

A newsletter from Arrowhead Cooperative

# The High Line

By Line

June 2018, vol. 23



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## The Cooperative Difference

**E**lectric co-ops are local energy and technology providers. Arrowhead Cooperative operates out of our office in Lutsen, where we generate power with our solar array every day. We are entirely owned by our members, all of whom receive power from us at a location in our community, here on the north shore of Lake Superior. Every electric cooperative is a little bit different because we all serve different size memberships and different geographic areas. This local, member-owned structure is one reason why cooperatives enjoy the highest consumer-satisfaction scores within the electric industry, according to J.D. Power and Associates and the American Consumer Satisfaction Index.

### Committed to serving you

Electric cooperatives serve an average of 8 consumers per mile of electric line and collect an average annual revenue of \$19,000 per mile of line.

All other utilities (municipals and investor-owned utilities) serve an average of 32 customer per mile and collect an average annual revenue of \$79,000 per mile.

It is more efficient and profitable to deliver electricity in a densely populated area. Investor-owned utilities chose not to build distribution plant in rural areas for this very reason. So rural communities like ours joined together to form their own electric companies under shared ownership.

### How are cooperatives different?

We are entirely member-owned. We answer to you and we look to you, our members, for input on what you want from your cooperative.

Members choose the board of directors. The seven directors are elected by you, to represent you.

Profit is not our priority. If we have a year with positive revenues, that money gets set aside to be returned to the same members who paid their bills that year. These Capital Credits will be used to invest in infrastructure, then paid back to the owners (you).

### The Arrowhead Cooperative Difference

Arrowhead is a relatively small cooperative, but not insignificant. We're a model to other coops around the nation as they begin to realize the natural fit between rural electric providers and local broadband service. There aren't many places you can live where you can say that the people who provide your power, your phone, and your high speed internet all work for you. We stay up-to-date with our members' needs, whether it's for better metering and outage response, offering a local solar garden, or building a fiber to the home network when no private company would provide adequate service. We look forward to seeing many of you at our breakfast and 65th Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 9th in Grand Marais. Please join us to celebrate your cooperative and to participate as members in this annual event.

---

## Reminder: Annual Meeting this month!

### Arrowhead Cooperative's 65th Annual Meeting

Enjoy a hot breakfast starting at 8:30am then join us for the meeting at 10am.  
Door prizes distributed at the end of the meeting!

**Saturday, June 9th**  
**Cook County High School**

**8:30am Breakfast**  
**10:00am Annual Meeting**

**REMINDER**

---

# 2018 Right-of-Way Update

In order to provide safe and reliable service to our members trees and brush must be kept clear of all electric power lines. Properly cleared and accessible rights-of-way help us provide quick response to service issues and the high level reliability that our members deserve.

Arrowhead Cooperative hired Davey Resource Group to complete an assessment of all our rights-of-way and to develop an Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to help us maintain those rights-of-way (ROW). Davey Resource Group works with utilities around the country to improve their safety and reliability through carefully maintained ROW.

Their commitment to safety and to customer service makes them a good fit to collaborate with Arrowhead. Staff from Davey Resource Group has been assessing the maintenance area since February. They logged many miles on snowmobiles and snowshoes surveying the area from Gunflint Lake to Menogyn Trail. You may have seen marks on trees in the area -this is simply part of the inventory process and does not indicate whether or not the tree needs to be maintained. This is part of the information and data collection process.

The Project Manager from Davey Resource Group is John Haakenson. John grew up in Minnesota near Ramsey. He has a BS degree in Forest Ecosystem Management and a minor in Environmental Science from the University of

Minnesota. John H. will work with John Twiest, Arrowhead Cooperative's Operations Manager, to make the comprehensive plan for the rights-of-way on the Gunflint Trail. John Haakenson will then contact each property owner to discuss what action might be taken on their respective property. Every property owner will be contacted before any maintenance is conducted on their land. The contractors will not be maintaining any ROW until



the project manager has released it for maintenance. John Haakenson will also perform quality assurance inspections to review work as it is finished.

For many of us, the landscape is a huge part of what makes Cook County our home. We are developing

the Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to help maintain the safety and reliability of your electric service while also being respectful of your property.

John Haakenson and a few of his colleagues from Davey Resource Group will be at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 9th. Please take time to meet them after you have breakfast. They will be happy to answer many of your questions. We will also schedule a meeting to be held up the Gunflint Trail later this month to give property owners in the area a chance to get more information and ask questions.

The back page of our newsletter has a regular reminder about our right-of-way requirements and notes the general area where any clearing work is scheduled.

# The Directors Corner

## Mike Littfin

*Great River Energy Board Of Directors*

### Great River Energy / Powering What's Possible

#### Where does our power come from? Great River Energy

As an owner-member of Arrowhead Cooperative, you are one of almost 3600 Arrowhead members that have a vested interest in Arrowheads operation. Arrowhead is in the GRE family of coops.

Great River Energy is a wholesale power cooperative owned and governed by its 28 member-owner cooperatives. It serves its members and communities, not stockholders. GRE generates electricity and transmits it across power lines to member cooperatives, who then distribute it to their members. The 28-member Coops collectively serve almost 60 percent of Minnesota, with some 665,000 accounts representing almost 1.7 million people. GRE is the second largest power supplier in Minnesota.

GRE is owned by the members it serves. Member owned means member-accountable. Great River Energy never chooses between what's best for its customers and what's best for its owners because they are one and the same. This structure allows GRE to work together to accomplish its mission, to provide reliable energy at affordable rates in harmony with a sustainable environment.

Taking a diverse approach. No single fuel is capable of providing the energy to meet all of GRE's member-owner cooperatives' needs. The Electric Power Research Institute compared the value of a diverse generation portfolio to that of a diverse stock portfolio. By preparing for several possible outcomes of future fuel prices and technological advances, utilities can minimize risk and deliver the best value to consumers.

GRE's power generation capability consists of a diverse mix that is fueled by coal, biomass, natural gas and oil. It also includes environmentally sound renewable energy sources like wind, solar and hydropower.

The greatest change in the mix of generation at GRE has been the addition of renewables and strategic use of existing generation plants.

- In 2008 the State of Minnesota mandated that all State utilities meet a renewable energy standard of 25 percent by 2025. Great River Energy meet that standard last year – eight years ahead of the state's requirement.
- GRE will add an additional 300 MW of wind energy in 2020 and add 100 MW in 2021.
- GRE has interim renewable goals of 30 percent by 2020 and 40 percent by 2025.
- The GRE Board, in May of this year, approved a resolution adopting a corporate goal of 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.
- After 50 years of serving Minnesota cooperatives, GRE retired the Stanton Station power plant in central North Dakota in May of 2017.
- Engineers at our Coal Creek Station in central North Dakota have developed techniques that allow for more flexible operation, by ramping up and down its electric production to better match the variable output provided by renewables, primarily wind.

As you can see, GRE is responding to market place changes, legislative mandates and member owner concerns. Great River Energy is dedicated to meeting its members expectations and Powering What's Possible.

# Dates to Remember

Saturday, June 9  
Wednesday, June 20  
Tuesday, June 26

Member breakfast & Annual Meeting  
Broadband & Electric bills due  
Board of Directors Meeting



## Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



### NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



### LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

## Arrowhead Cooperative CEO Joe Pandy Retires

Arrowhead Cooperative CEO Joe Pandy announced his retirement, effective Friday May 11, 2018. The staff and board wish him all the best as he returns to Michigan to enjoy time with his family. The Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors has appointed Jenny Kartes as the cooperative's interim CEO. Jenny has been with Arrowhead Cooperative since 2011 and is currently the Finance and Administration Manager.

## Right-Of-Way

Rights-of-way clearing has paused while our contractors complete their assessments. We anticipate clearing will resume in July. Keep in mind, clearing and hazard tree removal can happen at any time, in any area as needed.

### What can you do to help?

- Please be sure the right of way is clear of personal items to ensure the mowers and equipment can pass through with ease.
- Brushing and/or mowing your private right-of-way from the meter to your home, following your electric or fiber line, would be extremely helpful. The suggested width is 10 feet for both overhead and underground services.

Please mark survey pins, sprinkler systems, septic systems, well heads, wire or fencing with a five foot permanent reflective marker post within the right-of-way, and remove any personal items that may be damaged by flying debris. Arrowhead Cooperative will not accept liability for damage of these items if not notified. If you do not live at your service address, please call the office to inform us of known obstacles in your right-of-way.

Arrowhead Cooperative encourages members to contact the office with any questions or concerns regarding Right-of-Way clearing.

## Arrowhead Cooperative True North Broadband

Post Office Box 39  
5401 West Hwy. 61  
Lutsen, Minnesota 55612-0039  
Phone 218-663-7239  
Toll Free 1-800-864-3744  
Fax 218-663-7850

[www.arrowhead.coop](http://www.arrowhead.coop)  
[www.truenorthbroadband.com](http://www.truenorthbroadband.com)

General Manager  
Board President: Scott Harrison  
Newsletter Editor  
Cooperative Board Meeting last Thursday of each month @ 9:00 a.m. with the exception of November and December due to the holidays.

