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Official publication of

**Meeker  
Cooperative**  
Light and Power Association

**www.meeker.coop**

Meeker Co-op is an  
Equal Opportunity Provider  
and Employer

## Board of Director Candidates Verified by Q & E Committee

**T**he Qualifications and Election Committee met on December 11 to review the applications submitted for Director. Two candidates were verified and placed as the slate of candidates for the 2019 elections. Incumbent Brad Donnay - District 3 and Incumbent Larry Huhn - District 8 were unopposed.

Pursuant to Article II, Sections 8 & 9 of the Bylaws, members interested in becoming candidates for the Board of Directors must submit an Application for Director form at least 120 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws specify that a Qualifications & Election (Q&E) Committee be appointed by the Board of Directors to review all applications and determine that all identified qualifications are met. The Q&E has "the authority to place qualified candidates on the ballot for election, and for any district in which there is only one candidate, waive the ballot process and declare the candidate elected."



**Brad Donnay**  
District 3



**Larry Huhn**  
District 8



**Q & E Committee members (l to r) Luvern Becker, Jr., Paul Gaebe, Paul Lysen, Ken Cordes and Willard Wendorff. Not pictured: Bernard Schulte.**

The Committee acted on the responsibility given them in the Bylaws to waive the ballot process and declare the candidates in District 3 and 8 elected for another three-year term. Matt Woetzel - District 5 did not seek re-election and there were no candidates for that Director District. Therefore, the Board of Directors will declare that seat vacant following the Annual Meeting in April (see more information below). Biographies of the candidates will be featured in the March issue of the *Meeker Pioneer*.

## Fiber is being inserted into buried conduit for Vibrant Broadband project



**B**lack fiber optic cable is being inserted into the orange conduit buried in the ground near the Co-op's headquarters building and elsewhere near Darwin and Dassel. Each cable holds numerous fiber optic strands a fraction of the width of a human hair. Each strand is able to handle 3 million two-way conversations or 90,000 streamed television programs. Data is carried along these hollow glass fibers by light at a speed of 125,000 miles per second. This means super-fast, reliable broadband.

## District 5 - Applications sought for Director to fill open seat

**D**istrict 5 Director Matt Woetzel is not seeking re-election and there were no candidates for that Director District, leaving the District 5 seat open. Per the Bylaws, the Board of Directors may appoint someone to fill that seat. Once appointed, the Director will serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the seat will be up for election by the membership to fill the unexpired term.

If you are interested in applying for the District 5 Director position, Director qualifications and the application form may be found on Meeker Cooperative's website at [www.meeker.coop](http://www.meeker.coop). Select Member Services in the upper left corner and then Download Forms from the drop down menu. Click to download the Director Application Packet. Or you may obtain a packet by calling Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231.

The application deadline is the close of business on February 20, 2019. The Board of Directors will appoint an applicant to fill the District 5 seat following the Annual Meeting on April 8, 2019.





# Vibrant Broadband 101

**VIBRANT Broadband 101**

First, thank you for attending the Co-op’s various Coffee on the Co-op gatherings last month. Several members told me this is the first time they were attending just to find out more about VIBRANT Broadband and, in some cases, were hoping to sign up already.

At each of these “Coffees” (as they are often called), at the Annual Meeting and at the Member Appreciation Day, the Board of Directors, management staff and the employees are present. This is an informal way for us to find out what is on your minds, and how we can improve our services and programs.

At the “Coffees” I was asked many questions about our Vibrant Broadband project and how it works, so I thought I’d share some of those questions and answers here.

**What Is VIBRANT Broadband?**

Meeker’s VIBRANT Broadband system consists of several distinct technologies working together to form what we refer to as a “hybrid system” that will bring high-speed internet service throughout the Co-op’s rural service territory.

The first technology is fiber optic cable. As I’ve mentioned in previous articles, we are installing fiber optic cables to each of the Co-op’s 14 substations. This is the backbone of the system. Off this backbone, additional fiber optic lines will run directly to and hook up to approximately 50 poles throughout the Co-op’s electric service territory. Antenna on these poles and a small wireless radio receiver at the member’s premise make up another technology of the VIBRANT Broadband system, the Fixed Wireless system.

Each pole’s antenna will cover a radius of five to six miles depending on the terrain. The antenna on these poles will transmit a signal to a small receiver located at each house or business that signs up for VIBRANT Broadband. Neither piece of equipment; the antenna on the pole or the receiver on the member’s home or in the yard moves, hence the

term Fixed Wireless system.

From there, a computer wire (sometimes referred to as an Ethernet cable or a CAT 5e cable) will be connected to the receiver and run into equipment in the home or business. I’ll cover more on what equipment gets hooked up and what makes VIBRANT unique and stand out in some of the following questions.

**Why Develop Or Use A “Hybrid” System?**

Ideally, it would be great to be able to run fiber optic cable to every home and business throughout the Co-op’s service territory. We analyzed doing just that and after evaluating several different proposals we rather quickly came to the conclusion that with our vast service territory and limited number of members it was not economically feasible. Working with the engineering firm (Pulse Engineering) we were able to come up with a plan and design a system that we feel confident will provide high-speed internet service as well as be economically sound.

**What Makes VIBRANT Broadband So Unique?**

A couple of things. One is the backbone of fiber optic lines that will transmit data at almost the speed of light. Second, fiber optic lines will be directly connected to each pole and its antenna. This will eliminate latency (slow down) issues which occur when the data needs to jump from pole to pole to pole etc. over some microwave or other similar back-haul system until it finally gets to a fiber optic line and can be transmitted from there onto the internet.

Third the number of poles and antenna. Pulse Engineering ran multiple propagation studies to determine how many poles were needed and in what areas to ensure the Co-op’s entire service area was covered. Too few poles would mean some areas would not be able to receive the signal, because the signal would fade away before it got there or it would be severely limited and everything would be really slow. Too few poles in areas with higher populations meant equipment would be overloaded and slow-downs would occur as well. Not being able

to receive a signal or getting slowed down because part of the system was overloaded was not going to be acceptable. Nobody enjoys watching the dots on their device circle and circle while your data is being downloaded.

Finally, VIBRANT will be using a combination modem and router at the home or business. For most internet service providers, the modem is a separate piece of equipment from the router. That will not be the case with VIBRANT. In fact, VIBRANT Broadband is even going one step further as it will use a Multi-service Access Router, meaning it will be a modem, router, and have the ability to offer Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone service all from one device.

More on modems and routers and their differences in a bit.

What Is Broadband? Why Not Just Call VIBRANT Broadband, VIBRANT Fiber or VIBRANT Internet? Broadband is a wide-ranging term that describes the different ways high-speed internet service is offered or delivered. They are: Digital Subscriber Line or DSL (provided by the phone company over their phone lines, Cable (generally provided over a cable TV providers system), Satellite systems such as WildBlue or Exede, wireless systems including Fixed Wireless systems, and of course fiber optic lines. The old dial up connections are not considered high-speed service and therefore are not considered a broadband system.

Since Meeker’s internet service uses a combination of these broadband services (fiber and fixed wireless) we went with the term broadband rather than specific terms like fiber or wireless.

**So, What Is The Difference Between A Modem And A Router?**

The term modem comes from what it does. It **modulates** and **demodulates (modem)** digital and analog signals. What does that mean? Well, a computer only reads digital signals while the signals on the internet are analog. A modem modulates or changes outgoing digital signals into analog signals

and demodulates or again changes incoming analog signals into digital signals so each can read or communicate with the other. I know — way more than you needed to know. A simple way to look at a modem is as a translator. If you want access to (get data to and from) the internet you need a modem (translator).

A router is a splitter or switch. It is connected or hooked up between the modem and your computer or other devices you want connected to the internet. It routes or splits the signal into various pathways so more than one computer or device can access the internet at one time. If so designed, the router is capable of splitting the signal into both a hard-wire signal and a wireless signal. For example, you may have a hard-wire (Ethernet cable) connection from the router to a desktop computer. The router may also be providing a wireless (Wi-Fi) connection to portable devices such as cell phones, tablets, or other home devices such as smart TV’s, thermostats, crock pots, barbeque grills, refrigerators and the list goes on. This is why it’s fast becoming known as the Internet of Things (IoT). If you only ever have one device like a desk top computer hooked up to the internet you can get by without a router as the computer can be directly hooked up into the modem. However, in today’s world we are way beyond having only one device hooked up to the internet, also known as the World Wide Web.

Although the modem and router may look somewhat alike, they do very different tasks. An easy way to tell the difference is that today’s routers almost all have one or two antennae protruding from them to allow for communication via its wireless Wi-Fi connection.

**Is Meeker Building A Wi-Fi System?**  
No. One individual asked if he stood out by one of the poles would he be able to get Wi-Fi and be able

**Mergen’s Message**  
*continued on page 6*

**Board of Directors**

- Karen Becker, President — District 2**  
Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker
- Kevin Issendorf, Vice President-District 4**  
Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker
- Brad Donnay, Secretary — District 3**  
Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker
- Karl Lundin, Treasurer — District 9**  
North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker
- Paul Bugbee — District 1**  
Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

- Matt Woetzel — District 5**  
Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker
- Mark Larson — District 6**  
Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville
- K. Bruce Krueger — District 7**  
Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod
- Larry Huhn — District 8**  
Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker
- Chad Felstul — Attorney**

**Meeker Pioneer**

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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.”



# Thank you members for joining us during our Coffee with the Co-op Events!



Approximately 210 members and guests attended our Coffee with the Co-op events in Kimball, Darwin, Kingston and Litchfield. Many of those had never been to a coffee previously, but came to ask questions about the Co-op's Vibrant Broadband service being installed throughout the service territory. Members voted on the coloring contest (see winners below) and visit with friends and neighbors.

At these events, the Electric Trust Board distributed \$14,242 in Operation Round Up grants to qualifying non-profit organizations.



## Coloring Contest Winners

Meeker Co-op members were given the opportunity to choose the favorite coloring contest entries in each age category. The Co-op membership has very talented artists and we wish they could all win. Those that got the most votes from the members attending Coffee with the Co-op were the winners.

*Congratulations to our winners of the 2018 Coloring Contest. Each winning child will receive a \$10 gift card to Walmart in the mail. Thank you to all the great artist in our Co-op family. It was fun to see all the creative ideas!*



Age 2: Tara Elton



Age 3: Amelia Wilke



Age 4: Eleanor Schroeder



Age 5: Heidi Miller



Age 6: Taylor Knox



Age 7: Piper Johnson



Age 8: Dakota Good



Age 9: Macy Hilsen



Age 10: Lily Schlangen



Age 11: Shaylyn Brey



Age 12: Olivia Rick



# Stepping into a history book Christmas

If you loved reading the Laura Ingalls Wilder books about her life in the mid to late 19th century, what would you give to see those times literally played out before your very eyes? To walk through the pages of living history?

## Welcome to the Forest City Stockade.

The Forest City Stockade was built to shelter pioneers from the Sioux Indian uprising in 1862. It protected settlers during a ten-day siege that was finally broken by the arrival of Company B of the 8th Minnesota Volunteer Regiment. In 1976, the United State's Bicentennial, Meeker County undertook to rebuild the Stockade with the help of like-minded local individuals.

In 1978, a few dedicated volunteers passionate about early American history began to painstakingly research that era and build a historic community that Laura Ingalls would have felt very comfortable in, since she was born just five years after the Sioux uprising and lived much of her young life in Minnesota.

Bob and Betty Hermann of Litchfield have been part of this devoted volunteer group and have dedicated untold hours, manpower and vision to creating a living history experience for anyone who wishes to experience a simpler life. A core group of local residents that have included the Hermanns, Chuck Fuller and Dale Root, have been instrumental, along with untold others over the years, in researching archives, visiting other historical monuments, and building authentic buildings, furnishing them with what would have filled them all those years ago.

About 35 years ago, the group opened the Stockade to the public in what has been called the Rendezvous, which takes place over two days in August. The Pioneer Christmas was established 23 years ago and allows visitors one Saturday every December.

"It takes about 150 people to run each event," Bob said. "They are all volunteers."

The volunteers; doctors, teachers, community administrators and many others all share a love of history and a passion for making every Stockade event a success. These events have become such a way of life for the volunteers that several families have volunteers across three or four generations of family members.

"We are all different, but we all share the same vision," Bob said. "That's highly unusual. Every year, we never have to wonder if our



Carolers sing in the lodge.



Blacksmith making a tool.

## Pioneer Christmas Features:

- Pioneer crafts
- Visit with Santa Claus
- Christmas Carolers
- Demos by a Blacksmith, Candle maker, Spinning, Weaving, and more
- Horse-drawn sleigh rides
- Winter encampment with tepee, tent and A-frame
- Much more

volunteers will be available. There's a love for what we do. They just know what they have to do and there's no question about whether they will be there or not.

While many people express an interest in becoming a volunteer, they are not automatically accepted to be part of the group.

"If someone wants to volunteer, we first put them to work at the two-day summer Rendezvous," Bob said. "If you still have a smile on your face at the end of Sunday, then we will seriously consider you. But if you've had enough, then you just aren't going to make it. It just isn't going to be your cup of tea.

The Stockade has 13 buildings, from a general store to a gunsmith;



The art of violin making.



Horse rides around the grounds.



Shy little one meets Santa.

from a newspaper office to a pottery and candle shop and school house, just to name a few. Each building has been researched and built by hand as it would have been in 1862. Chuck Fuller is in charge of the research and buildings. Within each building you will find activities that would have been carried out then, just the way it would have been done all those years ago.

"In the woodworking shop, there is no electricity, no drills or electric saws; it's done the way it was in 1862," Betty said. That also goes for the blacksmith shop, the candle making shop, the General Store and more. There was no electricity and no electric equipment.

"Items in the general store are items you would have found in the



Chapel in the pines.



Visitors eating hot fare on a cold day.



Fur pelts, moccasins, hats, and other items for sale.





Fiddling holiday carols in the chapel.

store in 1862," Betty added. "When we make our home-made ice cream, it's made by a hand crank, just as if would have been made."

"Many people have suggested we install a PA system or allow musicians with amplifiers, but we won't allow it," Bob said. "If we allow electrical items in, it will screw up peoples' thinking about the time period. People have said our village is the most historically accurate. That's why."

As a consequence, the events are not only a step back into history, but a step out of the world for a time.

"You just don't see people on their phones or kids playing video games," Betty said. "And we never have to walk the grounds picking up trash afterwards. People show so much respect for what we're doing, there's never any trash or water bottles thrown on the ground."

Besides local volunteers, the Stockade Committee prefers to not invite well-known musical or other talent that would be a draw for people. They would rather invite local musicians and artisans.

This past year the Pioneer Christmas visitors were blessed to be able to talk with local craftsman Eddie Dollerschell about how he hand-crafts beautiful, high-quality violins.

"Eddie has been making violins for 15-20 years," Betty said. "He has competed internationally and received very high marks. And this is a local man. It's so special to have him be a part."

Every year, the Rendezvous will attract four to five thousand people. The Pioneer Christmas pulls in roughly 1,700 people, with as many as 700 children.

"Kids under 12 are free," Betty said. It's inexpensive for large families. At the Pioneer Christmas we have a variety of activities and we push the education part so it's more than just fun."

### Funding the Vision

The Hermanns are proud of the fact that the Stockade is self-sufficient. There are no grants, county or state funds that they



Volunteers making fry bread.

rely on. Although it is considered a county park and they are insured through the county park system, they are kept afloat through the gate receipts and private donations from others who believe in what the Stockade represents.

"We would rather have local people donate so they can come and inspect the work we have done and see that all of the money they gave went where we said it would," Bob said.

If they have a building or maintenance project, such as rebuilding the fence and/or buildings, they will do a fund drive to finance it. The work is done by volunteers.

Their last fund drive was to sell a log for \$25. They raised \$70,000 for the building fund.

"There's one story that I just have to tell," Bob said. "One year a couple from Illinois came to visit family and they came about a week before the Rendezvous and asked for a private tour of the Stockade. At the end of the tour they asked if they could make a donation. 'Sure,' I said, 'we always welcome donations.' They handed me a check for \$300. The next year they came again and asked for a quick tour of projects we had been working on. Again, they handed me a check and I just folded it up and put it in my pocket. Later, when I looked, it was \$500! The next year it was a \$300 donation again. It was just so unexpected and kind," Bob said, tearing up.

"We regularly host groups," Bob said. He and Dale Root conduct educational school group tours. But they also have musical groups, senior groups, and many more.

"We have a connection with a travel company out of Fargo that has about four groups a year come from Norway to Minnesota. One ag group flew into Minneapolis on a Sunday evening. They hopped aboard a Holt Tour bus at 8 a.m. Monday on their way to Fargo. But their first stop in the United States was for a 2-1/2 hour tour of the Stockade.

"The travel agent said these people wanted to experience what their ancestors experienced coming to Minnesota all those generators ago, and see how they must have struggled in their first years,"



Interior of fort from restored upper walkway.

### An assortment of food:

- Hot home-made beef or sausage stew
- Fry bread
- Lefse
- Home-made ice cream
- Old-fashioned root beer
- Coffee

Bob said. "They want to come here because it's the most accurate depiction of what life was like then. That's what motivates us to do what we do for 40 years. If we didn't love it, we would have stopped years ago."

In addition to the two scheduled public events and tours, the Stockade is also open for private events.

"We have five weddings booked so far for 2019," Bob said.

Through word of mouth people from all over hear about the Stockade, even though they don't advertise outside the area to avoid crowds too large to handle. The people that come are genuinely interested in what the Stockade Committee has to offer and they want to tell their friends and relatives.

It's a family event for those that visit, but also for those that come together around the vision each year. Like a stone in a pond, their contribution has a ripple effect.

"We play a big part in peoples' lives," Bob said.

Laura Ingalls Wilder would have been proud to see an accurate picture of what she could only write about.

For more information about the summer Rendezvous, the Pioneer Christmas, volunteering, donating and more, visit their website at [forestcitystockade.org](http://forestcitystockade.org).



All ages enjoyed rides around the Stockade property.



Line to purchase warm fry bread rolled in sugar and cinnamon.



Cooking pots of stew over fire.



Mergen’s Message

Vibrant Boardband 101

continued from page 2

to download data on to his phone for free? Again, the answer is no. As explained above, the antenna on the pole is communicating directly with a receiver at the premise. The antenna does not communicate directly with cell phones or any other devices.

So, Exactly What Is Wi-Fi?

The term Wi-Fi is actually a trademarked phrase that means IEEE 802.11x. This is a standard for wireless Local Area Networking (LAN) transmission systems established by the Institute of Electric and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). A misconception is the term Wi-Fi is short for “wireless fidelity,” According Wikipedia the Wi-Fi name and logo were simply designed as a trademark. Wi-Fi isn’t short for anything but it was a play on the words “Hi-Fi”. Odds are if you were born before 1990 you know “Hi-Fi” is short for High Fidelity. Hi-Fi stereos or speakers meant better sound. Wi-Fi is simply a wireless technology that uses radio waves to provide wireless Internet connections.

As mentioned above, the wireless system (Wi-Fi) created by your router that allows you to log onto the internet with mobile devices like cell phones or the other devices while you move around the house or other confined areas is creating this LAN transmission (Wi-Fi) system.

Will VIBRANT Broadband Improve My Cell Phone Coverage?

Sorry to say it will not. The VIBRANT system has nothing to do with cell phone systems or coverage. I know, at times, another frustrating technology.

DID YOU KNOW -

*Fiber Optics sends information (data) coded in a beam of light down a glass tube. Data can be transmitted at the speed of light, about 186,000 miles per second. However, fiber cables slow it down to about 125,000 miles per second. That is still around the world five times in less than one second. That is VIBRANT!*



Cogeneration and small power production governed by Minnesota Rules

Meeker Cooperative is obligated by Minnesota Rules pts. 7835 to interconnect with and purchase electricity from any cogenerators and/or small power producers. We also are required to provide information free of charge to any and all members who may be interested in entering into an interconnection agreement with the Co-op.

In compliance with Minnesota adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, all interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Location #23-30-101

2019 Energy Management Programs and Rebates/Credits

2019 Energy Management Programs	Rebate
<b>NEW: Electric Vehicles (EVs)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)</b> ..... \$200</li><li>• <b>Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)</b> ..... \$400</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)</li></ul>	
<b>Water Heating</b> <b>Peak Shave - Monthly Credit</b> (Electric WH not on load mgmt.) ..... \$800 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Controlled Up to 8-Hours*</li><li>• Minimum 0.90 Energy Factor</li><li>• Must use greater than 400 kWh/month</li><li>• \$4 per month bill credit</li></ul> <b>Peak Shave - Metered at energy mgmt. rate</b> (Electric WH not on load mgmt.) \$400 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Controlled Up to 8-Hours*</li><li>• Minimum 0.90 Energy Factor</li><li>• Must use greater than 400 kWh/month</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)</li></ul> <b>Peak Shave – Metered (Gas conversion/new construction)</b> ..... \$800 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 80 gallon capacity with mixing valve</li><li>• Minimum 0.90 Energy Factor</li><li>• Must use greater than 400 kWh/month</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug) controlled</li><li>• Or \$4 per month bill credit with no control</li></ul>	
<b>Space Heating</b> <b>Interruptible Dual Fuel**</b> ..... \$10/kW <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 5 kW resistance or an Electric Thermal Storage room unit (new or existing)</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)</li></ul> <b>Ground Source Heat Pumps – Controlled On Dual Fuel**</b> ..... \$400/Ton <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)</li></ul> <b>Ground Source Heat Pumps</b> ..... \$100/Ton <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metered at Applicable General Service Rate</li><li>• Must be Controlled for Cycled Air Conditioning</li></ul>	<b>Electric Thermal Storage</b> ..... \$25/kW <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Central, Room, Cable, Hydronic</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)</li></ul> <b>Air Source Heat Pumps** Standard Rebate</b> ..... \$300/unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 5 kW resistance or an Electric Thermal Storage unit (new/existing)</li><li>• Controlled on dual fuel and cycled air conditioning</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)</li></ul> <b>Air Source Heat Pumps**</b> (Quality Installation-must have Q.I. form completed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installation must be performed by a registered HVAC contractor</li><li>• Matched equipment of the outdoor unit and indoor coil</li><li>• Proper equipment sizing with a completed load calculation on file</li><li>• Performance tests and measurements of the airflor and refrigerant charge</li><li>• Sealing of the exposed ductwork in the mechanical room area</li><li>• Controlled on dual fuel and cycled air conditioning</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>14.5 - 15.0 SEER ..... \$480 Rebate</li><li>15.1 - 16.0 SEER ..... \$580 Rebate</li><li>&gt;16.1 SEER ..... \$630 Rebate</li></ul></li></ul> <p>SEER = Season Energy Efficiency Ratio</p> <b>Cooling</b> <b>Cycled Air Conditioning</b> ..... \$100/unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cycled Control</li><li>• Metered Separately (\$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug)</li><li>• Free AC Tune-Up for up to \$100 for units greater than 5 years old</li></ul> <b>AC Tune-Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit must be five years or older and in working condition ..... \$25/unit</li><li>• Work must be performed by licensed HVAC contractor</li></ul> <b>Electric Service Incentive</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New and existing services that install an energy management program will be credited \$1.00 per lineal foot for either underground or overhead service. Rebate must be applied for within 12 months of service installation.</li></ul> <p>*Member required to pay sales tax. **System must include automatic back-up heat. All rebates for new installations. Retrofit equipment qualifies for 50% rebate.</p>



## Join us for the Auto Show March 13!

See the latest 2019 vehicles and trends, including what's new in electric vehicles, and leave the driving to us! The Twin Cities Auto Show fills the Minneapolis Convention Center with everything from Mazdas to Maseratis, Lexus to Land Rovers, Jeeps to Jaguars!

PLUS an "Electric Room" where you can check out all that's new with hybrid and battery electric vehicles. The increase in charging stations across Minnesota means you can go farther than you ever thought possible!



*Back by  
Popular  
Demand: T.  
Texas Terry  
Cowboy  
entertainment*



**Ask questions, get under the hood in the Electric Room!**

**March 13, 2019**

**Leave Meeker Co-op 4:30 p.m.**

**Back in Litchfield 11:00 p.m.**

**FREE for Members!**

**Guests (With a Member) Pay \$16**

### Meeker Cooperative Bus Trip: Twins Cities Auto Show Mpls. Convention Center, Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Bus departs from Meeker Co-op at 4:30 p.m. Back to Litchfield around 11 p.m.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Acct #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline to reserve a spot: **February 28, 2019**

Clip and send this form to: **Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355, Attn: Becky Sorenson**

## \$1,000 Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship is being offered to a student five or more years beyond high school graduation who is working toward a degree, certificate or licensure in some area of expertise. The eligible candidate must have an educational plan and must have been enrolled for at least one quarter or semester in the chosen program. Location # 05-31-108

The candidate must be a member of Meeker Cooperative or be an employee of the Cooperative. Scholarship applications are available at the Cooperative or by calling 320-693-3231 or can be downloaded from Meeker's website at meeker.coop, Member Services, Download Forms. The application deadline is close of business on February 7, 2019. The scholarship is made available by the Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust.

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 Operation Round Up® Trust Fund and is awarded as grants to non-profit and charitable organizations. High school scholarships are also awarded to qualifying area students.

All members of Meeker Cooperative are eligible to participate in Operation Round Up. Please call Meeker Co-op at 320-693-3231 if you do not currently participate and would be willing to contribute your extra change each month to local non-profit organizations in your community.

## \$1,000 College Scholarship Available For Dependents of Co-op Members

Meeker Cooperative is pleased to make available a \$1,000 college scholarship funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one Meeker's power suppliers. To be eligible a student must:

- be a dependent child (including adopted or step-children) of a Meeker Cooperative member;
- be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school;
- enter college in the fall of the same year the scholarship is given;
- not have previously received this award;
- be a US citizen; and
- complete and submit all required materials and the scholarship application form by the application deadline.

Completed applications must reach Meeker Cooperative by close of business on Friday, January 25, 2019.

The application is available on Meeker's website at [www.meeker.coop](http://www.meeker.coop). Select Download Forms from the Member Services tab. The form may be completed on-line, but must be printed to submit with the supporting materials. Applications are also available at Meeker's office or by calling Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231.

All decisions by the scholarship selection committee will be final.

## Chili

**Veloy Oldenburg** of Litchfield submitted this month's winning recipe for "**Chili.**" She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

### Chili

1 small jar V-8 juice  
2-3 cans dark red kidney beans,  
drained  
1 lb. hamburger, browned and  
drained  
1 Tbsp. Chili powder  
Onion (chopped, to taste)

Green pepper (chopped, to taste)  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
½ jar Chili sauce  
1 Tbsp. sugar  
1-1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. pepper

Mix together and simmer at least one hour. Since this was such a different recipe, we tried it at the Co-op. This kid-friendly Chili is not spicy. It's easy and quick to make and everyone thought it was flavorful.

**For February, submit your favorite  
Crock Pot Recipe by January 30 to:**  
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,  
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355



# Looking for members to be part of next Co-op 101 group

Have you ever wondered where your electricity comes from? How the Co-op obtains financing? How politics impact business? What tools a lineman uses? What happens in a substation?

The Meeker Co-op 101 Member Group covers these topics and so much more. This member education group is open to three members from each district (husband and wife count as one member) on a two-year rotation. They meet quarterly (May, August, November and February) from 7-9 pm every third Tuesday. Participants receive a \$50 stipend plus IRS-approved rate for mileage for each meeting attended. Please be aware there is some walking for various activities. Location #18-32-201

Interested in participating? Fill out the form to the right and return to Mary Alice Holm by March 23, 2019. Directors will appoint participants and you will be contacted if you are selected to be a member of this Co-op 101 Member Group.

**Pioneer Ads** — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words, one word per line. One phone number please. Use the coupon below or pick one up in our office. 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 received by **Jan. 30** will be included in February issue.

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, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

Please check ad category

\_\_\_\_ For Sale, Misc.

\_\_\_\_ Agricultural

\_\_\_\_ Automotive

\_\_\_\_ Wanted

\_\_\_\_ Giveaway

\_\_\_\_ Service

\_\_\_\_ For Rent

## For Sale - Miscellaneous

- 2013 Honda CRV-EX-L, 50K Mi., very clean w/weather-tec mats. \$16,950. 952-836-7151.
- 4-ft. medicine cabt. w/mirror/light. \$25. 320-420-2649.
- Otter fish house sled. \$150/obo. 320-693-2277.
- 21" walk-behind snowthrower, 3 yrs. old. Half price \$165. 320-221-5127.
- 1999 Polaris Indy 500. \$950. 320-237-8430.

- Philips Respironics CPAP/case/attach. Orig. \$4,000, sell \$500 firm. 320-275-9116.
- 55-gal. food grade metal drums/lids. \$10-\$15. 763-222-3013.
- 440 IND John Deere w/loader. \$2,800/obo. 320-333-5129.
- 2016 Polaris Ranger SxS UTV Hunter Model. 320-212-7655.
- Lake Manuella sea-sonal. Septic/well, 75'x200' level. \$175k/obo. 320-420-3074.
- Girl clothes, baby to 3T, gd. cond. 320-583-3749.

- 1989 Polaris Trail. \$300. 320-693-6176.
- Two Garmin GPS dog collars. 320-583-3749.
- 2013 Ski-Doo Renegade snomo. long track, 600 e-tec eng. 5k mi. \$4,000 320-275-4695.
- Direct TV Antenna dish, support brackets/braces. \$20. 320-221-2487.
- 24" snowblower, 6hp, 5-sp./reverse/chains. New eng. 12/17. \$375. 952-938-8269.
- Vintage Royal type-writer. 1940s. \$10. 320-275-3249.

Co-op 101 Member Information

Members interested in being part of the next Cooperative 101 Member Education Group should complete this member information form and return it to the Co-op by March 23. This is a two-year commitment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Co-op District \_\_\_\_\_ No. Yrs. as Co-op Member \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperative programs member participates in (mark all that apply):

☐ Cycled Air Conditioning

☐ ACH (Auto Payment Plan)

☐ Dual Fuel

☐ Exede Internet Service

☐ Storage Water Heating

☐ Wellspring Wind Energy

☐ E-Bill

☐ Storage Heat

☐ Operation Round Up

☐ Member Solar Project

☐ Peak Shave Water Heating

☐ Other

Please return by mail to Meeker Cooperative, Attn: Mary Alice Holm, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355. Or simply drop off in the office.

Do NOT mail with bill payment.

- Mankato ice houses w/spear hole, 4'x7.5' & 4'x6'. \$20/ea. 320-237-6454.
- Frigidaire elec. range/conv. oven. Gd. Cond. Best offer. 320-453-2489.
- 30-ft, extension ladder; 6-ft. wood step ladder. 320-693-8492.
- Walnut table 43x54. 320-693-8492.
- Skateboard, Frankoma pottery, blue-grey plaid love-seat. 320-693-8492.

## For Sale - Automotive

- Class A 2000 Motorhome. Generator/slide/new tires. 31K mi. \$20,500/obo. 320-905-6597.
- Truxedo toolbox cut Tonneau cover, custom. Grt. cond. \$200/obo. 612-802-8249.
- 2007 Chev. Tahoe, 130K mi., 4WD, leather, maroon, gd. cond. 320-583-3749.

## For Sale - Agricultural

- John Deere snow blower, 3-pt. hitch. 320-333-3722.

## Wanted

- Int. truck (day cab) w/tandem 42 or 43 Series, gd. cond. 320-693-4118.
- Location #30-11-316 Dept. 56 church, also house from 1975-76. 320-220-0309.
- Oats for cattle feed (300-400 bu). 320-398-8633.

- Lk. Superior agates: big, small, collections. 320-493-7555.
- Country home or acreage to build, DC schools, poss. Trade for Lk. Wash. home. 612-703-4869.

## Services

- Appliance/small home repairs. Andy's Appliance Works. 320-297-3061.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this Pioneer. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by Jan. 30 you will have \$10 credited to your account! If you find your number and your information is correct in our system, you'll receive a bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar panel. Dennis Danielson of Dassel found his location number in November. Good luck!

