

MEEKER COOPERATIVE PIONEER

The official publication of

**Meeker
Cooperative**
Light and Power Association

VIBRANT
Broadband™

Meeker Co-op is an Equal Opportunity
Provider and Employer

MARCH/APRIL 2023

DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES

Page 3

CONNECT WITH US

Page 6

ELECTRIC RATE CHANGES

Page 7

A PERIOD OF TRANSITION

As they say, change is inevitable and time waits for no one. Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association is experiencing a period of transition. With each new CEO/General Manager, there have been changes. It's made Meeker Cooperative one of the most looked-up-to Co-ops in Minnesota and even nationally.

Tim Mergen retired as only the fifth CEO/GM for Meeker Co-op in its 88-year history. This says something about the membership and the board. They've had a record of hiring some very talented people.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Annual Meeting
Notice**

Page 3

"ENERGIZING AND CONNECTING...ENHANCING YOUR LIFE."

COVER STORY

CONTINUED FROM COVER

People who are able to envision what the members want for the Cooperative that delivers their energy and connects them with the world.

During the tenure of each CEO/GM were periods of transition. The first general manager was Irvin J. Clinton (1935-



Irving J. Clinton - Adolph Escen - Gil Slindon

1962). He pioneered the transition from nothing into a cooperative for purchasing and distributing electricity to rural members. During his leadership, Meeker Cooperative grew and developed to be nationally recognized as a sound and pioneering Cooperative. He helped build membership, secure easements, and filled the landscape with utility poles and power lines. He also oversaw the transition of the Co-op operating in a single room at the Meeker County Court House to a dedicated REA building in Litchfield.

Adolph Escen (1962-1964) became the second general manager. His time at Meeker Cooperative saw a transition from unlit yards to the first security lights installed on Meeker's lines. He also saw a growth in the popularity of electric appliances, especially refrigerators, on Meeker's service. Due to health reasons, Escen resigned in 1964.

Meeker's third general manager was Gil Slindon (1964-1978). During his time, Meeker saw tremendous growth. By 1967 there was about 1,400 miles of line, 859 security

lights, and 4,470 consumers. A transition to underground wiring also started during this time, as Meeker was one of the first in the nation to embrace underground electric lines. In the 1970s, several substations were added throughout Meeker Cooperative's service area and the first computers were used.

In 1978, Duane Henkelman (1978-1998) became the fourth general manager. The transition during his tenure was the addition of load management of electric

heat, and other energy programs. About 3,000 more electric services, growth in the vehicle fleet and additional employees were added during this time.

Tim Mergen (1998-2023) became the fifth general manager. Tim shared the transitions he has seen in his last Mergen's Message article published in the 2023 January/February issue of the Pioneer.

Meeker's Board of Directors was tasked with the responsibility for hiring a new CEO/GM and determined what resources were available to make the best choice. #28-16-302

The Board reviewed possible executive search options and hired the National



One of the earliest pole yards.



Duane Henkelman



Tim Mergen

Rural Electric Cooperative Association Executive Search Team for assistance. Candidates were solicited from across the country and the Team assisted the Board with the application reviews and candidate interviews.

Brad Donnay, Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association Board of Directors President, says, "the board's, and member's vision along with the employee culture aligned well with Tim. They want to make sure the next CEO/GM's vision and culture align likewise."

Transitions, like the recent expansion into the VIBRANT Internet service, are a time to continue growth and continue to explore what is best for the Membership. Tim left Meeker Cooperative and VIBRANT Broadband in a very positive and financially stable position, one that Meeker has had since its beginning. He was very member-focused and had a vision for the future. Tim served Meeker's members, the Board of Directors, and employees well. Now Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association transitions to its next chapter.



2022 VIBRANT Broadband fiber-optic Internet installation in Litchfield, MN.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE (Business Meeting Only)

MEEKER COOPERATIVE LIGHT AND POWER ASSOCIATION NOTICE OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of the Members of Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 24, 2023, at Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US HWY 12 E, STE 100, Litchfield, Minnesota 55355, for the following purposes: 1. Reading of, and acting upon, the unapproved minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting; 2. Receiving and acting upon reports of Officers, Directors and Committees; 3. Electing Directors of the Cooperative to fill offices of those whose terms expire on April 24, 2023; 4. Considering any unfinished business and taking up such new business as shall properly come before the meeting and acting on such matters as necessary for the best interest of the Association.

Larry Huhn, Secretary

GET TO KNOW THE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

The following pages contain information as a summary of answers provided on the required Application Form that candidates submitted. As nominees in Districts 1, 2 and 6 were unopposed, they have been declared elected by the Qualifications & Election Committee.

Ballots will be mailed to members in District 9 the first week in April. The bylaws state that properly executed ballots must be received as described on the ballot on or before the last business day of the Cooperative prior to the date of the annual or special meeting in order to be counted.

2023 QUALIFICATIONS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

The 2023 Qualifications & Election Committee met on Wednesday, January 18 to review the applications submitted. The Committee included one Member from each of the Co-op's districts where the seat is not currently up for election. This year there are 4 districts up for election – three in the regular election rotation and one to fill the District 9 seat currently filled by appointment of the Board. The Bylaws require that a seat filled by appointment be open for election at the next Annual meeting.

Five members submitted applications for consideration. The applications were reviewed and membership was verified. The Committee placed a slate of candidates for the 2023 elections. Incumbents Paul Bugbee – District 1 and Karen Becker – District 2 were unopposed in their respective Districts as was member Neil Pearson – District 6. The Committee acted

as directed by the Bylaws and waived the ballot process for these Districts and declared each elected.

Two members, Incumbent Jesse Turck and candidate David Lundin, filed for nomination in District 9. Turck was appointed in August to fill the open seat. The Committee placed both candidates on the ballot. A mail ballot will be sent to the Members in District 9 during the first week of April.

For more information about the candidates, please refer to the Profiles of the Candidates included in this Newsletter.

Members of the 2023 Qualifications & Election Committee included:

Back row: K. Bruce Krueger, David Leonhardi, Brian Harff

Front row: John (Art) Riehle, David Lindberg



District 6

Includes the townships of: Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lilian in Kandiyohi County; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker County; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville County



Neil Pearson
16935 545TH AVE
Grove City, MN 56243

Neil Pearson has been a Meeker Co-op Member for 40 years. He lives in Danielson Township. Neil is a farmer and a retired teacher.

Neil has attended Meeker Cooperative's Annual Meetings. He is also a member of Central Counties Co-op and Central Region Co-op.

Neil served 39 years on the Minnesota Association of Ag Educators. He's also belonged to the Rosendale United Methodist Church for 63 years. Neil feels Meeker's short- and long-term goals should simply be to provide the needed services to its members. He says energy conservation is vital for us to be as efficient as possible and renewables are also vital for safe and low-cost energy.

He says that maintenance of our distribution lines is very important to keep service efficient and to limit any downtime. Neil feels that high-speed Internet is very important to rural areas of Meeker's service territory. He says the biggest concern facing Meeker Cooperative is providing the services required by the patrons.

The strengths Neil feels he brings to the Board are leadership, being a team player, and agriculture knowledge.

District 1

Includes the townships of: Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi County; Paynesville in Stearns County; Union Grove in Meeker County



Paul Bugbee, Incumbent
29659 Queen Bee Lane
Paynesville, MN 55362

Paul Bugbee's family has been a Meeker Cooperative member for 68 years. He and his wife, Kella, own Bug-Bee Hive Resort on Lake Koronis.

In addition to serving two terms on the Meeker Cooperative board of directors, Paul has attended the Meeker Co-op Annual Meeting, many Member Appreciation events, Coffee on the Co-

op events, along with many MREA, Great River Energy, Basin Electric, and East River Energy meetings. He's also taken the Coal Creek tour.

He has belonged to many civic and philanthropic organizations throughout his life, including board participation with the Paynesville Area Community Foundation, the Minnesota Hospitality Association, the Paynesville Historical Society and the Koronis Lake Association. He also writes a monthly opinion column for the St. Cloud Times.

Paul participates in and endorses several of Meeker's programs and services including Cycled Air Conditioning, Storage Water Heating, Rebate Programs, Dual Fuel, ACH, and Operation Round Up®. He is a proud proponent of VIBRANT Broadband and uses the internet services at his home and at the resort.

Paul feels Meeker Co-op should encourage the development and use of alternative energy sources that could help reduce the Co-op's cost, especially during peak electrical demand periods. He says our short-term goals should be rate stability with consumer demand options and expanded private enterprise that generates income for the Co-op and better serves our members. He would also like to see development of electronic charging stations for electric vehicles within our service area.

Bugbee believes that the Cooperative's long-term goals should be the pursuit of alternative, low-cost energy options, including free-market wholesale energy purchases and buy-out considerations from long-term power supply contracts. He would also like to encourage greater research for cost-effective implementation of energy storage.

Paul firmly believes that consumers could easily do a better job of energy conservation, effectively reducing their own use by 10-20% just by turning out lights, turning down the thermostat, closing open windows and doors, and utilizing common sense for improved energy conservation. He also feels we need to do more to encourage consumer electrical generation to reduce our reliance on coal and the high cost of energy transmission.

Bugbee believes that sustainable energy production will be the energy source for our future and we need to get on board with greater solar initiatives for our members. Cooperatives can do more, he says, to reduce the need for coal-powered energy generation to help with climate change.

Bugbee believes that one of the biggest challenges for moving forward with alternative energy production is our long-term contractual obligations for wholesale electricity. He says legal or legislative action is needed to release our contractual obligations in a fair and equitable manner for all stakeholders.

Bugbee recognizes that high-speed Internet service is the backbone to American commerce and communications. The survival of rural communities depends upon access and reliability. He is proud of Meeker Co-op's pursuit and the development of VIBRANT Broadband services throughout our service area and beyond.

Expanding our VIBRANT broadband Internet service into additional areas of central Minnesota fits nicely within the scope of our work as a cooperative.

Paul adds that Meeker Cooperative has a proud history of service, reliability, safety, accountability, and vision. We have been leaders in energy management programs, conservation, legislative advocacy, member services, financial oversight, and innovative enterprise. We are a shining example of what a cooperative is all about. The strengths Paul feels he brings to the board include prior board experience and involvement on other boards, business planning, budgeting, and operations background, plus communication, compromise, and negotiation skills.

District 2

Includes the townships of: Eden Lake in Stearns County; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker County



Karen Becker, Incumbent
38600 MN HWY 22 S
Eden Valley, MN 55329

Karen has been a Meeker Cooperative Member for 36 years. The Beckers own Ru-Be Dairy.

Karen has attended 20 Annual Meetings, several Member Appreciation events, Coffee on the Co-op events, NRECA meetings, Great River Energy meetings, MREA meetings, and has taken the Coal Creek Tour.

She and her family are also a member of Compeer Financial, Cenex of Paynesville, and First District Association. Karen has also served on the Peanut Butter and Milk Festival board, as a past member of the Meeker County Fair Board, as a past council member of the Assumption Church, and is a current officer of the Hands of Friendship Quilt Guild.

Karen participates in Meeker's ACH service and Operation Round Up® program. They also have VIBRANT Broadband Internet service.

She would like to see the Net Metering be revised because it takes money from all members due to the required payback at retail rates. She would also like us to use more renewables, including wind and solar.

Karen says Meeker's short-term goals should be to continue to provide safe and reliable services to our members, both electric and Internet. Her long-term goal is keeping rates affordable for all members.

She feels we all can save energy by turning the lights off when we are out of the room, resetting the thermostat, and using energy efficient appliances.

Karen believes that wind will be a helpful solution when it comes to renewables, but something needs to be done about the environmental waste issue when the wind generators are decommissioned.

She also says that battery storage is a new and growing industry, but we also need to find a way to decommission the old batteries.

As for climate change, Karen believes there will always be change in the environment and that we are now using products that were unimaginable 10 years ago.

She says transmission line construction is needed to get power to all consumers. Distribution line maintenance and clearances keeps the lines visible and make maintaining them safer for all crews, allowing for repairs and line improvements.

Karen feels there is a place for both overhead and underground lines. She says overhead is great in large rural areas while underground works well for subdivisions and developments.

Karen would like to see VIBRANT grow. She says it has been a great addition to Meeker Co-op, bringing in customers outside its electric service territory. She wants to make sure VIBRANT's rates stay competitive and affordable.

She says the biggest concern for Meeker Cooperative is the loss of sales to self-generation.

Karen feels her inquisitiveness and listening skills are part of the strengths she brings to the board. She also says that partaking in discussions and making informed decisions that are right for the membership are other skills she brings.



Go to our website,
www.meeker.coop, for more!
News articles • Classifieds • Member Info

District 9

Includes the townships of: North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker County



Jesse Turck, Incumbent
67100 MN HWY 24
Litchfield, MN 55355

Jesse has been a Meeker Cooperative Member since moving back to the family Christmas Tree Farm from Saint Paul in 2021. He is an Architect focused on energy efficient design with BWBR Architects. Jesse was appointed in August 2022 by the board to fill the open District 9 board seat until the next annual meeting.

As a director, he has attended two Coffee on the Co-op events, the member appreciation event at Powder Ridge, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting, met with local political representatives, and attended monthly board meetings. Jesse was a member of Cass County Electric Co-op when he lived in Fargo, North Dakota.

His experience on boards and committees includes being a member and past chair of BWBR's Performance Design Group, Co-Chair of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Minnesota Committee on the Environment, Committee Member of the AIA MN 21ST Century Development Task Force, Steering Committee Member of the Minnesota Resiliency Collaborative, Board Member of the U.S. Green Building Council MN Market Leadership Advisory Board, and a member on the Meeker County Planning Commission.

Jesse's household participates in many of the Meeker Cooperative programs and services including Cycled Air Conditioning, Storage Water Heating, Storage Heat, Peak Shave Water Heating, Rebate Programs, VIBRANT Broadband Services, and Operation Round Up®.

He believes our short-term goals should be providing affordable and reliable power and high-speed Internet to our members. Jesse also feels these goals should be included with our long-term goals while reducing dependence on fossil fuel generated electricity and incorporating more renewable sources. Maintenance of our distribution lines is a top priority to keep them reliable.

As an Architect, Jesse sees an increasing number of building projects being designed to be more efficient and all electric. That, coupled with increased electric vehicle usage, will likely increase electricity demand and the need for more transmission lines. He says energy conservation is critical to reducing the need to build more infrastructure and helping to maintain costs at an affordable level. He sees an opportunity to increase electric sales for a brighter future.

Jesse also sees renewable energy as a rapidly growing sector. The better they perform, the cheaper they become. However, there can be challenges during times when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing. Hopefully as more renewable energy is added to the electrical grid battery storage technologies will improve to help even out the electrical supply.

He says Internet is a vital service and having access to high-speed Internet makes running a business, telecommuting, telehealth, connecting to distant family, and entertainment easier. He says VIBRANT is great for his family. The more people are connected, the better for the local economy - it helps to level the playing field between rural and urban communities.

Jesse is a self-proclaimed energy nerd and feels the quality and strengths he brings to the board include his knowledge, passion, and experience with energy efficiency and design; his board and committee experience; his curiosity and desire to learn more about the electric system and to help encourage further electrification in buildings and transportation.

Receive Outage Text Notifications!

Sign up to receive texts when an outage occurs in your area.

Go to: www.meeker.coop/outagetext

District 9

Includes the townships of: North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker County



David Lundin, Candidate
28510 655TH AVE
Litchfield, MN 55355

David K. Lundin's tenure as a Meeker Cooperative member has spanned a length of 24 years. His household utilizes many of the Cooperative's fine services (Cycled Air Conditioning, Peak Shave Water Heating, Storage Water Heater, Dual Fuel, VIBRANT Broadband, Operation Round Up®, and ACH Payment). Dave has participated in many

Co-op functions, including Annual Meetings, Member Appreciation events, Meeker Co-op Committees, and also the Co-op 101 program. His involvement in the community includes over seven combined years of serving on the Litchfield Watercade Board, serving on the Nominating Committee at his church, and serving as both treasurer and president of the Vocational VICA Club.

Dave is currently a Territory Sales Manager for Diamond Vogel Paint. Previously, he spent over 20 years at a local trailer manufacturing company where he earned management experience and advanced to titles such as vice president and eventually president.

When it comes to the programs and services offered by the Cooperative, Dave thinks the foundations are strong. He doesn't view them as needing stark adjustments without taking a thorough look at them - but he doesn't shy away from hearing new ideas that could lead to progress either.

Dave's belief is we should always provide clean, reliable energy at an affordable cost. He feels we can all do our part to save energy through proper education. His long-term goal is to build a long-lasting, sustainable, and financially secure Cooperative that is able to meet the potential demands of a growing community. Renewable energy is an option he thinks can contribute to this goal, but he also knows it is important to be aware of the shortages that can occur with renewables.

In a similar vein, Dave believes climate change is real, it's changing for some reason, but that it is important to weigh all options available before making extreme changes. He feels it is in our best interest, and the interest of future generations, to be conscientious of our ecological impact while still making expedient decisions in regards to the Co-op's energy practices.

One topic he thinks it prudent to focus on is line maintenance and construction. As the backbone of power circulation, keeping lines clear of tree limbs and having right-of-way clearances are very important to keep costs down and power on for Cooperative members.

Another subject Dave is passionate about is the VIBRANT Broadband; he understands the significance of reliable and fast Internet service to keep users connected and informed.

Additionally, Dave finds one of the major issues facing Meeker Cooperative is the question of where our power will be sourced from, and for how long.

Dave says the strengths he brings to the table include having management experience and a background in business, being open-minded and fair, and offering new ideas to better serve our members.

FIND YOUR LOCATION NUMBER



Four location numbers are hidden within this *Pioneer* and four more are placed in articles published on our website between now and the next *Pioneer* mailing. If you find your number and claim it by **calling** Meeker Co-op before **April 28**, you will receive a \$10 credit to your account! When you call, verify your information is correct in our system and you will also receive an additional bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar Panel. **Good luck!**

FAMILIES ENJOY MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Meeker Cooperative members and VIBRANT Broadband customers enjoyed a night on the slopes this past February 15.

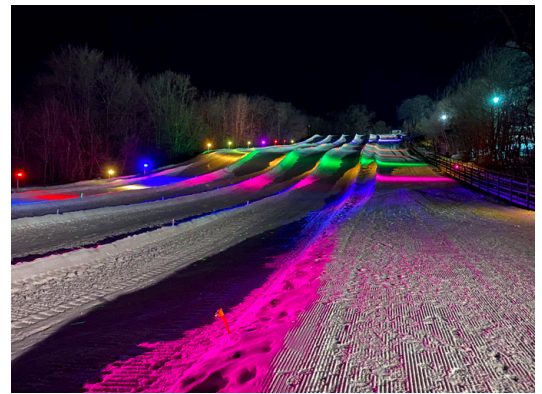
Families trekked their way to Powder Ridge in Kimball, Minnesota on a cold winter evening for our Member and Customer Appreciation event.

Families enjoyed skiing or tubing and a meal. Meeker employees made s'mores by the fire for all to enjoy. Thank you to

those who braved the cold to have some fun! Thank you to Powder Ridge for housing our event!



Re-energizing before going back out to ski or tube.



Lazer Lights on the tubing hill.



Tubing is fun in pairs.



Roasting marshmallows to perfection.



Ready to hit the slopes.



An evening of enjoyment and fellowship.

HOW DO YOU CONNECT WITH US?

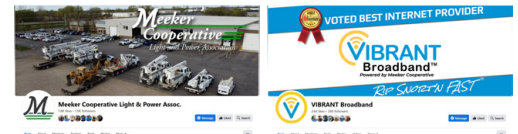
Have you been following our Meeker Co-op and VIBRANT Broadband Facebook pages? Did you know Meeker Co-op and VIBRANT have YouTube channels?

Meeker Co-op and VIBRANT Broadband have several ways of keeping in touch with their members and customers. Six times a year, members receive this *Pioneer*. It includes Meeker Cooperative-focused content with messages from our CEO/General Manager, feature articles, event announcements, and official notifications throughout the year. #25-14-302

More timely messages and announcements are sent to you by **email**, making it pertinent to keep your account email address up to date. If you aren't receiving our emails, please contact the office to update.

We also communicate with our members and customers on our social media channels. That includes **Facebook and YouTube**. Members and customers of all ages will find our posts informative with tips on saving energy, Internet tidbits, event announcements, and more. We post something regularly each week, including short video clips from our **weekly radio show** (Wednesdays at 10:30 AM on KLFD)!

The thing about social media, however, is that for Meeker and VIBRANT posts to be shown to more members and customers, they need to have some interaction. This means that by liking our posts, commenting on them, or sharing them helps more people see them. You can help share the news!



Another way to connect with us is by visiting our websites. **Meeker.coop** is your source for information related to the Co-op. It has our current programs, rates, rebates, load control status, outage map, and articles posted monthly. You will also find a link to our classifieds where members can list their items for sale free of charge!

On **VIBRANTBroadband.com**, you can run a speed test, learn about streaming, and get information on the services that can connect you to the world in the best way possible.

Here is how to connect with us the way **YOU** want:

Meeker Co-op

- www.meeker.coop
- facebook.com/meekercoop
- youtube.com/@meekercoop

VIBRANT Broadband

- www.vibrantbroadband.com
- facebook.com/vibrantbroadband
- youtube.com/@vibrantbroadband

Office: 320-693-3231

1725 US HWY 12 E, STE 100, Litchfield, MN 55355



"We were so happy to have Cody install our Internet! He was friendly, helpful, and so kind to make sure all our devices were hooked up, and he answered our numerous questions. I've been made to feel very comfortable with the whole process by the Account Specialists. It was a big step for us and they've been so awesome to talk to. Thank you all for making this transition so smooth. So far so good with our VIBRANT!! Thanks again." - Sue J

REMINDER: ELECTRIC RATE CHANGES START MAR 1

Changes to Meeker's rate structure are set to begin with electric usage starting March 1, 2023. This will first affect the electric payment you make in April. The rate increase will be a twofold approach. Specifically, the power cost adjustment (PCA) will change from \$.0078/kilowatt-hour to \$.0112/kilowatt-hour. The PCA increase will be the same for all rate classes. Also the monthly fixed charge will change across all general service rate classes.

This chart shows the monthly fixed charge increases.

Change in Monthly Fixed Charge Effective March 1, 2023

Rate Schedule	Rate Code	Current	New
Small Single Phase	1, 2	\$35	\$43
Large Single Phase	3	\$93	\$115
Small Three Phase	4	\$71	\$88
Large Three Phase	5	\$118	\$145
Irrigation (Uncontrolled)	6	\$118	\$145
Irrigation (Controlled)	61, 63, 8	\$118	\$145
Large Power =>350 kVA	7	\$249	\$306



Focus on what matters most
with cameras from Heartland Security

Heartland Security
888.264.6380
heartlandss.com

THINKING ABOUT UPGRADING YOUR INEFFICIENT AIR CONDITIONER?

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR ONE OF THESE REBATES!

Air Source Heat Pump with Quality Installation (QI) requirement

- >= 8.2 HSPF: **\$650**
- >= 8.8 HSPF: **\$925**
- >= 9.5 HSPF: **\$1,200**

An air source heat pump is an energy-efficient heating and cooling system that extracts heat from the outdoor air to provide warmth in the winter and cool air in the summer. Benefits include reduced energy costs and lower carbon emissions.

HSPF - Heating Seasonal Performance Factor is the ratio of heat output to electricity used over an average heating season. The higher the HSPF, the greater the energy efficiency.

Go to meeker.coop/programs to find out more information or call our Energy Services department at

320-693-3231

WILLIE WIREDHAND'S ELECTRICITY FUN FACT



Direct current is generated from batteries and solar panels, but the power coming out of power outlets is Alternating Current. Simple devices like lamps and toasters run on AC power, but it needs to be converted to DC to power more complicated devices like computers and TVs.

Featured Recipe

Congratulations to **Soundra Burgoyne** for submitting this issue's winning recipe for Rhubarb.

- 5 cups red rhubarb, cut up
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- ½ pint unwhipped whipping cream

Grease and flour 9x13 pan. Mix rhubarb and sugar and put in pan. Sprinkle yellow cake mix over top. Drizzle unwhipped whipping cream over all. Tip pan to make sure it is covered. Let stand for 1 hour.

Bake at 350°F for 45-50 minutes. Serve with cool whip or ice cream. #28-12-101



Submit your favorite Grilling Recipe for our next issue! Please include a photo if you are able. The chosen winner will receive a \$10 credit to their account. DEADLINE: April 14, 2023. Email to: szeppelin@meeker.coop | Mail to: Meeker Coop, ATTN: Shane 1725 US Hwy 12 E, Ste 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

2022 MEEKER COOPERATIVE FAST FACTS

EMPLOYEES.....	45
MEMBERS.....	7,885
RESIDENTIAL.....	79%
SEASONAL.....	12%
COMMERCIAL.....	6%
OTHER.....	3%
MILES OF LINE.....	1,972
MEMBERS PER MILE.....	4.01
NEW SERVICES BUILT.....	84
CHANGE JOBS.....	44
LINE REBUILDS.....	9
RIGHT-OF-WAY MILES MAINT.	197
LINES PATROLLED.....	544 MILES
POLE CHANGES.....	103

#23-03-401

Meeker Cooperative

Light and Power Association

VISITORS FROM ALABAMA ENJOY SNOW

Meeker Cooperative hosted visitors from Hartford, Alabama, on Thursday, February 9. FFA students and their parents were given a tour of Meeker Cooperative and VIBRANT Broadband, bucket truck rides, and an afternoon of skiing and tubing at Powder Ridge.



IS YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE?

Please take a moment to update your information.

Visit our website:

www.meeker.coop/update-my-info
or call us at 320-693-3231.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brad Donnay, President — District 3
Luxemburg, Maine Prairie,
South Maine Prairie in Stearns;
Forest Prairie in Meeker

Mark Larson, Vice President — 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

Larry Huhn, Secretary — District 8
Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Paul Bugbee, Treasurer — District 1
Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi;
Paynesville in Stearns;
Union Grove in Meeker

Karen Becker — District 2
Eden Lake in Stearns;
Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf — District 4
Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Stephen Plaisance — District 5
Fairhaven in Stearns;
Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright;
Dassel in Meeker

Randy Bryant — District 7
Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker;
Stockholm in Wright;
Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Jesse Turck — District 9
North Kingston, Kingston,
Forest City in Meeker

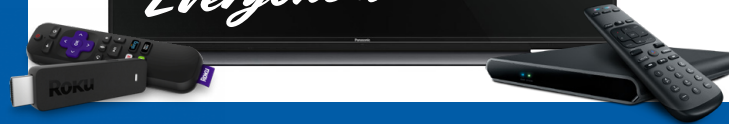
Chad Felstul, Attorney

Dreaming of Streaming

Learn...

- What streaming is
- How to stream
- What you can stream
- What devices are available
- How to save \$\$\$

Everyone is welcome!



Free Demonstration and Presentation Events

Meeker Co-op Community Room
1725 US HWY 12 E, Litchfield

Apr 19 — 5:30-6:30 PM

May 10 — 5:30-6:30 PM

Questions?
Call 320-693-3231

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CONTACT US

320-693-3231 | Fax: 320-693-2980
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355
www.meeker.coop | www.vibrantbroadband.com

/meekercoop

/vibrantbroadband

CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen | Editor: Shane Zeppelin

USPS 018-308 | ISSN 1525-1055 | Periodicals Postage Paid at Litchfield, MN with additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to address above, Attn: Meeker Pioneer.

The *Meeker Pioneer* is published bi-monthly. Cost is \$5 per year for members and \$10 per year for non-members by Meeker Cooperative. 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 Attention: Editor at the address above.

Meeker Cooperative
Light and Power Association

VIBRANT Broadband™
Heartland Security