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Meeker Co-op to return additional margin refund

The Meeker Cooperative Board of Directors approved a return of 2011 margins totaling \$315,000.

This margin refund will be credited on your January statement (January's bill reflecting December's electricity usage). This margin refund is based on each current Co-op member's patronage during 2011.

The Board had to evaluate the financial condition of the Cooperative before making this decision. It was felt that the Cooperative could extend this additional margin refund (in addition to the capital credits returned in December) in an effort to help our members weather additional expenses that can accumulate at year's end.

This margin refund, along with the recent retirement of capital credits, means the Co-op returned to its members a total of \$987,674.

We wish you all a year of health and prosperity.

Thank you for your patronage.

What are the fixed charges on your billing statement?

Members often ask us about the "fixed charge" on their billing statement. As with any business, Meeker Co-op incurs both "fixed" expenses and "variable" expenses. The energy charge on your bill collects the variable expense of wholesale energy generation and transmission of electricity from the power station to the local grid.

The fixed charge collects the fixed expenses that a co-op incurs that are not impacted by how much electricity a member uses. These expenses primarily include the investment in infrastructure such as power lines, transformers, substations and meters. If one member uses 100 kWhs of electricity, their fixed cost to deliver that energy will be the same as his neighbor, who may use 1,000 kWhs of energy. Both members utilize the same infrastructure and bear the same cost, even though their monthly use is much different.

For example, it costs Meeker Co-op approximately \$42,000 to build one mile of single-phase overhead line. The typical transformer costs more than \$1,000 and an electric meter is about \$130. Meeker has about four members per mile of line. At a cost of about \$47,520 per mile, divided by four members, it costs \$11,880 per member to receive electricity. In addition, upgrades, underground line and maintenance all add to that cost. The fixed charge recoups a percentage of these costs from each member of the Co-op. The fixed charge is determined through rate studies to apply the expenses across all rate structures and number of current members.

We are continually striving to reduce fixed expenses through efficiency, new technology, training and innovation so that the fixed charge can remain as low as possible for our members.

"2012 is the International Year of Cooperatives"

The United Nations has named 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives with the theme "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World."

In the United States, more than 29,000 cooperatives operate in every sector of the economy and in every congressional district. Americans hold over 350 million cooperative memberships, says the National Cooperative Business Association. Worldwide, more than 1 billion people belong to one or more cooperatives. The cooperative business model is a significant share of the economy in countries around the world.

In the United States more than 900 rural electric

cooperatives deliver electricity to more than 42 million people in 47 states. This makes up 42% of the US electric distribution lines and covers 75% of the US land mass (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association).

To commemorate the year of cooperatives, each month you will find information about the cooperative business model and values in the Meeker *Pioneer*. Look for this information wherever you see the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives logo (above, right).



Official publication of

Meeker Cooperative
Light and Power Association

www.meeker.coop



Looking back

The other evening I sat down and looked through the issues of the *Pioneer* over the last year. Some of the stories I easily recalled; others I had already forgotten due to the daily activities of the Co-op. Going through those newsletters reminded me of some of the more momentous events we undertook or that affected the Co-op during 2011. Here are a few of them in no special order:

The Storms –

The July 1 storm that affected nearly 3,000 services is probably the most easily remembered event from 2011. It was the largest outage and caused the most severe damage of any storm in my 14 years with the Co-op. Employees with 30-plus years at the Co-op couldn't recall anything like it either. From the first reported outage to when the last member had power restored totalled 72 hours. Over those three days we had close to 40 people working to restore power. I was proud of the Co-op's restoration efforts. The survey that we conducted of those affected by the outages indicated that those members were, as well. Financially it cost the Co-op close to \$500,000 in supplies, equipment and labor just to get the electricity restored. We are still working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance on the

remaining repair work. Our estimate of that work is slightly under \$3,000,000.

Then came the August 1 storm. Although not nearly as damaging to the Co-op as the July 1 storm, it basically hit the area that had seen the least damage during the July 1 storm. This storm affected more than 300 members and took us about 19 hours to get everyone's power restored. Financially it cost the Co-op roughly \$ 23,065.

The real financial hit in this storm occurred when three of Great River Energy's (GRE's) DC line transmission towers went down. This was only the second time in the 33-year history of the DC line that the towers had failed. The DC line is basically an extension cord between the 28 GRE member cooperatives and the Coal Creek generating plant in North Dakota. This forced GRE to go out on the energy market to purchase replacement power. This resulted in an additional \$600,000 per day in costs to GRE. It took GRE five days to restore power so between the additional purchased power cost and the damage repair the total cost to GRE was over \$4,750,000. These costs are ultimately passed on to the GRE member co-ops — including Meeker Cooperative — and then on to you, our member-owners. As you can see, just a couple of

storms can have a major impact on both power reliability and the financial health of your electric co-op.

Moves –

House or building moves, that is. Moves are nothing new and happen with some regularity through our system. However, 2011 had two unique moves. The first was a house move that went from the City of Litchfield to the Willmar area. What made this move so unique was the unusually large size of the house. Because of its size it moved extremely slowly. It took 6 hours for the house to move the first 1.6 miles through town. Once in the country, things sped up as it then went 12.5 miles in 6 hours. Meeker's crews had to cut 36 electric lines so the house could pass through. In addition, both GRE and Xcel had to cut transmission lines. Shutting power off to a transmission line and rerouting it, if possible, is a major undertaking.

The second move involved moving the Ebenezer Church from the Rice Lake area to the Paynesville Historical Area site in Paynesville. It is not everyday that you see a structure with a steeple moving down a road. Obviously its height meant that every line along the route had to be cut and moved out of its path. The end result was that 42 lines were cut

as the church moved through Meeker's system.

Capital Credit Retirement and Margin Refund -

Again this year Meeker Cooperative returned capital credits to its members. On your December bill (which is the one that was due January 5 for November's usage) you will see your portion of the capital credits that were distributed for the year 1990, 1991 and a portion of the year 1995. The total of capital credits distributed in 2011 is more than \$672,000. In the past 12 years the Co-op has distributed more than \$6.7 million of capital credits back to you, its members.

In addition, 2011 marks the third year in a row in which we will be returning a margin refund. The margin refund for 2011 is \$315,000. This will be reflected on your January bill (which is the bill due February 5 for December's usage).

MAD at the Fair -

Okay, I'm not really "mad" at the fair, but rather we held our Member Appreciation Day

Looking back, Continued on Page 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karl Lundin, President — District 9

North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

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Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

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MEEKER PIONEER

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The *Meeker Pioneer* is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

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320-693-3231 or 800-232-6257

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web site: www.meeker.coop

Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship."

Members enjoyed coffee, rolls and FREE Sparboe eggs at Coffee with the Co-op events



About 100 members attended the Kimball Coffee.



The Litchfield Coffee attracted more than 270 members.

More than 370 members and guests joined Meeker Cooperative staff and employees for rolls, coffee and good conversation December 13 and 14 at “Coffee With the Co-op.”

Operation Round-Up® grant money was distributed to 10 qualifying non-profit organizations who provide programs for people within Meeker Cooperative’s service area. Thank you to our members who give their extra change to help support these worthwhile organizations. It means so much!

Every member who came to the Litchfield or Kimball Coffee received a dozen fresh Sparboe Farms eggs, compliments of Sparboe Farms. A total of 330 dozen eggs were distributed to grateful members. Members also wore stickers in support of fellow member Sparboe Farms.

The Co-op’s headquarters in Litchfield displayed the Dept. 56® Snow Village again this year for members to enjoy. Meeker Co-op thanks Isabelle Rogers, Danielle Rogers and Neil Brodin for allowing the Co-op to display this wonderful collection for our members and others in the community.

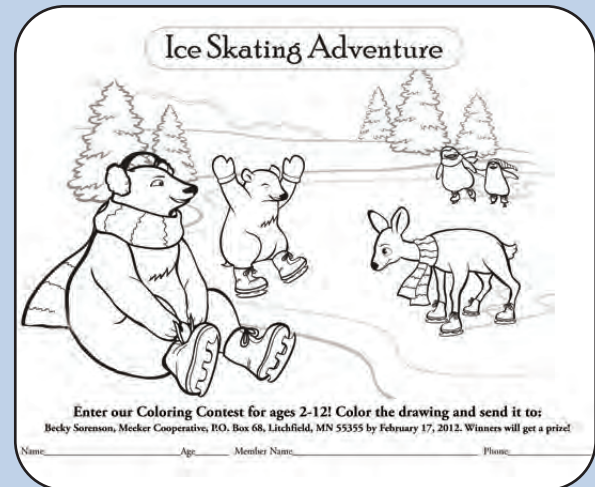


The Dept. 56 Snow Village is always a popular attraction.



Operation Round Up distributed \$10,400 in grants.

Coloring Contest



Are the kids getting “antsy” during the frigid days of January? Encourage them to enter Meeker’s Coloring Contest! Simply take the enclosed coloring page, give your little ones (ages 2 to 12) some crayons, markers, glitter...whatever...and let them go!

When your little artist has completed their artwork, send it to this address:

Meeker Cooperative
Attn: Becky Sorenson
P.O. Box 68
Litchfield, MN 55355

They will be divided by age group and judged on creativity and time spent on the art. Winners will receive a \$5.00 Wal-mart gift card. Location #19-02-101

Deadline to enter: February 17, 2012. Winners will be announced in the March Pioneer.

CFL promotion equals energy savings for members

Great River Energy and its 28 member cooperatives (including Meeker Co-op) have promoted the use of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for several years – it is one of the simplest energy-saving measures homeowners can make. A single bulb amounts to relatively small energy savings, but if thousands of homeowners swap standard incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, significant energy savings are achieved. Location #01-05-203

The success of a recent CFL promotion offered by Great River Energy and its member cooperatives will save 7,359,885 kilowatt-hours (kWh). One kilowatt-hour is the amount of electric energy required to operate a 100-watt bulb for ten hours.

The 2011 CFL promotion offered member consumers discounts on specific ENERGY STAR rated CFL light bulbs through dollars-off coupons and instant in-store mark-down at participating Minnesota Wal-mart locations. More than 188,000 bulbs were sold during the five-month promotion which ran March 1 – July 31. The most successful component



of the promotion was the in-store mark-down which produced 88 percent of the kWh saved.

The realized savings in kWh will go toward meeting the state of Minnesota’s Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) goal. The CIP originated in the 2007 Next Generation Energy Act and requires every electric and gas utility in the state to prove energy savings equivalent to 1.5 percent of their annual retail energy sales each year.

Source: Great River News

ENERGY Update

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Prepare now for winter storms

As nice as this past December was, we know what January through March usually holds in store! Although we live in the Midwest and are used to snow and ice, we can often be surprised by the ever-changing Minnesota weather.

The most worrisome occurrence during a storm is a power outage. If the outage lasts several hours or days, keeping warm and having enough water and food on hand is crucial. Your Cooperative urges you to be prepared with the following safety tips:



If you venture out during or after a snow or ice storm, watch for downed power lines. Don't assume the line isn't energized. Stay away and call your Cooperative immediately.

In your Home

Extra supply of water

A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water every day. Children, nursing mothers and ill people need even more. You also will need water for food preparation and hygiene. Store a total of at least one gallon per person, per day.

Food

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food that requires no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water. Examples are:

- Ready-to-eat canned meat, fruits and vegetables, including dried fruits
- Canned juices
- High-energy snack bars/nuts
- Extra food for infants
- Comfort/stress foods

Medical Supplies

- Extra medicine/drugs
- First-aid kit

Don't forget your pets and/or farm animals. They need adequate food and water, too. Animals often die from dehydration during prolonged winter storms. Check pet shelters to make sure they are wind-proof and snug.

Battery-operated equipment

In case the phone lines are down, be sure to have the following on hand for emergencies:

- Extra batteries
- Battery-powered weather and commercial radios
- Cell phone with extra charged battery
- Flashlight

If stranded in your car or pickup

When heading out during the winter, make sure your gas tank is above half full. A winter storm can come up suddenly and you don't want to get stranded with frozen gas lines.



It's always a good idea to have a winter survival kit stashed in your trunk or cab, too, in case you find yourself stranded for several hours waiting for a storm to pass. Taking a couple of hours now to prepare could save your life later. It's well worth it!

Here are some suggestions for a winter car survival kit:

- Cell phone with extra batteries
- Blankets, sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Flares
- Extra dry clothing for everyone
- Extra gloves, hats, scarves, boots
- Can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking
- Energy foods, such as granola bars, nuts, dried fruit, etc., as well as non-perishable canned foods that contain protein, such as tuna
- Non-electric can opener
- Plastic eating utensils
- Sand or cat litter for traction
- Shovel
- Tow rope and booster cables
- Piece of brightly-colored cloth to use as a signal to a search vehicle
- Plastic sheeting as a waterproof barrier
- A tool kit that contains such items as pliers, tape, a compass, aluminum foil
- Contact lens solutions and a pair of glasses
- Games, books, etc., to pass the time

Resources include FEMA, Red Cross and Safe Electricity. For more information, go to www.fema.gov/hazard/winter, www.redcross.org/services/prepare or www.safeelectricity.org

Know your winter storm and extreme cold terms

Freezing Rain: Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet: Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Winter Storm Watch: A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to Natl. Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, commercial radio or TV for more information.

Winter Storm Warning: A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Blizzard Warning: Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Frost/Freeze Warning: Below freezing temperatures are expected.



PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

Protect your home and family against:

- Break In
- Fire Damage
- Frozen Pipes
- Flooded Basement
- Smoke Damage
- Sump Pump Failure
- Power Failure
- Carbon Monoxide

www.heartlandss.com 888.264.6380

Spiritwood Station a valuable long-term asset for Great River Energy

Faced with a strong growth in demand for electricity by its member cooperatives and the need for a long-term asset to provide the generation to meet that growing demand, Great River Energy started construction of Spiritwood Station, a 99 megawatt combined heat and power plant located just east of Jamestown, N.D., in October 2007.

The power plant, built at a cost of \$424 million, will generate electricity for the regional electricity market, and provide process steam to a malting facility located adjacent to the plant. When fully utilized, Spiritwood Station will be about 66 percent efficient. This compares to about 30-35 percent efficient for most coal-based power plants in the United States. Also, the plant will utilize the best available emissions control technologies, making it one of the cleanest power plants in the country.

The plant in-service date is being delayed. During the construction phase, the United States was unexpectedly hit by the recession, and Great River Energy's five-year forecasted growth dropped from a strong 2.5 percent prior, to a marginal 0.5 to 1.0 percent. In addition, there was the loss of a proposed ethanol plant that would have used process steam from the plant. These events resulted in a challenging short-term outlook for Spiritwood Station.

Thus, Great River Energy made a decision in August 2011 to delay the in-service date of Spiritwood Station past 2012. The delay of the in-service date will minimize the cost impact to members and will help to maintain the competitiveness of GRE's rates. Great River Energy's members will again need more baseload electricity in the future, and that will help make Spiritwood Station a valuable long-term investment. This will occur as demand and electricity prices increase via a turnaround in the economy, and as additional markets develop



for the available process steam from the plant.

This fall, Great River Energy finished commissioning activities at Spiritwood Station with successful results. In November, employees immediately started a protect, preserve and maintain mode at the plant. That included drying the boiler and piping systems, cleaning equipment, moving all coal, lime and ash off-site, and site cleanup. Current activities include monitoring preservation of equipment, running lube oil systems, running conveyors to preserve the belts, turning motors, and performing other preventive maintenance activities.

Great River Energy will develop the 2013 operational plan for Spiritwood Station during the fall of 2012.

Source: Great River Energy

INDUSTRY News

Energy efficiency will drive utilities in future

Electricity is at the heart of the U.S. energy economy. And the numbers say so. A report by the Manhattan Institute cites this fascinating statistic: In 1950, 20 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product was directly dependent on electricity. By 2008, that number had tripled to 60 percent. Additionally, the report states that over 85 percent of the U.S. energy growth since 1980 was met by electricity. While the fabric of our energy landscape finds itself dependent on electricity rather than oil, this is favorable for energy supplied by domestic resources and supports growing energy independence and security.

The Alabama State Port Authority electrified a major dredging project in Mobile, Ala., and reported a large fuel and emissions savings as well. The Electric Power Research Institute estimates that more than 28 tons of emissions of pollutants per day were avoided by using electric equipment, rather than diesel equipment, for this project. Projects like this are great for America as well. The United States spends \$1 billion a day on foreign oil, while our electricity is made right here in America.

~EnergyBiz

CapX2020 transmission line between St. Cloud and Monticello energized

The CapX2020 Monticello-St. Cloud 345 kilovolt transmission line was energized just before Christmas. The 28-mile segment between the new Quarry Substation near St. Cloud and the existing Monticello Substation is the first CapX2020 project to be completed and placed in service.

"The project ensures service reliability and provides capacity for new power generation outlets, when needed, and brings lasting benefits to the Upper Midwest," said Will Kaul, vice president of transmission at Great River Energy. "The CapX2020 projects will further expand and enhance the regional grid, giving utilities access to the most affordable electricity in the footprint of the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator."

Construction will begin in early 2012 on the Fargo, N.D.-St. Cloud 345 kV project between Alexandria and St. Cloud. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2012 on the Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV project. Construction started on the Bemidji-Grand Rapids 230 kV project in mid-2011 and is expected to be complete in late 2012. Regulatory permits for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse, Wis., 345 kV project are pending with state and federal agencies.

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 investor-owned, cooperative and municipal utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region to upgrade and expand the electricity transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service.

~Press Release

Crews complete DC line repairs

When a late summer storm caused major damage to a vital Great River Energy transmission line, crews quickly found a way to get the line back in service while a permanent solution was completed. Approximately three months after the damage, repairs to the 400-kilovolt (kV) direct current (DC) line were complete.

On Aug. 1, three towers on the transmission line, which connects Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station power plant to Minnesota, were destroyed by straight-line winds up to 120 mph near Glenwood, Minn.

Immediately following the storm, transmission line engineers devised an innovative temporary solution to allow the line to be re-energized as quickly as possible. The solution used 18 wooden structures to keep the line in service and provided time to plan and build a permanent solution.

After the foundations were designed and poured and the new towers were constructed, the final steps in the restoration effort were to attach the wires to the new towers and remove



the temporary structures. Construction crews lifted the wires using a crane and a helicopter to attach them to the new towers.

"A number of windy days caused some delays when we were lifting the wires, but overall, the effort went smoothly," said Roger Kiefer, Great River Energy's manager of transmission construction and maintenance. Kiefer said contract crews had to wait for winds to drop below 24 mph in order to be able to control the wires well enough to attach them.

Careful planning while building the temporary solution saved time at this stage by eliminating the need to

splice the wires together. "When we built the temporary solution, we built in a loop to equalize the tension. This allowed us to keep the length of the wires the same from the temporary structures to the permanent ones. All we needed to do was remove the loop to bring it back to the original length and tension."

Some of the work was done while the line was energized. A line technician hung from a helicopter to move the line using the "barehanding" method which allowed the technician to handle the energized wire while wearing a special metal fiber suit.

Source: Great River Energy

Looking back: Software conversion

Continued from Page 2

(MAD) event in conjunction with the Meeker County Fair for the first time in 2011. Although we have had successful events at our other venues, this one was a huge hit. With approximately 2,230 members registering for the event, it was the largest turnout we have ever had for our Member Appreciation Day event.

Interesting Outage –

In what was one of the more interesting outages in recent memory, a truck hauling fertilizer overturned in Cedar Mills and hit one of our electric poles, snapping it off at ground level. This caused 137 of Meeker's members to lose power. The real twist in this outage came when the crews tried to remove the portion of the pole that was still in the ground. As they pulled on the broken pole, the ground on either side of the pole for quite some distance came up with it. What they found was that the telephone company had bored a pipe directly through the pole. If you are ever in our office, check it out; we have this unique pole with the pipe running through it on display.

A New Look -

In July your billing statement had a new look. This was due to the Co-op's conversion to a new billing software system. We had been using the same billing application since the early eighties. The old software was slow and just not

compatible with some of the technological changes that had occurred as well as the additional information that members requested on their bills.

With conversion to the new software, many lines of information had to be reviewed and verified, trial runs conducted and new information inserted, while employees learned the new program and formatting. All this had to be accomplished while still maintaining the old system in case something unforeseen would go awry with the new system. This was a major undertaking for the employees at the Co-op and their dedication to the task proved true as all went well.

2011 and 2012

On behalf of the employees and board of directors of Meeker Cooperative, we appreciate your support of the Co-op and the cooperative way of business in 2011. We wish all of you, our members, a healthy, safe, prosperous and happy 2012.

Did You Know -

Between April 1 and July 31, 2011, stream gauges in 74 unique rivers, streams and other tributaries in Minnesota, the Dakota's and Montana, hit flood stage.

(Fedgazette, Oct. 2011)

Scholarship deadlines approaching

Basin Scholarship

Deadline: January 27, 2012

This \$1,000 scholarship is available for dependent children of Meeker members who are enrolled or will be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate or graduate program at a 2-year, 4-year or technical college.

For more information or to apply, please call 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231, or pick up an application form from our Litchfield headquarters.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Deadline: February 2, 2012

This \$500 scholarship is for an adult member or Meeker employee who is 5 or more years past high school and currently working toward a degree. Eligible candidates may be updating skills in a technical area such as computer skills or auto mechanics, may be updating skills for a specific trade or profession, or may be working towards a bachelor's or master's degree. **For more information, see article below.**

Shelley Carter of Darwin submitted this month's winning recipe —

Brown Sugar Smokies! Shelley will receive a \$10 credit on her electric bill.

For February, submit your favorite Soup recipe!

Brown Sugar Smokies

- 1 pound bacon
- 1 (16-oz) package Little Smokies sausages
- 1 cup brown sugar (or to taste)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut bacon into thirds and wrap each strip around a little sausage. Place the wrapped sausages on wooden skewers, several to a skewer. Arrange the skewers on a baking sheet and sprinkle them liberally with brown sugar.

Bake until bacon is crisp and the brown sugar is melted.

Please send in your favorite

Soup Recipe by February 1, to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
P.O. Box 68, Litchfield, MN 55355-0068

Non-Traditional Educational Scholarship

Eligible candidates must have an educational plan and must have been enrolled for at least one quarter or semester in a chosen program. The candidate must be receiving electrical power from Meeker Cooperative or be an employee of the Cooperative. Scholarship applications are available at the Cooperative or by calling 320-693-3231. The application deadline is February 2, 2012.

This \$500 scholarship is being awarded by the Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust. Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust is a non-profit charitable organization where contributed dollars benefit the local community. The organization is governed by a nine member Trust Board representing the nine districts of the Cooperative. The Trust Board is charged with the responsibility of dispersing the funds collected through the Operation Round Up[®] and Round Down programs.

Members of the Cooperative may choose to have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar and employees of the Cooperative are given the opportunity to have their paychecks rounded down to contribute to this fund. This extra change is accumulated in the Trust Fund and is awarded as grants to non-profit and charitable organizations. The average member donation is less than \$6.00 per year, however when added all together the Trust generally awards over \$30,000 in grants each year. High school scholarships are also awarded to the area school districts.

All members of Meeker Cooperative are eligible to participate in Operation Round Up. Please call Meeker Cooperative at 320-693-3231 or 800-232-6257 for more information or to become an Operation Round Up member. Location #35-11-302

Snowmobilers

Beware of Hazards! Respect property-owner rights!



Enjoy snowmobiling in Minnesota but keep safety in mind. Slow down, don't drink, and stay alert for obstacles.

As snowmobiling has become more popular, the number of accidents have increased. Very few accidents occur on Minnesota's trail system. Most accidents occur along roads and ditches. Obstacles encountered along roads and other cleared rights of way can be very dangerous, especially in low-visibility conditions.

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assn. has guy wires, metal enclosures, and pedestals installed on hundreds of miles of rights-of-way. When snowmobiling, be aware of these obstacles. Guy wires need special attention as they can be difficult to see.

Some snowmobilers are mistaking the private property where electric transmission lines are located for snowmobile trails. Great River Energy, Xcel and other utilities have been granted easements to build and maintain lines in these cleared areas, but the land still belongs to the landowner. Be sure to check with the landowners before snowmobiling on their property.

Nomination by Petition

Although the Nominating Committee has the principle duty to seek nominees for the Meeker Cooperative Board of Directors, nominations may also be made by members according to the By-Laws: "Any fifteen (15) or more members from the same district may make nominations for their district in writing over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the nominating committee is posted. The ballot used for electing directors at the annual meeting shall include and identify any nominations made by petition." Members in District 4, District 7 and District 9 may file by petition for the 2012 election. Please submit your petitions (along with the Candidate Application form) to Mary Alice Holm at Meeker Cooperative's headquarters by the close of business on February 16, 2012.

TRIP IS FILLED



Notice to all Irrigation Members

Farmers who plan to install electric irrigation systems or to convert their system from diesel to electric for the 2012 growing season must contact Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association.

The information is used by our Engineering Department to determine supply needs for the 2012 construction season. Materials and transformers will be ordered soon. Location # 29-35-401

Please call Steve Johnson in Meeker Co-op's Operations Department at 800-232-6257 or 320-693-3231.

Operation Round-Up[®] Recipient List

Category: Community Service

Cardboard Art Productions	\$500.00
Fire Department, Watkins	\$2,000.00
Heartland Community Action Agency	\$2,500.00
Head Start	\$250.00
Outreach/Hardships	\$750.00
Heat Share Program	\$1,500.00
Historical Society, Paynesville	\$1,000.00
Kingston Community Center	\$500.00
Little Red Schoolhouse, District. 59	\$500.00
Salvation Army, Meeker County	\$500.00

Category: Education and Youth

Grace United Methodist Church Uzone	\$700.00
United Way of West Central MN	\$1,000.00
Youth Energy Summit Group of ACGC Schools (Y.E.S.)	\$1,200.00
Total	\$10,400.00

High School Scholarships

High School Scholarships - \$500 each as eligible ACGC, Dassel-Cokato, Eden Valley-Watkins, Hutchinson, Kimball, Litchfield, Paynesville

Pioneer Ads Free want ad service for members.

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed below or available at Meeker Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by **February 1** to be included in the February issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, P.O. Box 68,
Litchfield, MN 55355, ATTN: Cheryl Anderson

Please check ad category

____ Giveaway

____ For Rent

____ For Sale

____ Wanted

____ Services

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Toshiba color TV, 32", w/remote, works great. \$50/BO. 320-764-2770.
- 8.7 acres, buildable parcel between Litchfield & Kimball. \$49,900. 320-309-1960.
- Two church pews, 10', beautiful carving on ends. \$50 ea. 320-398-5563.
- Apple wood, cut into small logs. 320-293-2861.
- Snowboard boots, heel side, size 10. \$35/BO. 320-693-3508.
- Cabela's 400 Vibratory Case Tumbler, new cond. \$60. 320-693-8492.
- Couch, blue/mauve small floral, oak trim on top & arms, w/skirt. 320-857-2736.
- Trailer house, to be moved, good furnace & roof. 320-221-1556.
- Moultrie D50 trail camera. \$50. 320-224-2490.
- Eskimo Lodge portable fish house, 4-person, light use. \$250/BO. 320-693-0335.
- Wood boiler for outdoors, used 2 seasons. \$7000. 320-248-8963.

- StarCraft Holiday 150 runabout, trailer, accessories, no motor. \$1400/BO. 320-693-0335.
- Bamboo fly rod, 75-yr. old, split, w/reel & orig. container. \$100. 507-354-3229. 320-693-0335.
- Chainsaw; dehumidifier; snow thrower; 1/2" drill; 18V batteries; weed eater. 320-243-8013.
- Dog kennel, dog house, dog dishes. 320-243-8013.
- Steffes storage heater, electric. \$150. 320-764-6311.
- Ice fishing equipment: 12V 7-1/2" auger, 8" jiffy poles, etc. \$75. 320-221-1157.
- 10 acres, wooded, building, hunting, creek, tar road, Eden Valley area. \$45,000. 320-453-6736.
- Kenmore washer & gas dryer, 5 yrs. old, great shape, work great. \$250/pr. 320-291-0446.
- Oak stand on wheels, like new. \$60. 320-291-0446.
- Jenson stereo speakers, work great. \$40/pr. 320-291-0446.
- Mankato fish house, 4x8. 320-275-3546.

- Stihl Oilomatic saw chain, 16", new/in box. 320-693-8492.
- Miche Classic black base-\$20 ea.; also shells for the classic base -\$18 ea. or 2/\$30. 320-444-3457.
- Twin bed w/bookshelf headboard, matching dressers, interchangeable color panels. 218-232-5523.
- Two carry-on luggage pieces, black, good cond. Best offer. 320-295-3288.
- Columbia winter jacket, red w/black, youth size 14-16, clean, very good cond. 320-295-3288.
- Norman Rockwell collector mugs, 14k. gold rim, two sets of 4, new in box. 320-699-0160.
- Curio cabinet, cherry, 5-shelf, 13"x31-1/4"x76-1/2". \$250. 320-444-6357.
- Spearing/angling house, plywood & canvas, 4'-9" x 4', ice tongs/spear/decoys. \$275/BO. 320-693-8451.
- Fresh beef, quarters or halves, cut/wrapped/frozen. 320-593-1924/320-221-2649.
- Couch & fainting-style loveseat, floral design, exc. cond. \$400/BO. 320-275-4090.
- 1970 Alumacraft boat, 14'. 320-275-3546.
- Duck boat, 12'. 320-275-3546.
- 43 acres-17 tillable, woods/wetland/building entitlement, Crow River/Kingston. 952-261-7495.
- Three painted cupboards w/hooks, great for kids' rooms/mudrooms. 320-398-5563.
- FishTrap fish house, 2-man portable flip-over. \$80. 320-293-8769.

- Power lift recliner chair. \$325. 320-693-3866.
- Fish house, 8x10, 4 holes, w/heater, on wheels. \$2250/BO. 320-693-2737.
- LP heater, 60,000 BTU, w/thermostat & elec. fan. 320-593-6297.
- Woolen Mills green Litchfield blanket, never used. \$20. 320-693-8665.
- Oak desk, 5 drawers, upper shelving, matching 2-drawer file cabinet. \$125. 612-360-0342.
- Duct heater, elec., for off-peak rate, 20KW, new/never installed. \$425. 612-360-0342.
- Roof heat cables, 200', little use. \$20. 320-275-3264.
- Sheet music from 50s & 60s; also music books of all kinds. 320-221-3439.
- Reader's Digest music books from 60s & 70s. 320-221-3439.
- Western saddle, 14-1/2" seat, comfort for every day, silver for showing. \$250. 320-293-8770.
- Wintec all-purpose hunt saddle, changeable gullet system, like new. \$250. 320-293-8770.
- Healthways exercise bike. Best offer. 320-693-6568.
- Encyclopedia Britannica, 40+ pieces, nice set. Best offer. 320-693-6568.

For Sale - Agricultural

- Pigs, 30-40 lbs. \$40 ea. 320-764-6671.
- Massey-Ferguson 3-14 plow. \$650. 320-764-6671.
- Packer, 5' pull-type. \$200. 320-764-6671.
- Wooden feed bunk. 320-693-3047.
- Oat straw, small square bales. 320-453-6122.
- Surge 55 milker bucket, includes regulator & milk strainer. \$50. 320-398-2041.
- Grass bales, large rounds. \$30. 320-398-2655.
- Grass bales, small. \$1.75. 320-398-2655.
- Trailer tires, 12"/13"/14"/15"/16" & 17", bring your size. 320-693-2766.
- White Muscovy ducks. 320-693-2766.
- Bales: grass alfalfa hay-\$3.20/ea.; straw-\$2.40 ea.; cornstalk-\$2.30 ea. 320-693-2766.
- Laying hens. \$1.25 ea. 612-360-0342.

For Sale - Automotive

- Auto transmission w/transfer case, fits 1981-1992 Chevrolet S10. 320-221-3489.
- 1999 Chevrolet Silverado Z-71, 4x4, ext. cab, 5th-wheel assembly. 320-693-2792.
- 2005 Ford F150 4x4, black, 62K mi., exc. cond. 507-228-8623.
- 1995 Chevrolet S10, 4x4, ext. cab, V6, 58,922 mi., clean. \$4200/BO. 320-693-2970.
- 1987 Ford F150 HD 4x4, 1/2-ton, 5.0L/V8/4-sp./PS/PB/ block heat./topper, 179K mi., runs good. 320-693-8492.
- 2004 Ford F150, sunroof, new tires, 1-owner, loaded, white. 72K mi. 320-974-3323.
- 2002 Ford Taurus SE wagon, 4-dr./V6/air/cruise/PW/PL/adjust. pedals/CD player, remote start, 111K mi. \$3900. 320-593-0510.

Wanted

- Ford, 3-pt., Dearborn disc. 320-693-5502.
- Metal chimney for wood, will take down. 320-974-8655.
- Wooden skis, any type. 320-267-3924 eves.
- Horses, no colts please, Paynesville area. 320-250-3119.
- Guitars and amplifiers, older, related equipment, any cond. 320-275-5144.
- Tractor tire, 14-9-28. 320-276-8330.
- Stihl 026, 036 or larger chainsaw, for parts. 320-693-7699.
- Snowshoes, mens' & womens', w/poles. 320-693-7852.
- LP tank, 100 lb. 320-583-9315.
- Tandem disk, 8' or 9', on rubber, hydraulic. 320-593-8189.
- Buildable land on small lake or slough, near Litchfield. 320-699-0001.
- IH 2-pt. fast hitch equipment and IH memorabilia. 320-857-2627.
- Canning jars; older travel trailer; Honda Big Red. 320-398-5555.

Giveaway

- Kittens, 6 weeks old, litter-box trained, used to dog. 320-693-9145.

- World Book encyclopedias, full set, includes dictionary. 320-221-3439.

Services

- J Austin Construction~ pole buildings, concrete, steel/shingle roofing, lic. & insured. 320-492-6364.
- Guitar lessons for beginners. \$8/half hr. or \$14/hr. 320-295-3288.
- Perfect Paint, LLC~paint, stain, wallpaper, window cleaning, power washing. 320-275-9173.
- Welding/fabrication/ installation of stainless aluminum & steel. 320-764-2861.
- Git 'R Done Handyman, LLC~carpentry, hardwood/tile floors, remodels, apartment maint. 320-492-8264.
- Save energy with Barils' custom window coverings, experienced/reasonable. 320-693-2074.
- Quality automotive repair, reasonable pricing. 320-980-3300.
- Bunn Construction Services, LLC~brick/stone/ chimney repairs/retaining walls. 952-212-7779.
- Mr Dirt~excavating/ landscaping/hauling/trees; also indoor carpentry & more. 320-894-7013.
- Peterson Furniture Service~stripping/refinishing/gluing/caning, hardware avail. 320-693-6004.
- Bev's Beauty Salon~hair & tanning, Litch. 320-593-8163.
- Gary Finken's Painting~all interior/exterior finishes, exp. & insured. 612-965-8690/320-593-6879.

For Rent

- Residential & commercial space, Hutchinson/ Cokato/Dassel/Cosmos/Stewart 320-234-3523.
- Storage-Litchfield, concrete floor, boats/campers/cars, etc. \$135. 320-221-1157.
- Office/retail space, Sibley Avenue-Litch. 320-221-0139.
- Log cabin, north shore, sleeps 5-6, ski Tettegouche. \$175/night. 218-343-6960.
- Home, 3BR, 1100' lakeshore, secluded 3 acres, Star Lake. \$600/weekend or \$1200/week. 320-212-5939.

Find your location number

Win \$10 credit on your next bill!

Four location numbers have been hidden within this Pioneer. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by February 1, you will have \$10 credited to your account! Donald Kelm of Paynesville and Wallace Erickson of South Haven found their location numbers and will have \$10 credited to their accounts. Good Luck!

