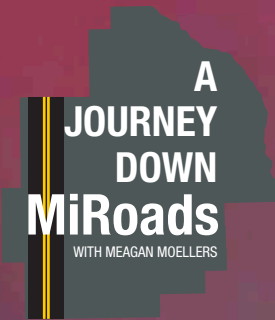


# MiNews

November 2024 Vol. 8 Issue 11  
A monthly publication for members of  
MiEnergy Cooperative.



## Remarkable illumination of MiRoads

Observing the northern lights in the countryside

Co-op secures  
\$3.16 million grant  
for fiber project

*Operation Round Up  
grants announced*

**BOARD ELECTION  
SEASON IS HERE**

Photo submitted by MiEnergy's Ryan Dahl



## Cooperative strong

The strength of the electric cooperative network was on full display in early October after hurricanes Helene and Milton devastated the electric systems of cooperatives in the southeastern part of the United States.

The outstanding show of support from the electric cooperative community, who provided mutual aid crews from across the country to help those impacted by the storms, was inspiring and incredible. More than 8,000 lineworkers were deployed to help co-ops restore power and rebuild their infrastructure, and MiEnergy crews were proud to be a part of that recovery.

MiEnergy lineworkers Josh Carolan, Cole Kingsley, Tony Rislove and Zach Steinmetz joined 76 lineworkers from 18 Minnesota electric cooperatives to help restore power to electric cooperatives in South Carolina. In another round of help, Iowa electric cooperatives sent 45 lineworkers.

Mass devastation and outages impacted cooperatives in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Cooperatives from Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin deployed crews to help with power restoration - which in some cases took weeks to complete.

You know it's terrible and widespread when the statewide storm coordinators extend outreach calls for mutual aid



Pictured from left to right are Tony Rislove, Cole Kingsley, Zach Steinmetz and Josh Carolan before heading to South Carolina.

support from as far away as Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

MiEnergy crews and neighboring electric cooperative crews from People's Energy Cooperative were delegated to support Broad River Electric Cooperative in Cowpens, South Carolina. Broad River has about the same number of members as MiEnergy (21,000) but with about half the miles of line (2,750).

Our lineworkers compared damage from Hurricane Helene to a war zone with many trees and broken poles. Many locations were inaccessible after Helene eroded away large portions of roads. Our crews reported challenges just getting to the cooperative they were assigned to help due to road closures and inaccessible communities. Their membership thought our guys talked a little funny, but joking aside, they were so grateful they came to help.

As a cooperative, we follow seven principles, one of which is Principle 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives. We support one another. When we combine that with Principle 7: Concern for Community, it demonstrates how the founding principles are engrained in our business model with employees who are always willing to help others and the communities they serve.

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

## Board room highlights | Oct. 31, 2024

- The year-to-date financial report is ahead of budget.
- Management provided updates on operations and subsidiaries.
- Appointed governors for the North Fountain Broadband, LLC project.
- Notification was provided that MiEnergy is looking for two members to serve on the Operation Round Up Trust Board.
- Approved the annual meeting timeline for accepting director applications and nominating committee meeting dates.

The next board meeting will be held at the Rushford office on Nov. 27 at 9 a.m.

# CHASING THE STUNNING LIGHT SHOW

Did you witness the brilliant appearance in the October night skies?

## A JOURNEY DOWN MiRoads

WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

Many of us found ourselves sneaking outdoors to try our luck at capturing one of Mother Nature's absolute wonders, the northern lights, on our cameras and smartphones. Since it's not common for the aurora borealis to regularly showcase its beauty in the Midwest,

this was an extra special occasion. The natural light display was visible during a geomagnetic solar storm in early October. We wanted to share just how incredible the light show illuminated the scenery down MiRoads.

Were you lucky enough to observe the brilliance in the night sky? Will you have your camera ready the next time the northern lights make a unique appearance? I hope so. I hope you make your way down MiRoads and soak up nature's beauty along our rural countryside. And if you did snap some great pictures this time around, please share them on the MiEnergy social media pages. Watch for a post of this article and submit a comment with your pictures; after all that's the co-op way of sharing with others for the greater good.

We are all connected to our local cooperative, and we journey down the same roads. Roads that were recently illuminated by the extraordinary aurora borealis. MiEnergy provides electric energy to 23,200 services through 5,550 miles of power lines covering Winona, Fillmore, Houston, Mower and Olmsted counties in Minnesota, and Allamakee, Howard, Chickasaw, Fayette, Mitchell and Winneshiek counties in Iowa. It's wonderful to think that the northern lights illuminated all of those lines a few nights last month, something to be extra thankful and grateful for this blessed autumn season. May that light bless your pathways for the winter season ahead.

We are thankful for the MiEnergy employees and their spouses who took these fantastic photos during the light show in October and for sharing them with our membership. Enjoy!



Ruth Riha

Rhonda Bauer

Renae Dahl

Jenny Prinsen

Jodi Dull

Meagan Moellers

Brenda Tesch

Johanna Stayskal

Photo submitted by MiEnergy's Kim Larson.

# BOARD ELECTIONS 2025

Members from districts 4 & 5 needed to serve

Are you interested in serving as a board member for MiEnergy? Preparations for director elections for districts 4 and 5 begin now and will conclude with the results being announced at the annual meeting on April 23, 2025.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

MiEnergy must appoint three members from districts 4 and 5 to serve on the nominating committee. The committee meets in late January 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 12 at 800-432-2285 or [hlarson@MiEnergy.coop](mailto:hlarson@MiEnergy.coop).

## BOARD DIRECTORS

Co-op board directors must commit to attending 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](mailto:hlarson@MiEnergy.coop). The director application deadline is January 16, 2025.

### Current District 4 Directors

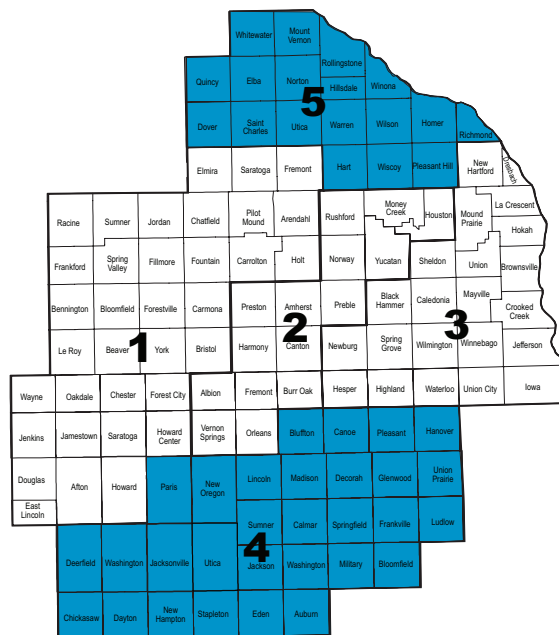
Kyle Holthaus | Waukon, Iowa  
Carl Reicks | New Hampton, Iowa

### Current District 5 Directors

Beth Olson | Lewiston, Minn.  
Jenny Scharmer | Winona, Minn.

### MiEnergy Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7 p.m.  
Mabel Community Center | Mabel, MN



# MiEnergy secures \$3.16 million grant for fiber project

One of 26 projects awarded grants by DEED's border-to-border program

The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced MiEnergy Cooperative as a recipient of its Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program.

The \$3.16 million grant is for MiEnergy's Southwest Fremont project in Fillmore and Winona counties, which will bring fiber-to-the-home technology to 396 locations.

The grant program is a partnership between the State of Minnesota, MiEnergy and Mabel Cooperative Telephone Company.

MiEnergy will use the \$3.16 million grant and \$4.7 million local match to service 342 unserved and 54 underserved locations in a rural area southwest of Fremont. It will improve speeds to 1 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload on a fiber network, exceeding the state's speed goals.

"This grant is two-fold. It brings the fastest available broadband speeds to an area where members currently have no access. It also allows us to connect our substations to fiber which means improved reliability and efficiency when delivering electricity to our members," said Jill Huffman, MiEnergy's broadband COO.

MiEnergy is no stranger to working with other entities to provide solutions to meet the needs of its members when it comes to broadband. It formed MiBroadband with Mabel Cooperative and Spring Grove Communications in 2018 to help bring broadband to rural areas. As part of this border-to-border grant, Mabel Cooperative Telephone Company is contributing \$2.37 million as a portion of the local match with MiEnergy.

"As a rural electric cooperative with less than four members per mile of power line, we've known the challenges of bringing utilities to rural areas," stated Brian Krambeer, MiEnergy's president/CEO. "Fiber is no different. Grants like these through DEED are what we need to provide this future-proof technology in low-density areas where it otherwise is not economically feasible."

MiEnergy was one of 26 projects receiving dollars in Round 10 of the state's program, which awarded \$51.9 million in grants.



# RECare

Consumer Contribution Fund


Members helping members

RECare is a consumer contribution fund in which members like you assist other members who need help paying electric bills. Consider a one-time contribution or enroll to provide monthly contributions. Call MiEnergy at 800-432-2285 for a donation form. Donation forms are also online at [www.MiEnergy.coop/RECare](http://www.MiEnergy.coop/RECare).

### HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDS

Minnesota members can call the office at 800-432-2285.

Iowa members can call Northeast Iowa Community Action offices in Chickasaw, Howard and Winneshiek counties.



## Get warned about water

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### Monitored water sensors will alert you before a leak becomes a flood.

888.264.6380  
[heartlandss.com](http://heartlandss.com)





# OPERATION ROUND UP

small change. big impact.

MiEnergy Cooperative's Operation Round Up Trust Board met recently and elected to donate \$8,100 to the following local organizations:

- \$1,500, Fort Atkinson Firefighters Association, Fort Atkinson, Iowa, to purchase a remote-control water gun for the quick attack truck.
- \$1,170, Hokah Lions Club, Hokah, Minn., to replace picnic tables and benches at Veteran's Memorial Park.
- \$1,000, Mabel/Newburg United Methodist Church, Mabel, Minn., for Mabel-Canton K-2 teachers to purchase books for their students.
- \$1,000, Mabel Public Library, Mabel, Minn., to update public computer technology.
- \$930, Caledonia Fire Department, Caledonia, Minn., to purchase an emergency plug to shut down electric/hybrid vehicles.
- \$750, Riceville Food Pantry, Riceville, Iowa, to restock food supplies.
- \$600, Lanesboro Arts, Lanesboro, Minn., to repair and restock the Little Free Art Library.
- \$550, Winneshiek County Conservation, Fort Atkinson, Iowa, to purchase equipment for its ice fishing education program.
- \$350, Preston Emergency Services, Preston, Minn., for individual clip-on carbon monoxide gas detectors.
- \$250, Quilters for Veterans, Castalia, Iowa, for supplies to make quilts for veterans.

Operation Round Up is funded by donations made by members of MiEnergy Cooperative who voluntarily have their electric bill rounded up to the next dollar. The average donation is \$6 per year, 2,300 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. Currently, the program gives approximately \$16,000 each year to local organizations.

The Operation Round Up Trust Board, made up of MiEnergy members, chooses where the funds get donated and the amount of the donation based on an application process. The trust board members include Neil Broadwater, of Winona; Dan Dietzenbach, of Fort Atkinson; Beth George, of Houston; Roy Kryzer, of Lewiston; Dennis Ostwinkle, of Decorah; Teresa Ross, of Hokah; Perry-O Sliwa, of Decorah; Tom Tibor, of Minnesota City; and Mike Tuohy, of Chatfield.

Donations to Operation Round Up are tax deductible. Organizations receive grants through an application process. The next application deadline is February 15.

The trust board is looking for two new trustees. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Heather Larson at 800-432-2285 or [hl Larson@MiEnergy.coop](mailto:hl Larson@MiEnergy.coop).

To learn more about Operation Round Up or to round up your electric bill, visit [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or call 1-800-432-2285.



## Smart home tech on a budget

Smart technology can make it easier to save energy by simplifying or automating tasks. It can also optimize energy use to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

When upgrading to smart technology at home, consider the purchase cost as well as long-term savings. For example, you may pay a little more for a product with the latest technology, but it could result in significant savings each year and over the lifetime of the appliance.

Here are some smart devices that will take the work out of saving energy.

Smart thermostats save energy by automatically adjusting your heating or cooling system. For example, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to the Department of Energy (DOE).

You can program a smart thermostat to change the temperature when you are asleep or away, or use a smartphone app to adjust your thermostat settings. Some models use artificial intelligence to maximize efficiency by learning your patterns and preferences. Prices range from \$80 to \$250, depending on features. Smart thermostats do not work with all heating and cooling systems, so check compatibility before you buy.

Smart lighting gives you the power to control lights in your home remotely or set a lighting schedule that fits your lifestyle. This can be beneficial for energy savings and provide home security benefits. If you or other members of your household are notorious for leaving lights on, smart lighting can help. Numerous features are available, including dimmable bulbs and color-changing effects.

Smart light switches are another budget-friendly way to control lighting. They're priced from about \$10 to \$50. Smart switches with dimmable options are available and can also control ceiling fans. Some have occupancy sensors that turn lights off when no movement is detected in a room.

A smart plug fits into any outlet to control whatever is plugged into it. Set them to automatically turn off and on or control them using a smartphone app. Prices range from \$8 to \$25.

A wide variety of smart shades, curtains and blinds are available, including styles with integrated controls. You can also add smart controls to your existing blinds or curtains. Both options allow you to adjust the tilt of blinds and open or close curtains. Set a schedule, control them remotely or use a voice command paired with a voice assistant, such as Alexa or Google Home. This allows you to reduce cooling needs in the summer and heating needs in the winter. Smart controls start at around \$70. To save the most energy, prioritize windows with the most incoming light.

Upgrading to smart home technologies can make it easy to use less energy at home. Choose options that make the most sense for your lifestyle to optimize savings.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy at home, and she writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

### MINNESOTA MEMBER 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](http://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.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH OPERATION ROUND UP

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.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CO-OP MONTH WINNERS!

## CO-OP MONTH BASKET WINNERS

Rodney & Margie Ashbacher, Calmar  
 Janell Auger, Houston  
 Rex & Sue Back, Spring Valley  
 Linda Bahr, Caledonia  
 Earl Berg Jr, Spring Valley  
 Allen Borlaug, Lawler  
 Russell & Heather Buege, Lewiston  
 Chris Cichosz, Winona  
 Barbara Eastvold, Spring Valley  
 Sally Ann Eglinton, Hokah  
 Jennifer Frey, Decorah  
 Evelyn Gehrking, Spring Valley  
 Sarah Goettler, Lewiston  
 Vernon Halbur, Lawler  
 Peter Horton, Minnesota City  
 Cathy Huinker, Ossian  
 Duane Hyland, Spring Valley  
 Brenda & Calvin Kunene, Fountain  
 Sharon Laue, Elma  
 Anthony Malven, Cresco  
 Terry McElmury, Lewiston  
 David Menges, Lewiston  
 Susan Munroe, Canton  
 Kari Njos, Chatfield  
 Robert Olson, Minnesota City

Amber Osmonson, Harmony  
 Michael Pepin, Lanesboro  
 Laurie Perkins, Ostrander  
 Ivie Popplewell, Houston  
 Terry Preston, Spring Valley  
 Gary & Elizabeth Redalen, Fountain  
 LeAnn Salwey, Rushford  
 Ronald Scheck, Houston  
 David Scheevel, Preston  
 John Schnitzler, Decorah  
 Dennis & Charity Schneberger, Decorah  
 Duane Schwickerath, Alta Vista  
 Adam Serfling, Preston  
 James Shatek, New Hampton  
 Leon Spinden, Spring Grove  
 Crystal Srock, Winona  
 Mary Stackhouse, Preston  
 Darrel & Mary Steen, Lime Springs  
 Richard Thorn/Lora Sturm, Winona  
 Linda Uhlendorf, Winona  
 Annette VanGundy, La Crescent  
 Keith Vonderohe, Houston  
 Daniel Voss, Decorah  
 Jay Wheelock, Fountain  
 James Zahasky, Cresco

Over **1,400** members entered our **5th Annual Co-op Month Basket Giveaway**. Congratulations to our winners!

## FACEBOOK CO-OP TRIVIA WINNERS

**Grand Prize:**  
 (sherpa blanket, coffee cup & power surge protector)  
 Barbara Shatek, Fort Atkinson

**\$5 Electric Bill Credits:**  
 Carlana Gallagher, Decorah  
 Joan Mitchell, LaCrescent  
 Louise McCready, Preston  
 Dan & Sandy Gronwoldt, Riceville

MiEnergy hosted its **4th Annual Fall Event** on October 18 at Pinter's Gardens & Pumpkins. The family-friendly event provided attendees with hours of "agritainment" with numerous outdoor activities. Congratulations to our members who won an attendance prize.

## FALL EVENT ATTENDANCE WINNERS

**\$50 electric bill credit:** Kurt Krauskopf, Decorah; Bruce & Betty Bergsgaard, Dorchester; Adam & Brittany Loven, Peterson; and Mitchell & Christina Schultz, Postville

**\$100 electric bill credit:** Bobby & Caity Schultz, Postville

**Electric battery-powered lawn mower:** Robert & Sami Rinnels, Lime Springs



## Annual legislative forum

Representative Michael Bergan and Senator Mike Klimesh recently attended MiEnergy's annual legislative forum at the Cresco office. Every fall, this event provides a great opportunity for MiEnergy's employees and directors to speak with Iowa legislators on energy issues that affect the electric industry, our cooperative members and the communities served by the cooperative. It also allows legislators to highlight the past year's activities and what they see as top priorities in the next legislative session, and talk with co-op employees and directors about issues affecting the cooperative and our local communities.

## Local business activity



Above, Winona Area Industrial Development Association receives a \$50,000 loan from MiEnergy Cooperative's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund program. The organization is using the funds to build infrastructure on property available for industrial growth outside of Winona. Pictured L-R: MiEnergy's Brian Krambeer, representatives of WAIDA Willy Dickenson, Kollin Foss, Brad Peterson, Dan Arnold and MiEnergy's Kent Whitcomb.

At left, Stateline Auto Sales of Mabel receives a \$75,000 loan from MiEnergy Cooperative's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund program. Owner Caleb Benson is constructing a new facility featuring a showroom, expanded office space and a comfortable customer waiting area for their growing dealership. Pictured from L-R: MiEnergy's Kent Whitcomb, Benson and MiEnergy's Cassidy Zawislak.

# MINI-SPLITS AT A GLANCE

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat/cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating/cooling system.

## Mini-Split System Benefits:

- Zone-controlled heating/cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating/cooling home additions

## Mini-Split System Considerations:

- Potentially higher upfront cost
- Appearance
- May require electrical upgrades
- Not as effective in large spaces



# out & about in your COMMUNITY

## CO-OP DAY OF SERVICE—BYRON

MiEnergy participated in Dairyland Power Cooperative's 2nd Annual Day of Service on October 2 at Oxbow Park & Zollman Zoo in Byron, Minn. Over 30 volunteers from Dairyland, People's Energy Cooperative and MiEnergy, assisted park staff in a variety of duties which included splitting wood, tree trimming, raking/landscaping, painting and mulching. The event was held in conjunction with National Cooperative Month and a total of over 200 volunteers from Dairyland and their member cooperatives completed six service projects across Dairyland's service territory. Pictured above from L-R from MiEnergy are Heather Larson, Jenny Scharmer, Kent Whitcomb and Brenda Tesch.



## CONSERVATION DAY—PRESTON

MiEnergy's Mark Dornick (l) and Steve Bronner (r) spent the day at Forestville State Park on October 3 as part of the Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Conservation Day for sixth graders. Approximately 130 students from Fillmore Central, Kingsland and Rushford-Peterson took part in the event with demonstrations from the Department of National Resources Forestry and Fisheries departments, the University of Minnesota Extension and MiEnergy. Steve and

Mark presented on electric safety, tools lineworkers use to stay safe and provided a demonstration with how the co-op uses drones.



## TRUNK-OR-TREAT—RIDGEWAY

MiEnergy's Kim Larson and her son Owen handed out candy and temporary glow-in-the-dark tattoos to nearly 200 kids on October 27 during Ridgeway's Community Trunk-or-Treat event at the Ridgeway Community Center.

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT—CRESCO

MiEnergy's Kim Larson handed out candy to more than 600 kids on October 31 during Cresco's Trunk-or-Treat event at the Cresco Fitness Center. MiEnergy used the newest vehicle recently added to our fleet, the Ford Lightning, which has a frunk: a trunk in the front of the truck which worked great for handing out treats on Halloween.



## TRICK-OR-TREAT—RUSHFORD

Pictured at left from L-R MiEnergy's Wendy Jacobson, Heather Larson and Brenda Tesch handed out candy to about 350 trick-or-treaters during the Rushford Peterson Valley Business Trick-or-Treat event on October 31.



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](http://www.MiEnergy.coop)  
**SOCIAL MEDIA** Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**DISTRICT 1** Dennis Ptacek, secretary and Jeff Redalen  
**DISTRICT 2** Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens, vice chair  
**DISTRICT 3** Don Petersen, treasurer and Skip Wieser  
**DISTRICT 4** Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks  
**DISTRICT 5** Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer

## 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

## 2024/2025 OFFICES CLOSED

**DECEMBER 17** Employee Development Day  
**DECEMBER 24-25** Christmas Holiday  
**DECEMBER 31** New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.  
**JANUARY 1** New Year's Day

## Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

### SAVE ENERGY

- Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

### PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- Never leave unattended candles burning.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.





## SNOWBIRDS & 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 SmartHub at [www.MiEnergy.coop](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or download the SmartHub App for Android and iOS users.

**DON'T FORGET!**

## Turn in your 2024 rebates

Don't wait to send in your rebate forms. MiEnergy has a variety of rebates available to members who 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](http://www.MiEnergy.coop) or by calling 800-432-2285.

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