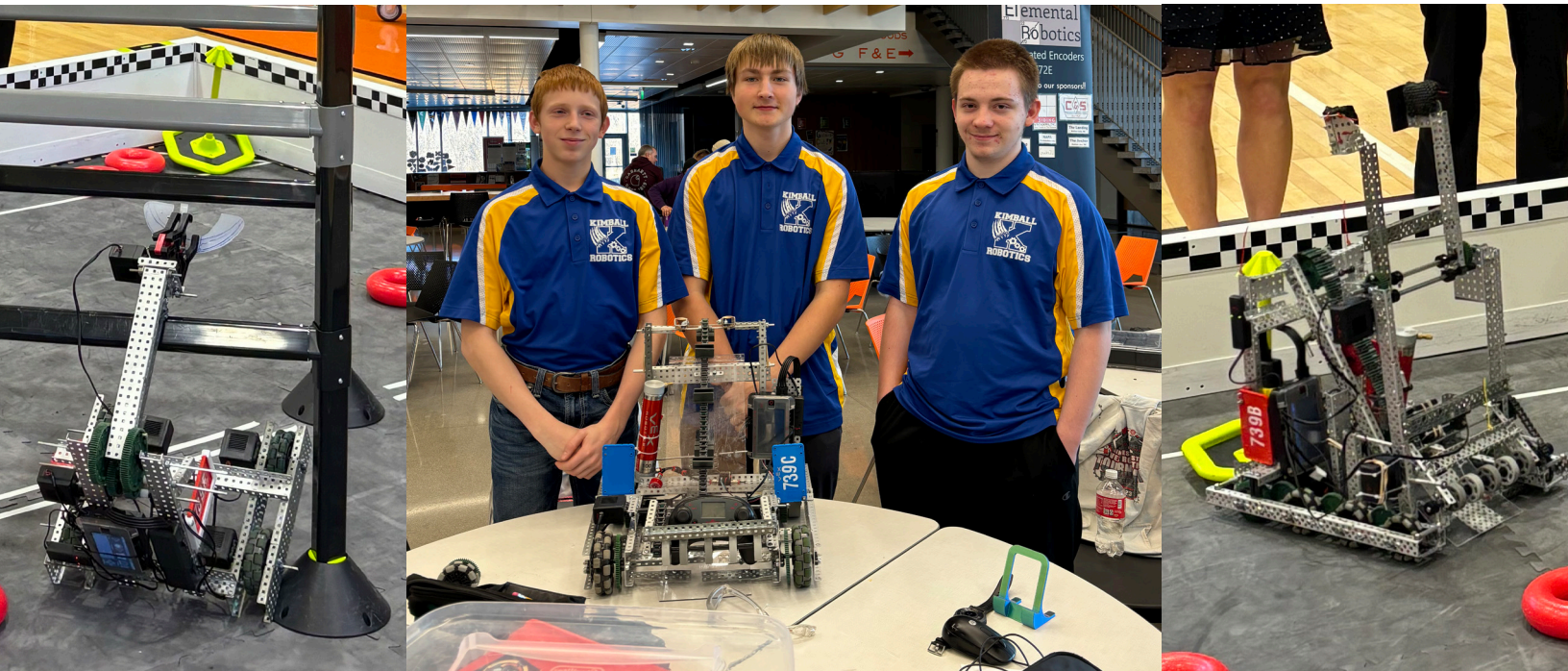


# MEEKER COOPERATIVE PIONEER



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The Pioneer Newsletter is the official Cooperative publication.  
Meeker Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## BUILDING TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS: OPERATION ROUND UP SUPPORTS KIMBALL ROBOTICS

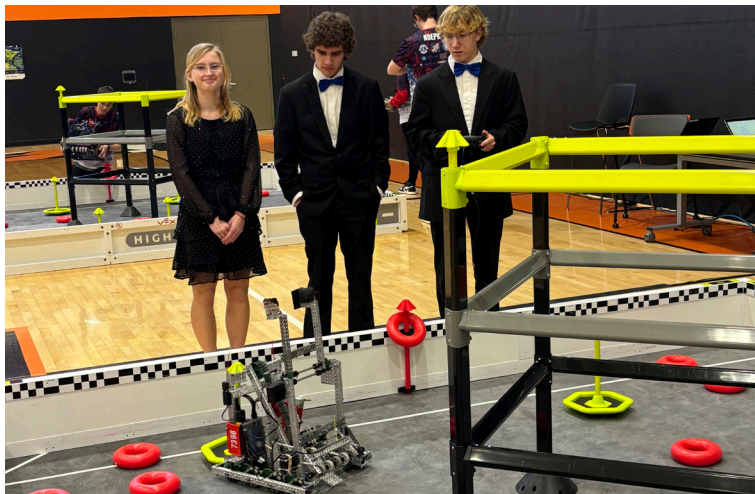
***The Kimball Robotics Program, a recent recipient of Meeker Cooperative's Operation Round Up grant, exemplifies how small contributions can lead to significant community impact.***

Operation Round Up invites Meeker Cooperative members to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar, pooling those extra cents into grants that support local organizations. Meeker Cooperative employees can also participate by rounding down their paychecks. 24-23-338 Through these combined efforts, members donate tax-deductible amounts ranging from \$0.01 to \$0.99 monthly, averaging \$5.78 per year. Collectively, this simple act generates thousands of dollars in grants and scholarships annually.

This year one of the projects the funds are helping is the Kimball Robotics Program as it continues its mission to bring robotics education and opportunities to students in the community. Since its founding in 2013 with just three students on a single high school team, the program has grown significantly under the guidance of head coach and mentor Kevin Kieke. Today, it supports six high school/middle school competition teams, six elementary school competition teams, and "Vex Go Camps" for third and fourth graders through Community Education. Over 75 students currently participate, with plans to integrate robotics into classrooms at both the elementary and high school levels.

***Continued on page 2.***

# OPERATION ROUND UP® CONTINUED...



Over the past 11 years, Kimball Robotics has achieved remarkable success, earning more than 60 state championship invitations, one state championship title, and 10 world championship invites. The momentum continues this season, with several teams already qualifying for state competitions. Excitement is building for the upcoming Kimball “Mega” Vex Robotics Tournament on January 25, which will host over 125 teams—second in size only to the Minnesota state championship. This free, public event will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., offering a chance to witness the students’ hard work firsthand.

Reflecting on the importance of the Operation Round Up grant, Kieke shares, “The technology used in robotics continues to

evolve. The cost to keep up with current technology is always a strain on our budget. This grant allows us to upgrade components and hardware to remain competitive while expanding robotics and STEM activities.”

The impact of the Kimball Robotics Program extends beyond competitions. Over 90% of its graduates pursue STEM careers, many attributing their career paths to the skills and experiences gained through the program. “We’re grateful for the continued support from Operation Round Up,” adds Kieke.

Through Operation Round Up, Meeker Cooperative is empowering local youth to explore the exciting world of robotics, fostering future innovators and leaders in STEM.

## MEEKER COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC TRUST DISTRIBUTES \$24,000

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Meeker Cooperative’s members and VIBRANT subscribers, the Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust Board has proudly awarded \$24,000 in grants to support local community organizations and as scholarships.

This funding comes through Operation Round Up®, a powerful initiative embraced by electric cooperatives nationwide. Participants in the program round their monthly bills up to the nearest dollar, contributing anywhere from just 1¢ to 99¢ each month. These small contributions add up to make a big difference, fueling a trust fund that supports local civic organizations and meaningful causes.

Since its launch in 1998, Meeker Cooperative’s Operation Round Up® program has distributed over \$1,100,000 to fund essential projects, from youth and community programs to educational initiatives and beyond. This generosity reflects the strong spirit of community and partnership that defines our Cooperative.

The Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust Board meets three times a year to review applications and distribute grants to deserving organizations. Application deadlines for 2025 are February 6, July 3, and November 6. To learn more or access the application and guidelines, visit our website at [www.meeker.coop](http://www.meeker.coop).

Together, we’re empowering our community—one rounded-up dollar at a time.

### December 2024 Recipient List

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Chamber of Commerce, Litchfield .....	\$500
Green Roof Area Center (Paynesville Senior Center) .....	\$250
Litchfield Area Community Foundation .....	\$2,000
United Community Action Partnership .....	\$3,500

#### EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Meeker County Health and Human Services .....	\$500
Post Prom, Kimball .....	\$500
Robotics Team, Kimball Area High School .....	\$750

#### TOTAL

**\$8,000**

#### HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$16,000**

#### TWO \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS PER SCHOOL AS ELIGIBLE

(Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, BOLD, Dassel-Cokato, Eden Valley-Watkins, Hutchinson, Kimball, Litchfield, and Paynesville)

Contact your high school’s guidance office for application details.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OPERATION ROUND UP AT  
[www.meeker.coop/operationroundup](http://www.meeker.coop/operationroundup)



# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025: CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

As we prepare to welcome 2025, it's a momentous time for Meeker Cooperative. This year marks our 90th anniversary—a milestone that speaks to nearly a century of commitment to our members and communities. From our humble beginnings in 1935 to our current role as a leader in rural electric and broadband services, we have remained steadfast in our mission: to provide reliable, affordable, and innovative solutions. As we reflect on the journey so far, we also look forward with enthusiasm to the exciting projects and goals that lie ahead in the coming year.

## Commitment to Affordability and Value

One of the key priorities of any cooperative is to deliver services that are both high quality and affordable. For 2025, we are pleased to announce that there will be no rate increase for electric services. This decision reflects our dedication to careful financial management and our cooperative's strong position. We understand that affordability is essential, and we're proud to maintain stability in our rates, even as we undertake significant infrastructure upgrades.

On the broadband side, Vibrant Broadband will see a modest \$3 increase in monthly rates. This adjustment is necessary to support the continued expansion of our broadband network and to maintain the exceptional service you expect. The increase aligns with the robust growth and investment we are making to connect more homes and businesses with reliable, high-speed internet.

## Investing in Electric Infrastructure for Reliability and Growth

On the electric side, we are undertaking several significant infrastructure projects to improve reliability, address capacity needs, and ensure our system is equipped for the future. Here's a closer look at some of the highlights from our 2025 Electric Construction Workplan:

- **Kingston Sub Feeder 3:** A half mile of overhead three-phase lines will be replaced with underground three-phase lines, enhancing reliability in this area.
- **Atwater Sub Feeder 2:** Two miles of underground three-phase lines will be replaced with upgraded wire, improving capacity and performance.
- **Cedar Mills Sub Feeder 4:** Similarly, 1.8 miles of underground three-phase lines will be replaced with larger wire to meet growing demand.
- **Paynesville Feeder 3:** Nearly three miles of overhead three-phase lines will be replaced with upgraded overhead lines to enhance service.
- **Systemwide Underground Wire Replacement:** Approximately 6.5 miles of underground wire with repeated faults will be replaced across various locations to improve reliability.

These projects are vital for ensuring that our members have access to safe, dependable electricity, even as we face changing demands and aging infrastructure.

## Expanding Connectivity with Vibrant Broadband

Broadband connectivity is essential for thriving communities, and Vibrant Broadband will play a pivotal role in 2025. We have several major projects planned that will bring critical access to even more subscribers:

- **R4 ReConnect Project:** This ambitious project will add 218 miles of fiber, passing 698 homes across Meeker, Kandiyohi, and Stearns counties.
- **Border to Border Projects:** Four separate initiatives will extend over 160 miles of fiber, providing connectivity to 797 homes.
- **Line Extensions:** We're also expanding by nearly 24 miles of fiber, reaching 130 additional homes in Meeker and Wright counties.

These projects represent our commitment to ensuring rural communities have access to the broadband tools they need for education, work, healthcare, and more. Vibrant Broadband's growth is about more than just technology—it's about creating opportunities and bridging gaps for our communities.

## Legislative Priorities and Reliability Challenges

In 2025, Meeker Cooperative will be advocating for policies that ensure a reliable energy future. Two key legislative priorities are net metering reform and lifting Minnesota's nuclear moratorium. Reforming net metering will create a fairer system for all members while continuing to support renewable energy growth. Additionally, lifting the nuclear moratorium is vital to exploring modern, carbon-free nuclear technologies that provide reliable baseload power and bolster grid stability.

These legislative actions are especially urgent in light of the findings in NERC's 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, which highlights the risks facing our region. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), serving 15 states including Minnesota, has been identified as at high risk of power shortages during peak seasons beginning in 2025. With more generation being retired than added, these shortfalls could affect reliability even in milder seasons.

Meeker Cooperative is taking steps to address these challenges through strategic planning and conversations with our power suppliers, but broader action is needed. We want to urge policymakers to consider the long-term consequences of energy generation retirements and prioritize policies that support a balanced, resilient and reliable energy mix. Over the coming months, we'll provide a deeper dive into these critical topics, exploring what they mean for our members and how we can collectively work toward a more stable energy future.

## Celebrating 90 Years of Service

While we focus on the future, 2025 also offers an opportunity to celebrate the incredible journey of Meeker Cooperative over the past 90 years. From the first electric lines that brought light to rural homes to today's cutting-edge fiber-optic broadband services, our Cooperative has always been about innovation and meeting the needs of our members. This anniversary is a tribute to our shared commitment to progress and community.

As we move forward into this milestone year, we remain grounded in the Cooperative values that have guided us for nine decades. 04-21-401 Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we'll make 2025 a year to remember!

*Dedicated to keeping the lights on and the data flowing,*

**Luke Johnson**  
CEO, Meeker Cooperative

# APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES IN DISTRICTS 3, 5 AND 8

***Meeker Cooperative is member-owned and governed by local leadership. Your Cooperative's Board of Directors is made up of nine Cooperative Members elected to serve from throughout the nine districts which make up the Cooperative's service territory. Directors are elected by you, the Member-Owners.***

At the 2025 Annual meeting, which will be held at Meeker's headquarters at noon on May 21, 2025, the director seats in Districts 3, 5 and 8 are up for election following the normal rotation of districts for election.

These districts are made up of the following townships:

**District 3:** Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

**District 5:** Fairhaven in Stearns, Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright, Dassel in Meeker

**District 8:** Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Members in these districts that are interested in being placed on the ballot, and meet the qualifications identified in the bylaws, must submit a completed Meeker Cooperative Application for Director Form by the close of business on January 21, 2025.

The process for director elections is outlined in the bylaws of the Cooperative.

All potential candidates must declare their intention to be placed on the ballot by submitting a completed Application Form and be declared qualified for placement on the ballot by the Qualifications and Election Committee (Q&E Committee). No write-in candidates shall be deemed valid.

The bylaws direct the Board of Directors to appoint a Qualifications and Election (Q&E) Committee consisting of one Member from each of the Director Districts which is not up for election. It shall be the responsibility of the Q&E Committee to review all of the applications submitted and to determine that all candidates meet the stated qualifications.

The Committee will notify any potential candidate that does not meet the qualifications and allow seven days for the candidate to comply with said requirements. The decisions of the Q&E Committee will be final.

The Committee will have the authority to place qualified candidates on the ballot for election, and for any district in which there is only one candidate, waive the ballot process and declare the candidate elected.

The Qualifications and Election Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 75 days before the meeting the list of qualified candidates for director elections. 29-13-402 If no Member from a district up for election is placed on the ballot, said position shall be deemed vacant following the annual meeting and the Board of Directors may appoint a Member from said district to fill said position until the next annual meeting and election of directors.

For complete director election information, qualifications and requirements, please visit [www.meeker.coop](http://www.meeker.coop). Under the Member Services tab on the left at the top of the home page, select "download forms" to find the packet or contact Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231 to request one be mailed to you.



## SAVE THE DATE: MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT & ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for a special celebration as we honor 90 years of Meeker Cooperative's service to our members and our community!

**When:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025

**Where:** Meeker Cooperative

**Time:** Annual Meeting: 12:00 PM

Member Appreciation: 12:30 PM - 6:00 PM

The Annual Meeting will be followed by our Member Appreciation event with activities, refreshments, and more to celebrate this milestone anniversary.

Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for more details coming soon!



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW DISTRICT 8 BOARD MEMBER: JEROME WOSMEK

We are pleased to welcome Jerome Wosmek as the newest member of the Meeker Cooperative Board of Directors, representing Darwin and Ellsworth Townships. Jerome brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and dedication to the Cooperative, grounded in decades of professional expertise and community involvement.

Jerome grew up on a farm south of Silver Lake and attended both parochial and high school in the area. At a young age, he married his wife, Karla, and together they raised two sons north of Brownton, where they lived for 44 years. Over his lifelong career, Jerome worked extensively with metal, spending over 45 years at AG Systems Inc. in Hutchinson. He began as a welder and fabricator before advancing to Plant Manager and leading new product development. Jerome's role at AG Systems honed his skills in employee relations, vendor partnerships, and cost-effective manufacturing—all assets he now brings to Meeker Cooperative.

Jerome has been a proud Meeker Cooperative member for over 27 years. After retiring, he and Karla moved to their Lake Erie property, where they now reside full-time. Jerome's experience in leadership roles is extensive. He served as President of the Brownton Rod & Gun Club for six years and as a Brownton School Board member for nine years, including six years as clerk and two as chairman. Currently, he leads as President of the Lake Erie Community Association, collaborates with the DNR on lake level monitoring, and contributes as a member of Avid Anglers, working with local fisheries.

With a strong belief in the importance of utilizing technology to meet customer needs, Jerome is committed to ensuring 28-06-306 Meeker Cooperative continues to deliver essential services at the most cost-effective prices. "Now that I am retired, I have the time and energy to use my experience of working with employees and vendors to meet customer needs," Jerome shared.

In his spare time, Jerome enjoys building and repairing metal or wood projects in his shop for family and friends, as well as fishing year-round, camping, and traveling to visit loved ones. His dedication to serving the community is evident, and he looks forward to working closely with the Board and fellow members to ensure Meeker Cooperative's continued success.

Please join us in welcoming Jerome Wosmek to the Meeker Cooperative Board of Directors!

## WILLIE WIREDHAND'S ELECTRICITY FUN FACT



The ancient Greeks were aware of static electricity, as Thales of Miletus (c. 624–546 BCE) observed that rubbing fur on amber produced a static charge, a discovery that laid the foundation for later developments in the understanding and manipulation of electrical forces.

## MEMBER NEWS

### NOTICE OF CO-GENERATION

Meeker Cooperative is obligated by Minnesota Rules pts. 7835 to interconnect with and purchase electricity from any cogenerators and/or small power producers. We also are required to provide information free of charge to any and all members who may be interested in entering into an interconnection agreement with the Co-op. 22-23-108 In compliance with Minnesota adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, all interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility.

LEARN MORE AT [meeker.coop/cogen](http://meeker.coop/cogen)

### ENERGY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Meeker Cooperative is updating load control receivers for members enrolled in energy management programs. This work will occur over the next 12 months and involves the exterior of your property where the load control receiver and energy management meter are located.

We have partnered with Mid-Minnesota Electric of Litchfield for this project. Their vehicles may be on your property, and they will knock on your door as a courtesy before starting. If no one responds, they will proceed. Each update will take approximately 15–20 minutes.

The project will be completed by November 2025.

# 2025 ENERGY MANAGEMENT REBATES

Meeker Cooperative offers voluntary energy management programs to its members to reduce wholesale energy costs and provide members with a low-cost electric rate for space heating, cooling, water heating and electric vehicle charging. To be eligible for rebates and the energy management rate, members' equipment must be interconnected to the Co-op's energy management system, and the system must be checked and approved by the Co-op. To view complete details and requirements visit [meeker.coop/programs/](http://meeker.coop/programs/)

## AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP WITH QUALITY INSTALLATION

>= 8.2 HSPF / 7.0 HSPF2	\$650
>= 8.8 HSPF / 7.5 HSPF2	\$925
>= 9.5 HSPF / 7.7 HSPF2	\$1,200

- Must be controlled on Cycled Air Conditioning and Dual Fuel with qualified backup heating system.
- Must meet Quality Install requirements.
- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug

## AC TUNE-UP \$25 PER UNIT

## AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP (DUCTED SPLIT NON-QI) \$500 PER UNIT

- Controlled on Dual Fuel and Cycled AC with qualified backup heating system
- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug

## DUCTLESS AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP \$500 PER OUTDOOR UNIT

- Controlled on Dual Fuel and Cycled Air Conditioning with qualified backup heating system
- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug

## GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP \$400 PER TON

- Controlled on Cycled Air Conditioning and Dual Fuel heating with qualified backup heating system
- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug

## GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP \$100 PER TON

- Controlled for cycle cooling and metered at applicable General Service Rate

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEVEL-2 CHARGER \$500

- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug

## DUAL FUEL SPACE HEATING \$25/KW CONNECTED LOAD

- Must have qualified backup heating system (LP, natural gas, or electric thermal storage)
- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug

## ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE SPACE HEATING \$25/KW CONNECTED LOAD

- Central furnace, room units, radiant floor cable
- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug

## PEAK SHAVE ELECTRIC WATER HEATING

- Minimum efficiency - 0.90 Energy Factor
- Metered separately at \$.057/kWh Sept-May, \$.062/kWh Jun-Aug
- Up to an \$800 credit/rebate toward purchase of an electric water heater with a capacity of 80-gallons or larger.



**A SMALL CHANGE FOR A STRONGER CONNECTION**

Thank you for choosing Vibrant as your trusted internet provider. We are honored to play a part in keeping you connected to what matters most. Whether it's staying in touch with loved ones, working from home, or streaming your favorite shows we are committed to providing you with excellent internet service.

Our commitment to delivering a reliable, high-speed internet experience has never been stronger. To support this mission, we've made significant investments over the past five years to so we can deliver world-class customer service as well as enhance the speed, security, and reliability of our network. These upgrades ensure we continue to meet your growing online needs today and in the future.

To sustain the quality and reliability you've come to expect, a small adjustment to our rates will take effect on January 1, 2025. This change—\$3.00 per month—allows us to maintain and improve the network that powers your connections every day.

We understand that any adjustment can prompt questions, and we're here to help. If you'd like to explore your plan or discuss this update, our team is ready to assist at [vibrantbroadband.com](http://vibrantbroadband.com) or by calling 320-693-3231.

Thank you for being part of the Vibrant family. Your trust inspires us to keep innovating and improving to so we can deliver the best possible service to you, our members and subscribers. We're grateful to be your partner in keeping the data flowing.



**FIND YOUR LOCATION NUMBER**

Four location numbers are hidden within this Pioneer and four more in articles published on our website between now and the next Pioneer. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative before January 31, you will have \$10 credit to your account. When you call and verify your information is correct in our system, you will also receive an additional bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar Panel.



# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND MEMBERS

*Meeker Cooperative is proud to announce two \$1,000 scholarships to support educational goals for dependents of members and non-traditional students.*

## **BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP**

Funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, this \$1,000 scholarship is open to dependent children of Meeker Cooperative members or Vibrant subscribers who meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate program at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.
- Starting college in the fall of 2025.
- U.S. citizen.
- Has not previously received this award.
- Applications and required materials must be submitted by Friday, January 31, 2025. Visit [www.meecker.coop/download-forms](http://www.meecker.coop/download-forms) to download the application or contact Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231 for assistance.

## **MEEKER COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC TRUST SCHOLARSHIP FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS**

This \$1,000 scholarship is for students who are five or more years beyond high school graduation and pursuing a degree, certificate, or license. Eligible applicants must:

- Be enrolled in a chosen program for at least one quarter or semester.
- Have an educational plan in place.
- Be a Meeker Cooperative member, employee, or Vibrant subscriber.
- Applications are due by Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Download the application at [www.meecker.coop/download-forms](http://www.meecker.coop/download-forms) or call 320-693-3231.

Don't miss these opportunities to invest in your future! Applications must be submitted with all supporting materials by the deadlines.



## **JANUARY SPECIAL!**

Get two months medical alert monitoring

# FREE

with purchase of a new medical alert and three year monitoring agreement.



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

## **FEATURED RECIPE**

### **GINGERBREAD RICE CRISPY BARS | SUBMITTED BY: ROSALIE HOEFT**



#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 (10 oz) bag mini marshmallows
- 6 cups rice crispy cereal
- 2 tbsp molasses
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp allspice
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ tsp salt

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Butter a 9 x 13-inch pan and set it aside. In a large pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the mini marshmallows and stir continuously until they are completely melted. Remove the pot from the heat and stir in the molasses, vanilla extract, ground ginger, cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg, and salt until the mixture is well combined. Gently fold in the rice crispy cereal, stirring until the cereal is evenly coated with the marshmallow mixture. Spoon the mixture into the prepared pan and use a buttered spatula or lightly greased hands to press it into an even layer. Let the bars cool for about 5 minutes, then cut them into squares and enjoy!

Submit your favorite recipe for our next issue! The chosen winner will receive a \$10 credit to their account. DEADLINE: January 31, 2025. Email to: [szeppelin@meecker.coop](mailto:szeppelin@meecker.coop) | Mail to: Meeker Coop, ATTN: Shane 1725 US Hwy 12 E, Ste 100, Litchfield, MN 55355


## CONTACT US

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www.meeker.coop | www.vibrantbroadband.com

CEO/General Manager: Luke Johnson  
Contract Editor: Fuller Creative, LLC

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Stay **CURRENT** and **VIBRANT** by following our Facebook pages

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 /vibrantbroadband

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**Paul Bugbee, Vice-President — District 1**  
Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi;  
Paynesville in Stearns;  
Union Grove in Meeker

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

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

**Barbara Ann Nelson — District 4**  
Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

**David Leonhardi — District 5**  
Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside,  
French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

**Neil Pearson — 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

**Jerome Wosmek — District 8**  
Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

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

**Chad Felstul, Attorney**

## MORE NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS ONLINE

Keep up-to-date with your Cooperative in-between issues of the Pioneer and browse our classifieds online at:

[www.meeker.coop/news](http://www.meeker.coop/news)

## COLORING CONTEST WINNERS!

Congratulations to our winners of the 2024 Co-op Coloring Contest. Voting took place by our Members and Vibrant Subscribers at our Coffee on the Co-op events in December. Each winner, one from each age group 2-11, received a \$10 Walmart gift card in the mail. Thank you to all the wonderful young artists that participated.



**AGE 2**  
Townes O, Litchfield



**AGE 3**  
Eleanor H, Watkins



**AGE 4**  
Walker S, Eden Valley



**AGE 5**  
Sophie K, Paynesville



**AGE 6**  
Myron S, Kimball



**AGE 7**  
Everly H, Litchfield



**AGE 8**  
Adeline S, Eden Valley



**AGE 9**  
Lydia H, Litchfield



**AGE 10**  
Dylan R, Paynesville



**AGE 11**  
Myles H, Litchfield



You can see a larger version of each winner's masterpiece on our website by visiting [meeker.coop/2024-color-contest](http://meeker.coop/2024-color-contest)



# COFFEE ON THE CO-OP

In 2024, Coffee on the Co-op events brought Members and Vibrant subscribers together at three welcoming locations: Keek's Restaurant in Watkins, The Handle Bar in Atwater, and the Meeker Co-op headquarters in Litchfield. Guests enjoyed coffee, apple cider, caramel rolls, and donuts while connecting with Meeker Co-op employees and Vibrant representatives, who shared insights on energy and internet services.

A special thank-you goes to Colin and Drea at Keek's and Hannah Nistler at The Handle Bar for 14-20-301 hosting these events. These gatherings offered a fantastic opportunity for meaningful conversations and community engagement, making them a highlight of the year!

