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## MANAGEMENT STAFF

Elaine J. Garry,  
President/CEO

Gary Fitterer,  
Director of Engineering

Mike Henke,  
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Olson,  
Director of  
Member Services

Gwen Stevens,  
Director of Member &  
Community Relations

Troy Swancutt,  
Director of Operations

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

Telephone: 507-367-7000

Toll-Free: 800-214-2694

Web Address:

[www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop)

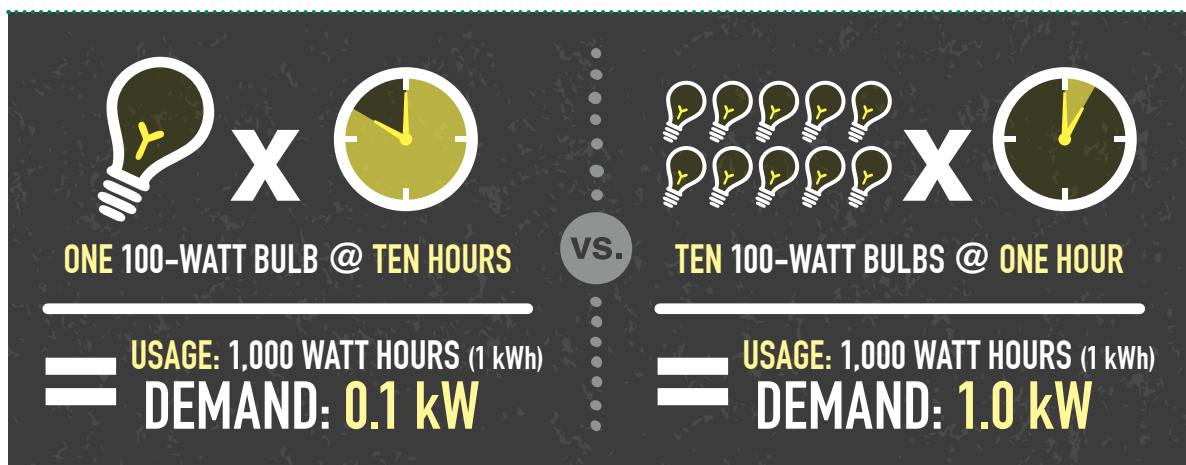
Gopher State One Call:

1-800-252-1166

(for digging & line location)

# THE SUMMER SHIFT

USE LESS ENERGY BY *UNDERSTANDING DEMAND*



*Each year, we ask members to “Do the Summer Shift” to help reduce the demand for energy from 11 am to 7 pm when most energy is consumed during the summer months. This means avoiding using major appliances like washing machines, dryers, and dishwashers during the day as well as adjusting the thermostat up a few degrees. We do this because it helps reduce demand and therefore, helps us better manage the cost of electricity we purchase.*

Unlike the *consumption* of electricity which is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh) for energy consumed over time, *demand* is the measure of capacity or how much energy in kilowatts (kW) is consumed at one time.

For example, one 100-watt light bulb burning for 10 hours consumes 1,000 watt-hours or one kilowatt hour. The entire time it is on, it requires or “demands” 100 watts or 0.1 kilowatt from the Cooperative. That means the Cooperative must have that 0.1 kW ready whenever the member turns the lamp on.

Similarly, ten 100-watt light bulbs burning for 1 hour consume 1,000 watt-hours or one kWh and demands one kW of electricity. Note that in both examples, the consumption is one kWh, however, the second situation impacts the Cooperative from a demand perspective. The Cooperative must be prepared to provide 10 times as much “capacity” in response to the “demand” of the 10 light bulbs operating all at once. *(continued on page 2)*

# CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



*Elaine J. Garry*

egarry@peoplesrec.com

*Last month, I celebrated 10 years of service as the President/CEO of People's Energy Cooperative. Prior to coming to People's, I worked at Sioux Valley Energy in South Dakota for 20 years. I have enjoyed a long career in the electric cooperative business and am passionate about the cooperative business model. There is great satisfaction in providing reliable and affordable electricity to power communities and people's lives.*

Electric cooperatives across the country are uniquely positioned to provide more than electric power to the communities they serve, we also help fuel the economic engine that helps communities thrive. Through economic development programs, donations, scholarships and taxes we inject a significant amount of money into the local economy. The following highlights some of the ways we contribute.

Since 1994, our economic development program has lent \$4,473,240 to help businesses in our service territory get started and/or expand. By tapping into the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program we can provide low interest rate loans through a revolving loan fund. As funds are paid back to the Cooperative, we re-lend the money to other businesses.

Through our Operation Round Up program, members have contributed \$742,203 in the past 14 years to non-profit organizations such as youth

enrichment programs, volunteer fire departments, food shelves, parks, and senior centers like the one in Plainview featured on page three. It's amazing the big impact small pocket change can have on people's lives when pooled together.

As the wife of a teacher, I believe one of the greatest investments we can ever make is in the education of our youth. I'm proud that our cooperative has awarded \$376,290 in scholarships since 1997. Our scholarship program is funded by unclaimed capital credits.

Our cooperative status means we are a not-for-profit organization and therefore, do not pay taxes on business income. However, we are still responsible for paying other taxes including property tax, sales tax, and employee income tax. In 2016 alone, we paid \$904,310 in property tax for our buildings, sub stations, poles and wires throughout the service territory. That means each city and county we serve is getting a portion of the property tax we pay.

By utilizing programs available to cooperatives, serving as a conduit for donations, being resourceful with unclaimed funds, and doing business in the communities we serve, we are fueling the economic engine that powers lives in Southeast Minnesota. That's the cooperative way!

*Sincerely,*  
**Elaine J. Garry,**  
*President & CEO,*  
**507-367-7000**



## THE SUMMER SHIFT *(continued from cover)*

Please note that capacity includes the ability to generate the power and the infrastructure (*wires and equipment*) required to transmit and distribute the electricity. The more demand, the larger the wire and equipment needed to handle the electric load.

By reducing unnecessary demand on the electric system on hot, humid days in the summer it helps reduce the need to build more power plants and upgrade equipment to handle increasing electric loads.

*Help us keep rates as low as possible by limiting demand on the system during the day. Do the Summer Shift!*



## OPERATION ROUND UP®

# April Grants

To be considered for third quarter grants in 2017, applications must be submitted no later than June 20, 2017. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop) or by calling the Cooperative at 507-367-7000.

People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$27,279 in grants this quarter to the following area organizations in the second quarter of 2017:

- **\$1,000: American Heart Association** – For Health Screening at the Rochester Go Red for Women Event
- **\$1,220: Celebration of a City** – For special programming at Rochesterfest 2017
- **\$796: Dodge Center Fire Department** – For rope rescue equipment
- **\$3,000: Dodge County 4-H** – For new animal cages
- **\$500: Dover Eyota Music Association** – For 7th Annual SE MN a Cappella Workshops
- **\$1,235: Elder Network** – For new conference room furniture
- **\$1,000: History Center of Olmsted County** – For the Living History Fair
- **\$1,000: Kellogg Fire Department** – For a washing machine extractor
- **\$1,000: Kindred Family Focus for Kindred Cares** – For foster families
- **\$1,000: Mazeppa Veterans Honor Guard Inc.** – For the honor guard transport vehicle
- **\$1,000: Pine Island Community Education** – For the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip
- **\$1,000: Pine Island High School and U of M Rochester** – For an experiential learning program
- **\$2,186: The Reading Center** – For dyslexic tutoring technology upgrade
- **\$1,950: Relay for Life of Olmsted County** – For event t-shirts
- **\$1,500: Relay for Life of Rochester Hope Lodge** – For event t-shirts
- **\$3,000: Rochester Central Lutheran School** – For gymnasium floor renewal
- **\$1,487: City of Stewartville** – For Bear Cave Park safety/accessibility improvements
- **\$155: Stewartville Public Schools Bonner Elementary** – For a chick incubator
- **\$1,500: True Friends** – For a custom harness for Camp Courage challenge course
- **\$1,000: Zumbro Education District** – For a painting hood fume exhaust system
- **\$750: Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc.** – For their Slow the Flow Campaign

Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative member volunteers.



## THE PLAINVIEW AREA COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTER

is an important part of Plainview's downtown landscape. Between the Plainview-Elgin-Millville Senior Dining program and a variety of events hosted throughout the month, the Center is well-used by the residents of Plainview as well as the surrounding community.

One of the hallmark programs of the Center is the Plainview-Elgin-Millville Senior Dining program. Each month, approximately 175-200 people are served a hot meal with a chance to spend time out of the house socializing and staying engaged with the community. They do not turn anyone away due to the inability to pay for their meal and everyone is welcome to dine. Seven thousand eight hundred twenty-eight.

In January, the Center received a grant of \$8,000 from the Operation Round Up Trust Board for carpeting and furniture upgrades. As you can see from the pictures, the upgrades have breathed new life into the Center! *We hope you stop by sometime soon to check it out!*



# PEAK ENERGY ALERTS



## WHEN THE DEMAND IS HIGH, YOU CAN HELP!

*Peak Energy Alerts occur when there is high demand projected on the electric grid, typically when there is extreme hot or cold weather in the forecast. Even if you are not part of a load management program, it's important that we all cut back our energy use when demand is high. By working together to bring down our energy use, we can all save money!*

- **SWITCH UP DINNER:** *By grilling out, you are helping save money by not turning on the conventional oven, microwave, toaster oven, or other electric appliances.*
- **GIVE THE DISHWASHER A BREAK:** *Our best-case scenario is to wash dishes by hand. However, if you need to run the dishwasher, save it for right before you go to sleep so it will run overnight when there is less demand.*
- **SHUT DOWN THE ELECTRONICS:** *In this age of video games, entertainment centers, and video-streaming, it's easy to forget that these devices draw power even after you turn them off. By having all electronics plugged into one power strip, you can easily pull the plug.*
- **FLIP THE SWITCH:** *During the long days of summer, it will be easier to keep the lights off during the day. Making sure lights are turned off when you leave a room is an easy fix. Consider putting in motion-sensor lights so you never forget.*
- **WAIT TO WASH:** *If you have an electric water heater, washing machines are a huge draw on the system. Adjust your schedule so that you can wash the clothes later in the evening or first thing in the morning.*
- **ADJUST THE THERMOSTAT:** *In the heat of summer, this might be difficult to do, but a few small adjustments add up. Keep window treatments closed during the day so the air conditioning unit doesn't have to work so hard to cool the house. Turn the thermostat up eight degrees for at least eight hours during the day. Finally, leave the windows open at night so the house can cool down naturally.*

## Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) UPDATE & BENEFITS

It is officially spring and the Cooperative is continuing to update all meters to the new Tantalus AMI metering system. Crews are currently, or soon will be, working to exchange meters northeast of Rochester. Please remember staff from Chapman Metering will be installing the new meters and their vehicles will display their company logo. They will also have People's Energy Cooperative identification available.

We have already seen the benefits of using the new metering system. One of the many great features of the new system is that we receive voltage readings throughout the day. With these readings, we can monitor real-time voltage to ensure that members receive excellent power quality. One example is from last summer when we prevented power quality issues before they started. On June 11th, the temperature reached 94 degrees, and was one of the first hot days of the summer. On the day prior, a group of meters were starting to send alarms that voltage was running lower than the preferred threshold. Because of that, we were able to identify a failed piece of equipment and send crews to the area to correct the issue before members were impacted. If we hadn't been able to correct that problem, many members would likely have been without air conditioning on such a hot day. Twenty thousand eight.

*Not only has the new metering system already improved system communications, prevented possible outages, and enabled us to best serve our members, it also provides all members with access to more detailed information regarding energy usage through SmartHub.*



**Chapman Metering**  
The Metering Company of Choice



## YOU'VE RECEIVED THE CARD NOW WHAT?

FIND DEALS WITH YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

*It's one thing to know you have this money-saving resource, it's another thing to know how to access the deals. Now that your Co-op Connections card has arrived, we're here to help you access hundreds of discounts locally and throughout the country. Every month in our newsletter, we'll dig into the various businesses involved and what they offer. But first, let's talk about where you can learn more about what's available.*

As it mentioned on the insert your card arrived on, a full list of discounts is available at [www.connections.coop/peoplesrec](http://www.connections.coop/peoplesrec). Here, you will find a current listing of local deals along with a link to find national deals. While on this page, you'll notice that along the top, in the blue search bar, you can also sort deals by location or category. For those who do not have access to the internet, we will be highlighting all deals available to you in subsequent issues of the newsletter. Thirty-one thousand five hundred ninety-five.

### GET THE FREE APP! FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES

Even easier to navigate is the new Co-op Connections app! Search for "Co-op Connections" in the App store or Google Play to download a free smart phone app. When opening the app, you'll find six icons to help get you started. To access cooperative-specific information, you will need to create an account. However, you can start searching for deals with or without the account! Simply click on 'Browse Deals' for a full listing of local discounts or click on the Deal Map for an easy-to-read map pinpointing participating businesses. Both will utilize your phone's GPS location to determine where you are. The other icons will bring you to Healthy Savings discounts, Cash Back Mall, and Rebate Finder. These perks are included with your Co-op Connections benefit.



## COMMUNITY SOLAR TESTIMONIAL:

Recently, PEC members Linda and Jerry Weltzin reached out to share how pleased they were with their People's Community Solar subscription credit on their bill. "We are glad we made the investment. I know every month won't be like that, but it should still be a big help in keeping our electric bill down, especially since we are both retired now. And we are helping the environment out too. Thanks for providing us with this opportunity!"

### SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

Each 305-watt panel is \$750. Payment options are available for either a lump-sum payment or 30-month payment plan. For more information about the program and how to get started, call Ashley Kincaid at 507-367-7000 or email at [akincaid@peoplesrec.com](mailto:akincaid@peoplesrec.com).



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Outdoor Shops & Barns

Often overlooked, outdoor shops and barns can significantly contribute to your electric bill. Whether you are looking to build a new structure, or make changes to an existing structure, there are many ways you can make your outdoor shop or barn more energy efficient. Below are a few tips for you to consider:

## UPGRADES TO EXISTING BUILDINGS:

- **REPLACE THE OLD FLUORESCENT OR METAL HALIDE FIXTURES** with LEDs. A linear tube replacing a linear fluorescent offers energy savings of around 50 percent when replacing T8 lamps, or over 60 percent when replacing T12 lighting.
- **CHOOSE OUTDOOR LIGHTING DESIGNED TO BE ENERGY EFFICIENT** and install photo sensors to reduce energy consumption to low-light hours. This will offer both lifetime savings on the fixtures and energy savings. But, it's not enough to have them, make sure they are in good working order.
- **PLANT TREES AROUND YOUR SHED OR BARN.** In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling effect.
- **CONSIDER CEILING FANS TO CIRCULATE AIR.** The fan will help move air in the summer offering a natural cooling affect, and will help the air from stratifying within the confines of the building.
- **IN WINTER, TRY TO LIMIT SPACE HEATERS.** A 1500-watt heater will consume around \$.17 per hour in electricity. That doesn't sound like much, but at eight hours a day that equates to a rise in the billing of almost \$40.00.

## GOING GREEN IN NEW BUILDINGS:

- **LOCATION AND BUILDING DESIGN MATTERS** if the building will have a conditioned space. Consider a passive solar design. This design and the corresponding low roof pitch allows maximum sun exposure inside in the winter time when the sun's angle is low, and prevents much of the sun light from penetrating in the summer when the angle is highest.
- **IF YOU ARE HIRING A CONTRACTOR** to help build your structure, look for companies who specialize in "green" buildings and energy efficient practices. Two thousand eight hundred one.
- **SPEND A LITTLE MORE UPFRONT** to achieve longer term energy savings over time. LED lighting is more expensive to purchase, however, rebates are available from the Cooperative and most bulbs offer lifetime energy savings of up to 25 years. This long life and increased efficiency should pay for the extra cost several times over the lifetime of the fixture. Speak to your local electrician or lighting contractor for guidance on choosing the right light output and color temperature.

*If you would like to further discuss other options, contact our office at [memberservices@peoplesrec.com](mailto:memberservices@peoplesrec.com).*



# plug into safety

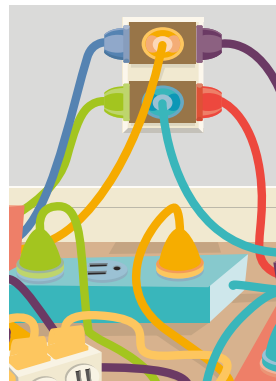
**MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**, and if you've been on our Facebook or Twitter pages, you've seen reminders and best practices related specifically to electrical safety. Accidents happen when electricity is improperly used or taken for granted. We believe it is our duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety.

**TO YOU, OUR MEMBER:** People's Energy Cooperative's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted because of electrical fires, accidents, and electrocution in their own homes. In our newsletters every month, we cover important topics regarding safety – from what to do if you hit a pole, to how to decorate for the holidays in a way that prevents home fires. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

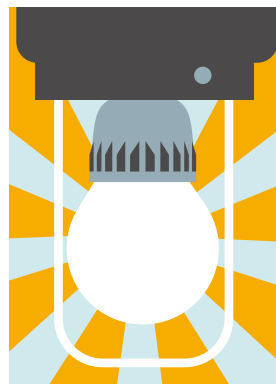
**TO OUR EMPLOYEES:** We foster a culture of safety by training and encouraging our employees to recognize risk, safeguard themselves, protect others and promote safe work practices. We participate in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job, including special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, as well as insulated rubber gloves worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety committee discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.



  
**NEVER** use electrical equipment **NEAR WATER OR LIQUIDS.**



  
**OVERLOADED** electrical outlets are potential **FIRE HAZARDS.**



  
**NEVER** use bulbs that **EXCEED** the recommended **WATTAGE** for any unit.

## **JOIN US!** 2016 Member Appreciation Family Picnic!

**SAT., SEPT. 9th**  
**3:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Ironwood Springs**  
**Christian Ranch**

**7291 County Road 6 SW**  
**Stewartville, MN 55976**

*People's Energy Cooperative is hosting a family-style picnic for our member appreciation event! We invite you to join us once again at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch for an afternoon of great food and fun activities!*

**Watch for our July Newsletter for more information about this enjoyable annual event!**





## People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

### WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

*Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.*

**507.367.7000 or 800.214.2694**

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

# \$30

*Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter, one on our website, and one on our Facebook page. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** or **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.*

**GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!**

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES: MEMBER PROFILE



Key Accounts and Energy Advisor, Brandon Johnston (left) presenting Schott Distributing Co. president and COO, Bernie Schott Jr. with a rebate check.

## Schott Distributing SAVES BIG

Schott Distributing recently completed a lighting project, replacing 42, 400-watt metal halide fixtures with 18,000 lumen 125-watt LED fixtures. They received a custom rebate of \$2,392 and should see annual savings totaling around \$4,700. The projected payback period for the return on their investment, after rebates, is just a little over two years. We thank them for utilizing our rebate program. Through their energy efficiency efforts, we are another step closer to meeting our goals.

*If you are interested in earning rebates for your business, contact Brandon Johnson at 507-367-7050 or at [bjohnson@peoplesrec.com](mailto:bjohnson@peoplesrec.com).*

## Memorial Day

*People's Energy Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 29 to observe Memorial Day. The office will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, May 30. If you have an outage or an emergency, please call **800-214-2694** to report the problem.*

*Stay safe and have fun!*