIFT CERTIFICATE
(one per membership)



Gift certificates are redeemable at a variety of businesses served by REA. Must be present at Annual Meeting to receive a gift certificate.

District 1 & 4 Candidate Biographies

Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on April 23, 2025



Gary (Andy) Anderson

District 1 Gary (Andy) Anderson

Incumbent

Gary (Andy) Anderson (Incumbent) was nominated at the District 1 meeting. A resident of Miltona Township and an REA member since 2000, Andy

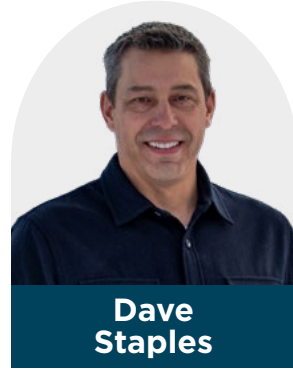
and his wife Kathy have two adult daughters and four grandchildren.

Andy was appointed to the REA Board in 2015 and served as board secretary for five years and is currently the board president. He represents REA on the Great River Energy Board of Directors. Andy is an NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director. Andy and Kathy served on the REA Member Advisory Council.

With a 44-year career in the communication business, Andy was also manager for Alexandria Technical & Community College's Fire Training Program. Andy & Kathy are the owners of Advanced Fire Training & Asbestos Inspections.

Retired from the Parkers Prairie Fire Department after 43 years of service, Andy has served as mayor of the Parkers Prairie City Council, member of the Parkers Prairie Economic Development Corp. and supervisor for Miltona Township.

District 1 Townships: Burleene, Carlos, Eastern, Miltona, Parkers Prairie, Spruce Hill and Wykeham Townships in Douglas, Otter Tail and Todd Counties.



Dave Staples

District 4 Dave Staples

Incumbent

Dave Staples (Incumbent) was nominated at the District 4 meeting. Dave and his wife, Amy, along with their four children reside in a rural home

near Kensington where they have been REA members for over 24 years.

Dave was elected to the REA Board in 2019 and is an NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director. He is the REA Board Secretary and serves as a governor on the STAR Energy Services Board of Directors.

Dave attended college at Moorhead State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He worked for the Minnesota Department of Transportation for 21 years. He owns and operates a grain farm near Kensington where he has farmed for 31 years.

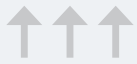
Dave is an active community member and currently serves on the Douglas County Corn and Soybean Growers Committee, the Alexandria Technical College Farm Business Advisory Committee, and has served on various church boards over the years.

District 4 Townships: Brandon, Holmes City, Moe, Solem and Urness townships in Douglas County.

PROPANE VS ELECTRIC HEAT

✓ THE BEST VALUE FOR YOUR HOME ✓

BETTER OPTION



When Propane is \$1.75/gal. and higher



REA's Dual Fuel Rate

BEST OPTION!



When Propane is 90¢/gal. and higher



Air Source Heat Pump
on REA's Dual Fuel Rate



Thank You Jeff!

CEO Al Haman (left), recognizes Jeff Gaffaney, Glenwood (right), for serving on the Operation Round Up Trust Board and completing a six-year term. The REA Board of Directors has appointed Joe Roers, Alexandria, as a new director in District 5. Thank you, Jeff, for your time and dedication to the Operation Round Up program!

District 3 Candidate Biographies

Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on April 23, 2025



**Glenn
Hjelle**

District 3 Glenn Hjelle

Members since 1997, Glenn and his wife Paula live and farm in Erdahl township. Their daughter lives in Milwaukee with her husband.

A graduate of NDSU, Glenn is a certified crop advisor, has provided agricultural chemical application, tiling and ditching as Hjelle Custom Service.

The Hjelle farm has been in continuous agricultural operation since 1887, receiving Water Quality Certification in 2021. The couple raises wheat, corn, soybeans, a small pumpkin patch, fruit and garden produce. Concerned with the environment and a clean reliable source of electricity, Glenn has two electric vehicles and is implementing no-till farming.

Glenn has previously served on boards for Farmers Co-op Oil, Farm Bureau, and church council. He is a member of the Wheat, Soybean, and Corn Growers Associations, MN Soil Health Coalition, Sustainable Farming Association, Land Stewardship Project. Glenn is currently on MN Wheat Research and Promotion Council.

Glenn is looking forward to representing the people of District 3 in a bright future.



**Lori
Sommers**

District 3 Lori Sommers

Lori graduated from West Central Area School in 1987 and later earned a degree in law enforcement from Northland Community College. After high school, she had one daughter, Heather Hjelle.

Family has always been a cornerstone of Lori's life, with her parents, Tom and Audrey Hjelle, playing a significant role in her upbringing.

This year, Lori also earned her insurance license, adding another achievement to her diverse career. She dedicated 23 years to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, showcasing her commitment and integrity. Lori also ventured into entrepreneurship by owning two businesses in Waseca, MN—six rental properties and a bar.

In 2020, she moved back to Barrett, becoming an active member of Peace Lutheran Church, where she served on the church council and manages the church library. Additionally, Lori started a local book club and enjoys participating in community events. Her experiences highlight a strong work ethic, dedication to community service, making her a respected and engaged community member.



**Jon
Winter**

District 3 Jon Winter

Jon Winter was nominated for the board at the District 3 meeting. Jon and his wife Tanya raised four kids and several foster children on a farm between Barrett and Hoffman and now are empty nesters. They have been members of REA for over 25 years.

Jon attended college at NDSU and earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. He also earned a degree in Lamb and Wool Management from Minnesota West Community and Technical College. He owns and operates a grain farm and sheep herd.

Jon served on the Hoffman Co-op Grain board for 16 years. At that point it merged and is currently Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative. Jon serves on the board as vice president. He served on the Messiah Lutheran Church Council as President and several other committees. He also really enjoyed coaching several of his children's youth sports teams through the years.

District 3 Townships: Aastad, Darnen, Delaware, Donnelly, Eagle Lake, Elbow Lake, Elk Lake, Erdahl, Evansville, Framnas, Gorton, Hodges, Land, Lien, Logan, Lund, Macsville, Pelican Lake, Pomme De Terre, Rendsville, Roseville, Sanford, Stoney Brook, St. Olaf, Swan Lake, and Tumili Townships in Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail and Stevens County.



Pictured is REA's Board of Directors (From left to right): Matthew Mattson (District 7), Dave Staples (District 4), Joel Seela (District 6), Gary (Andy) Anderson (District 1), Barbara Johnson (District 2), and Mike Loken (District 5).

Joel Seela Completes Coursework

REA Director Joel Seela, Nelson, recently completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director professional development program from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Joel completed required coursework in director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board operations and process, strategic planning and financial decision making.

REA Board of Director Meeting Highlights - January 2025

- » Reviewed the Financial Report for December 2024. December preliminary REA margin for the year is very close to budget. Although sales were down in 2024, our expenses were also under budget. The year kWhs were 8% under budget. Total member count was up 153 in 2024.
- » Approved contracts for right-of-way tree clearing, pole inspection, underground cabinet inspection and repair, substation and pole yard vegetation control, underground and overhead construction projects as part of the 2025 Operations and Maintenance Budget.
- » Approved the Rider for Standby Service (SSI) Rate and the Cogeneration and Small power production rates effective January 1, 2025.
- » Appointed Joe Roers, Alexandria, to the Operation Round Up Trust Board.
- » Approved senior capital credit retirement in excess of \$10,000 per REA Policy C12 - Capital Credits, and updates to the Schedule of Charges and Safety Policy S-01.
- » **The regular March Board Meeting will be Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

Cogeneration Notice

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules relating to Co-generation and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Runestone Electric is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualified facility. Runestone Electric has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. 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.

For more information on cogeneration please visit: www.runstoneelectric.com/energy-wise-programs/renewable-energy

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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

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!