MiNews

November 2026 Vol. 10 Issue 11
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

A JOURNEY DOWN MiRoads
WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

Generations of trust

It's the people of the cooperative

Maximize your HVAC efficiency

Operation Round Up reaches milestone

Employee receives regional award

The Winneshiek County Historical Preservation Commission of Decorah, Iowa, recently accepted a grant of $750 from MiEnergy members through Operation Round Up to help create a digital guide of notable historic sites in Winneshiek County. Pictured at the Highlandville School built in 1911, National Register of Historic Places, now used as a township hall and for community events.

CELEBRATING NINETY YEARS
1936 90 2026
MIENERGY COOPERATIVE



We are in the people business

This fall, I have had the privilege of serving on several cooperative leadership education panels for our statewide associations, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. Given my tenure as CEO, I suppose I should have expected a few invitations to share what I have learned along the way.

The employees attending these sessions are building their skills and preparing to advance into leadership positions at their own electric cooperatives. Many who are newer to the industry see an electric cooperative primarily as a "poles and wires" organization. We keep the lights on and generate revenue through the sale of kilowatt-hours.

That description is accurate, but incomplete. Reliable service, responsible rates and sufficient revenue are essential to operating a cooperative. Yet those measures alone do not tell us whether we are taking care of our members.

A utility can sell millions of kilowatt-hours and produce strong financial margins while still missing the people focus. That focus means delivering dependable member service, looking out for members' needs and remembering that every account represents someone who relies on us.

For one member, that may mean getting a clear explanation of an unexpectedly high bill. For another, it may mean coordinating electric service for a new home or helping a farm plan for additional equipment. During a storm, it means restoring power safely and keeping members informed so they can make decisions for their families and businesses.

These are not separate from our work as an electric utility. They are the reason for it.

Our cooperative business structure makes that responsibility especially clear. MiEnergy Cooperative is owned by the members we serve. You are not simply customers purchasing electricity. Through board elections and participation in cooperative meetings, you have a voice in the organization's direction. Our decisions must serve our members' interests today, while maintaining a dependable electric system for the years ahead.

That responsibility belongs to everyone at MiEnergy, not just the employees who answer the phones. A staking technician who listens carefully to a member's plans can help prevent confusion and unnecessary expense. A lineworker who takes a moment to explain what a crew is doing can ease a member's concerns. Employees working behind the scenes support accurate billing, sound financial decisions and the equipment our crews need to do their jobs safely.

Taking care of members also requires taking care of our employees. We need to provide the training, tools and support that help them succeed. We need to listen to their experience and make room for the next generation of cooperative leaders to grow. When employees understand both their responsibilities and the purpose behind them, they are better prepared to serve our membership.

That was the message I wanted emerging leaders to carry back to their cooperatives: learn the electric system, understand the financial statements and know the responsibilities that come with leadership. Then make a habit of asking how a decision will affect the people you serve. Bring that question to a budget discussion, a construction planning meeting or a review of member service procedures.

After years in this business, I remain proud of the skill and dedication it takes to keep electricity flowing to our communities. The poles and wires matter. But so do the people who build and maintain them, the employees who support that work and the members who depend on it every day.

At MiEnergy Cooperative, keeping the lights on is our responsibility. Serving members is our purpose!

As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits.

Board room highlights | Oct. 29, 2026

- CFO Hove presented the financials for September which are tracking to budget.
- Members Jim Fabian and Gail Griffin were approved to serve as Operation Round Up trustees.
- The 2027 annual meeting timeline was approved.
- Bids were approved for the load control receiver project.
- Broadband COO Huffman provided an update on MiBroadband.
- A revolving loan fund application from the Howard County Agricultural Society was reviewed and approved.
- CEO Krambeer provided an update on cooperative activities and subsidiary organizations.

The next board meeting is November 30 at 9 a.m. at the Rushford office.

2026 legislative forums





Our local representatives and senators recently attended the annual legislative forums held at the Cresco and Rushford offices. Thank you to representatives Michael Bergan (IA), Aaron Repinski (MN) and Greg Davids (MN), and senators Mike Klimesh (IA) and Jeremy Miller (MN) for participating in our annual event as it is a great opportunity for legislators to talk with co-op employees and directors about issues affecting the cooperative, its members and our local communities.





A JOURNEY DOWN MiRoads
WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

ONE POWERFUL TEAM

A tribute to those committed to the cooperative spirit

This is the third article in the 4-part series in our newsletter emphasizing the tagline "trust that spans generations" to celebrate our 90th anniversary year.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission is to make our corner of the world a better place. Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions – because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor. MiEnergy works to help our communities thrive through initiatives led by our employees who live here. We understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them. The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together toward a common goal – mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit.

THE CO-OP FAMILY

It's no wonder that your electric cooperative has been awarded several national distinctive awards over the years. It is the employees truly adhering to the cooperative spirit of helping and serving others.

It's the nature of our kind-hearted employees that see the good in helping others, like generously providing monetary donations from their own pocketbook to assist co-workers, families in our communities and neighboring co-ops when life is interrupted with severe health crises, major accidents or mother nature's wrath. They show up. Often quietly and unwavering when no one is looking. I've been an employee for over 25 years and that is what I admire most about this co-op family. We ARE the co-op, the heartbeat that "provides the power" and we will continue to do the same for the coming generations along MiRoads.

In addition to the daily work, over the years they have found time to wear pink for breast cancer awareness, recognizing National Wear Red Day, wearing crazy socks for World Down Syndrome Day and donning flannel for men's health. Employees also donate funds during the holidays for food shelves and Christmas support programs. In the past, we published spotlights on employees that volunteered in their communities in MiNews.

Employees will take an extra minute to pet the dog in your yard and answer each phone call with a smile. We are the only electric cooperative to have received the national Cooperative Purpose Award twice and the Best Places to Work recognition more than once.

It's value that goes far beyond the energy we provide, value you really can't put a price on. In other words, the foundation of the cooperative is truly our people. Afterall, that's the co-op way of doing things.



POWER OF ONE
— Excerpt from 2017 annual report

As your cooperative's stewards, we have the important responsibility to deliver reliable electric service to your home, farm or business 24 hours a day - seven days a week. We are living up to the mission through our staff of talented and dedicated employees that take great pride in meeting our members' needs.



TRUST THAT SPANS GENERATIONS
— Excerpt from 2025 annual report

Trust is a cornerstone of every successful business. It must be earned, often over decades, and then nurtured to remain strong. Throughout it all, we've stayed true to our roots, governed by your locally elected board of directors and guided by the principles of the cooperative model.

We've welcomed new, skilled employees to replace our trusted staff as they retire, and we've embraced innovative technologies to enhance efficiency and reliability. Still, the personal touch remains—with knowledgeable, member-focused representatives answering calls to the office in lieu of an automated phone system. Together, we'll build an even stronger cooperative for future generations.

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworkers are committed not only to a career, but a lifestyle. Severe weather events can bring major power outages and lineworkers respond. They leave the comfort of their home and families because a member is without power. They don't return until the job is done. In some cases, days later. A lineworker's family is also dedicated. They understand the importance of the job. They are truly the power behind your power.



BEYOND THE WIRES
— Excerpt from 2022 annual report theme and newsletter series

Fundraising amounts at the annual REC archery shoot collected from our co-op along with neighboring co-ops and their families have totaled over $56,000 since they started donating the proceeds from the event in 2018. Thank you to our MiEnergy employees for keeping the lights on and going beyond the wires to bring joy to local families facing difficult times. We appreciate your dedication to our members and community.

We hope you see us as more than just a power provider.
Thank you to our employees who are rooted in the heart and soul of providing that power!

CONGRATULATIONS

I ♥ Mi-Coop gift basket drawing winners

Over 1,500 members entered our 7th Annual Co-op Month Basket Giveaway. Congratulations to our winners!

Kimberly Ball, Lawler
Dean Belter, Winona
Ed Berg, Dakota
Lynette Cone, Houston
Sharon J DePestel, Utica
Mark W Edwards, Minnesota City
Rebecca Gage, Lawler
Sharon Gossman, Decorah
Linda Groth, Spring Valley
Nevin A Groth, Spring Valley
Alvin Hageman, Decorah
Michael & Anita Hahn, Caledonia
Steve Hauser, Wykoff
Mary K Heberlein, La Crescent
Glen & Marlene Hisey, Chatfield
Jeremiah D & Sasha E Holst, Lanesboro
Hadley Houk, Decorah
Greg & Theresa Hudecek, Calmar
Dean Hubka, Cresco
David L Jennings, Caledonia
Gerald Keune, Cresco
Whitney Kimball, Lanesboro
Rebecca Kingsbury, Lewiston
Donald Krivachek, Fort Aktinson
Heidi Lee, Lewiston
Wendy & Daniel Liudahl, Harmony
Paul T & Julie K Maloney, Houston
Alan & Sandra Meyer, Caledonia
Dianne Morrison, La Crescent
Steve & Marianne Kurash, New Hampton
Karen Meirick, Alta Vista
Julie Moldenhauer, Minnesota City
Mark Monson, Spring Grove
Marion Nerstad, Spring Grove
Patrick O'Donnell, Cresco
Mary Papenfuss, Winona
Jessica Rediske, Decorah
Jack Rislow, Lewiston
Vernon Ristau, Preston
Linda Rentschler, Spring Valley
William Schumann, Riceville
Dr. Clair D Sauer, Lewiston
Alicia J Seekamp, Houston
David Shindelar, Waucoma
Allison Sollien, Canton
Michael & Deanna Kaye Solum, Spring Grove
Kayla Sullivan, Cresco
Ronald D Swiggum, St. Charles
Ginny Virock, Winona
Kevin Weidow, Calmar

MiEnergy hosted its 6th Annual Fall Event on October 16 at Pinter's Garden & Pumpkins. The family-friendly event provided attendees with hours of "agritainment" with numerous outdoor activities.



MINNESOTA MEMBERS NOTICES

MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE LAW

When a household member has been ordered into active duty for deployment or for a change of duty station, some members may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota Law protects military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their bill when certain conditions are met. For more information, visit www.MiEnergy.coop or call 800-432-2285.

ELECTRIC HEAT SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Electricity sold for residential use is not taxable for the billing months of November through April when sold to metered customers in Minnesota who use it as their primary source of residential heat according to Minnesota law. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable if it is the primary source of heat. Primary source of residential heat is the source that supplies more heat than any other sources for the largest period of time during the heating season.

If your property has both residential and commercial operations and only one meter for the entire building for electricity, square footage is used to determine if the residential exemption applies and is determined if more than 50 percent of the square footage of the building is residential.

If you have filed an exemption card with us in the past, you do not need to file again. If your electric heat is used in conjunction with wood or another fossil fuel, please re-evaluate your heat status.

Members who receive a tax exemption when electric heat is NOT the primary source of heating are in violation of the Minnesota law. Please contact us if your heating has changed and you should be taken off the tax exemption as it is your responsibility to notify us of any changes when you are no longer eligible.



Cybersecurity training exercise

Employees participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's cybersecurity tabletop exercise resources and live virtual training through the Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program on October 15. Your rural electric cooperative is committed to being prepared for a cybersecurity incident before it happens. This is a great opportunity for leadership to exercise crisis communications response and enhances the co-op's readiness in effectively managing cyber incidents. Employees Jack Martinka, Peter Scherbring, Brenda Tesch, Vassil Vutov, Mike Walton and Kent Whitcomb took part in the training session.

Members give $8,250 in local donations

Program reaches $200,000 milestone

MiEnergy Cooperative's Operation Round Up Trust Board met recently and elected to donate $8,250 to the following local organizations:

- $1,700, Mabel/Newburg United Methodist Church, Mabel, Minn., to help Mabel-Canton K-2 teachers purchase books for their students.
- $1,500, Minnesota Driftless Hiking Trail, Lanesboro, Minn., to launch a free guided hike series called Driftless Discovery.
- $1,000, Foster Adopt MN, St. Paul, Minn., to purchase clothing and shoes for local children in foster care.
- $1,000, Social Concerns Committee of St. John's Food Shelf, Wykoff, Minn., to provide meat sources for the food shelf's local families.
- $1,000, Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, Minn., to support the Summer Eats! program for students.
- $750, Winneshiek County Historical Preservation Commission, Decorah, Iowa, to help create a digital guide of notable historic sites in Winneshiek County.
- $500, Home and Community Options, Winona, Minn., to support the Resource Home for children and young adults with disabilities.
- $500, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Minn., to purchase warm hats, socks and gloves for unhoused and low-income individuals.
- $300, South Bear School, Decorah, Iowa, to purchase LED stage lighting.



The Mabel/Newburg United Methodist Church was one of the recipients of a $700 Operation Round Up grant in September 2025. Funds were given to the teachers of the Mabel-Canton School district to purchase books for their students in kindergarten to 2nd grades.



The St. Charles Public Library received a $500 grant from Operation Round Up in March 2026 to purchase interactive speaker devices for enhancing language development.

MILESTONE REACHED

The Operation Round Up program also marked a milestone with grant giving in September with over $200,000 given to local organizations since its inception in 2002. The first year it gave out $1,800. Currently, the program gives approximately $16,000 each year to local organizations.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY BY ROUNDING UP YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Operation Round Up supports local organizations. Members who sign up choose to have their electric bill rounded up to the next dollar with the extra change going to the Operation Round Up trust fund. The average annual contribution is $6. The trust board reviews grant applications twice a year to determine which local, worthy causes to support.

NAME _____ **ACCOUNT NUMBER** _____

SERVICE ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____ **PHONE NUMBER** _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

Mail to: MiEnergy Cooperative, P.O. Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

*I understand my electric bill will be rounded up to the next dollar each month with the extra amount going to Operation Round Up.

Operation Round Up Trust Board



Pictured above are the trust board members L-R starting at the top: Ann Brogan, of St. Charles; Dan Dietzenbach, of Fort Atkinson; Beth George, of Houston; Sandy Gronwoldt, of Riceville; Dawn Hauge, of Winona; Dennis Ostwinkle, of Decorah; Teresa Ross, of Hokah; Tom Tibor, of Minnesota City; and Jay Wheelock, of Fountain.

POWER UP YOUR BILL WITH HEART

Operation Round Up is funded by donations made by members of MiEnergy Cooperative who voluntarily have their electric bill round up to the next dollar. The average donation is $6 per year, 2,600 MiEnergy members participate and 100% of the funds generated are granted to local organizations. The program is based on the idea that small change adds up.

The Operation Round Up Trust Board, made up of MiEnergy members, chooses where the funds get donated, and the amount of the donation is based on an application process.

Donations to Operation Round Up are tax deductible. Organizations receive grants through an application process. The next application deadline is February 15. To learn more about Operation Round Up or to round up your electric bill, visit www.mienergy.coop/operation-round-up or call 1-800-432-2285.



Snowbirds and vacationers

If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time this winter, remember to make billing arrangements while you are away. MiEnergy has a number of options to offer:

- Automatic checking/savings withdrawals or credit/debit card payments.
- Online payments, readings, account management and daily/monthly power usage available through MiEnergy's SmartHub at www.MiEnergy.coop or download the SmartHub App for Android and iOS users.



Maximize HVAC system performance

Whether your heating and cooling system is brand new or 10 years old, regular maintenance can help your system run efficiently, keep energy costs in check and extend its life.

Filter Care

Every 2-3 months

- Check your air filter and replace it as recommended.
  A dirty filter can restrict airflow and make your system work harder.
- Keep return and supply vents clear of furniture, rugs and other obstructions. Dust them regularly.



Outdoor Unit Care

Once or twice a year

- Keep leaves, grass and other debris at least 2 feet away from the outdoor unit.
- Gently rinse dirty condenser coils with a garden hose, following your manufacturer's recommendations.



Proactive Service

Twice a year

- Schedule professional tune-ups in spring for cooling and fall for heating.
- Have ductwork checked for leaks or disconnected sections, and seal leaks with mastic or foil-backed tape.



Thermostat Smarts

Year-round

- Adjust your thermostat when you're asleep or away. In summer, set it a little higher; in winter, a little lower.
- Consider a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically manage temperatures and save energy.





Photo Credit: Lennox

Krambeer receives regional service award

MiEnergy Cooperative President and CEO Brian Krambeer has been recognized with the NRECA Regional Award for Outstanding Service, one of the highest honors in the nation's cooperative network. The award was presented September 22 by Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), during the NRECA Regions 5/6 Meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

The regional award is given to individuals who demonstrate an enduring commitment to cooperative values and a proven record of service to members. Krambeer has dedicated 40 years to the electric cooperative program, including 25 years leading MiEnergy.

Krambeer was jointly nominated by the boards of Minnesota Rural Electric Association and Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. In his nomination letter, the boards highlighted Krambeer's commitment to regional collaboration and organizational excellence.

The merger of Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Hawkeye REC to form MiEnergy was rooted in a vision to achieve enhanced effectiveness and improved efficiency for members of both cooperatives. It also successfully consolidated resources to better meet future energy needs and has served as a model for cooperative sustainability.

Beyond the merger, he led 12 electric cooperatives to form Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative to purchase the Minnesota distribution assets of Alliant Energy. It marked the first time in electric cooperative history that such a large group of cooperatives successfully worked together to acquire the territory of an investor-owned utility, bringing 43,000 new members to the regional cooperative family.



MiEnergy President/CEO Brian Krambeer (l) is pictured receiving the NRECA Regional Award for Outstanding Service by NRECA President Jim Matheson.

Other key accomplishments during his career include:

- Pioneering a business model for non-profit cooperative ownership of community solar that helped advance renewable energy and reduce wholesale power costs.
- Hosting one of the first residential battery storage pilots.
- Becoming the first cooperative in Minnesota to apply new net metering standards after reaching a 4% penetration rate of distributed generation.
- Working with former Minnesota Representative Gene Pelowski to help the cooperative and their community recover from a devastating flood in 2007. It resulted in reforming Minnesota's disaster relief laws, making money available quickly when the state needs to respond to a disaster.
- Overseeing the formation of MiBroadband to help bring high-speed internet to unserved and underserved rural areas in northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota.

MiEnergy hosted the first rural Minnesota Cooperative Planning meeting with the Minnesota Public Utility Commission in 2022. In the nomination letter, the boards stated, "Whether leading his team through the inspirational recovery of a major flood in 2007 or navigating large-scale utility acquisitions, his focus has always remained on the quality of life for the members and community."



Use caution during controlled burns

Farmers play an essential role in keeping communities across our service territory thriving, and MiEnergy appreciates their hard work and dedication throughout the year. As the harvest season comes to a close and fields are prepared for the year ahead, we are reminding farmers to exercise safety when conducting controlled burns near utility poles and other electrical equipment.

Over the next few months, many members will conduct controlled burns to clear crop stubble and weeds and prepare fields for spring planting. While controlled burns are an effective way to manage agricultural land, they can also pose serious risks to nearby utility poles, power lines and other electrical equipment. MiEnergy urges farm workers to use extreme caution when planning and conducting burns near electrical infrastructure.

Every year, utility poles are damaged during controlled burns in fields, along roadsides and in ditches. The danger is compounded by the delayed visibility of pole damage after the fire has passed. Most wooden utility poles are treated with chemical preservatives, including creosote, to protect them from decay. When exposed to fire, the pole can sustain hidden damage. Embers can become lodged in cracks or other openings and continue burning inside the wood long after the flames have disappeared. In some cases, a utility pole can burn from the inside out and collapse hours or even days after a controlled burn has ended.

A damaged utility pole can create a dangerous situation for farm workers, co-op crews and the public. Repairing or replacing a utility pole can be expensive and time-consuming. More importantly, a weakened pole can fall unexpectedly, potentially bringing power lines down with it. Depending on the location and extent of the damage, a single compromised pole can result in power outages affecting homes, farms and entire communities.



Farmers planning controlled burns should keep the following safety measures in mind:

- Maintain a safe distance from utility equipment. Avoid burning directly beneath or near utility poles, guy wires, transformers and other electrical equipment.
- Monitor the weather. Avoid burning during dry, windy conditions when flames and embers can spread quickly.
- Create firebreaks. Clear vegetation and other combustible materials around the area to keep the fire contained.
- Have water and firefighting equipment nearby. Be prepared to respond if the fire moves beyond the intended burn area.
- Monitor the fire until it is completely extinguished. Never assume a fire is out simply because flames are no longer visible.
- Inspect nearby utility poles after the burn. If a pole is actively burning, call the fire department. If a pole appears scorched, damaged or otherwise compromised, contact your electric cooperative. Never attempt to repair electrical equipment yourself.

Controlled burns are an important part of managing many agricultural operations, but they should be conducted safely. If you have questions about how a planned burn could affect nearby electrical equipment, contact your electric co-op before you begin.

MiEnergy appreciates everyone doing their part to protect themselves, their neighbors and the electrical infrastructure that helps power our communities every day.



The second MiEnergy bus tour for employees and directors was held on October 20. The tour highlighted our history, former and current projects, and key accounts. The 19 participants started at the Rushford office and toured the Preston Outpost, POET Bioprocessing, Fountain Substation, Spring Valley line rebuild project, Upper Iowa Beef, Crane Creek Substation, Alps Mining, Homeland Energy and the Cresco office.

out & about in your COMMUNITY

A DAY WITH YOUR G&T – LA CROSSE



Four cooperative employees attended "A Day with Your G&T" tour on September 30 hosted by our wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative in La Crosse, Wis. Participants received an overview and history of Dairyland; took part in a question and answer session with the executive team; and toured the service center, powered printing building, system operations center and the John P. Madgett Plant in Alma. Pictured with other personnel from cooperatives throughout Dairyland's service territory are MiEnergy employees Davin Thompson, Chris Horn, Tyler Thomas and Ajay Ristau.

COOPERATIVE DAY OF SERVICE – ARCADIA



MiEnergy's Kent Whitcomb and Audra Skalet participated in Dairyland Power Cooperative's Cooperative Day of Service on October 7. The project in Arcadia, Wis., at Pietrek Park was one of five locations chosen this year. The group planted trees, assisted in park beautification, trail clean-up, and building bird and bat houses.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT - RIDGEWAY

MiEnergy's Kim Larson and Janelle Sunnes handed out snacks to nearly 200 kids on October 25 during Ridgeway's Community Trunk-or-Treat event at the Ridgeway Community Center.



BUSINESS TRICK-OR-TREAT – RUSHFORD

MiEnergy's Dani Gorder, Heather Larson, June Vitse and Tyler Thomas handed out snacks to 400-plus trick-or-treaters during the Rushford/Peterson Valley Business Trick-or-Treat event on October 30.





TRUNK-OR-TREAT – CRESCO

MiEnergy's Kyle Quam, along with family and friends, handed out snacks to more than 600 kids on October 31 during Cresco's Trunk-or-Treat event at the Cresco Fitness Center.

mienergy™ COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION
Open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. Friday by appointment.
IOWA 24049 Highway 9, PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136
MINNESOTA 31110 Cooperative Way, PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PHONE NUMBERS
LOCAL 563-547-3801 (Cresco); 507-864-7783 (Rushford)
TOLL-FREE & 24/7 OUTAGE REPORTING 800-432-2285
PAYMENT LINE 24/7 855-941-3631
UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

ONLINE
WEBSITE www.MiEnergy.coop
SOCIAL MEDIA Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DISTRICT 1 Kim Nelson and Dennis Ptacek, secretary
DISTRICT 2 Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens
DISTRICT 3 Don Petersen, treasurer and Skip Wieser
DISTRICT 4 Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer, vice chair

MANAGEMENT STAFF
BRIAN KRAMBEER president/chief executive officer
SHELLY HOVE chief financial officer
JILL HUFFMAN broadband chief operating officer
STEVE OIAN vice president of electric operations
VASSIL VUTOV vice president of information technology
MIKE WALTON vice president of engineering and planning
KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

MINEWS STAFF
MEAGAN MOELLERS communications specialist, editor
ANNIE HOILAND communications specialist
BRENDA TESCH marketing and communications manager

2026 OFFICES CLOSED
NOV 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
DEC 15 Employee Development Day
DEC 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
DEC 31 New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.
JAN 1 New Year's Day

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

SEND IN YOUR 2026 REBATE FORMS



MiEnergy has a variety of rebates available to members that purchase energy efficient products and appliances that meet or exceed specific criteria. Rebates are only available until funds are depleted, or December 31, whichever comes first. Rebate forms are available online at www.MiEnergy.coop or by calling 800-432-2285.

mienergy™
COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IOWA PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136
MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

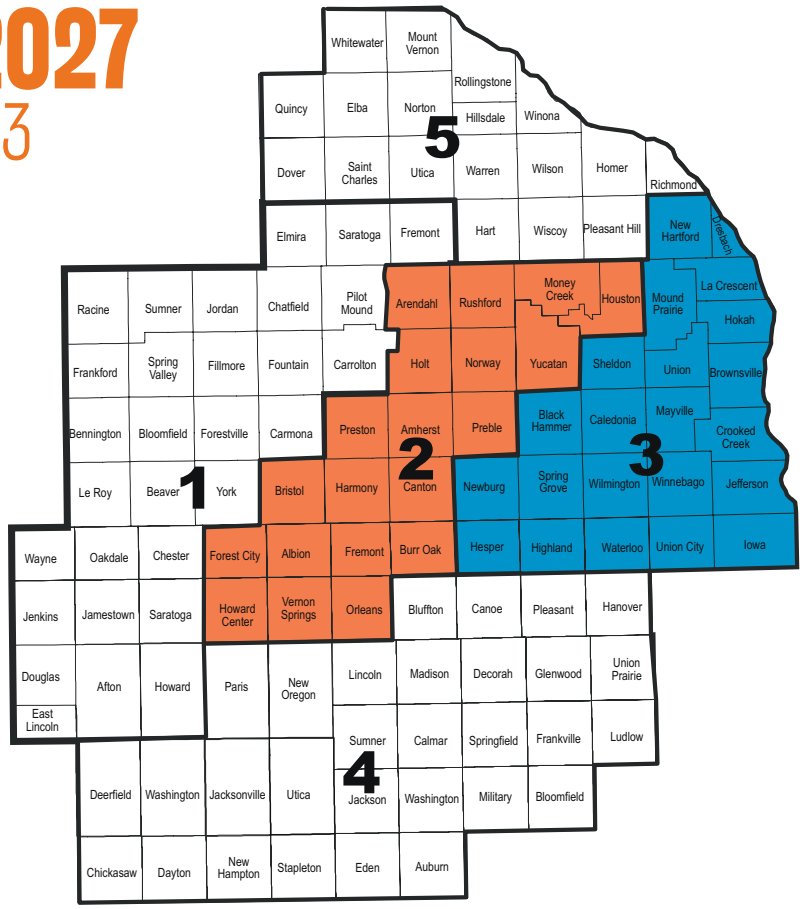
PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
DPC

BOARD ELECTIONS 2027

Members from districts 2 & 3 needed to serve

Are you interested in serving as a board member for MiEnergy?

Preparations for director elections for districts 2 and 3 begin now and will conclude with the results being announced at the annual meeting on April 14, 2027.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

MiEnergy must appoint three members from districts 2 and 3 to serve on the nominating committee. The committee will meet on January 21 to review submitted director applications and to nominate individuals for placement on the election ballot. Members of the committee are given a $50 bill credit and mileage for the meeting. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, contact Heather Larson by December 16 at 800-432-2285 or hlarson@MiEnergy.coop.

BOARD DIRECTORS

Co-op board directors must commit to attend monthly board meetings, special meetings and educational seminars designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects of MiEnergy and the electric utility industry. Terms are for three years. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative, and they represent the entire membership. Directors are compensated for their time commitment. For a director application packet, contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or hlarson@MiEnergy.coop. The director application deadline is December 30, 2026.

Current District 2 Directors
Dean Nierling, Decorah, Iowa
Ron Stevens, Preston, Minn.

Current District 3 Directors
Don Petersen, Hokah, Minn.
Skip Wieser, La Crescent, Minn.

MiEnergy Annual Meeting
Wednesday, April 14, 2027 at 7 p.m.
Mabel Community Center, Mabel, Minn.