KPC Says Goodbye to Steve Gahlon

After 42 years, 10 months and 5 days, KPC has to say goodbye to another long term employee, Steve Gahlon. Starting out as an Apprentice Lineman, then a Journeyman Line Tech, moving on to Line Tech in charge of a crew and finally becoming Line Superintendent. May 15th is Steve’s last day with us and he will be then entering the world of retirement.

Reminiscing over the days gone by, Steve remembered when he started at KPC a gallon of gas was only 29.9 cents. He recalls a gas war going on with a neighboring city which kept the cost low. The past years have given Steve many awesome memories, not one of his most favorite memories, but definitely memories, were when he and crews had to work during severe ice storms. He also commented on the change in technology that he has seen through the years and how it has helped tremendously in the field.

Retiring is one of Steve’s biggest challenges right now. He will have to adjust to a brand new lifestyle and get serious about getting those Honey-Do projects finished, for example, the house remodeling. Steve admitted he likes to putz on a lot of different things at once. One chore he dislikes the most is mowing, so if you’re driving by and can’t see his house because his grass is so long, you will know why. I don’t think he cares for cleaning his gutters either because he is always trying to get a co-worker to do it for him. With all his projects and his many hobbies of hunting, fishing, camping, walking and traveling, any added hobbies won’t happen because he would have to keep working to afford another one. Golfing seems to be a retiree’s favorite past-time. When asked what he thought about that, his comment was “so is watching paint dry.” Guess golfing won’t be on his bucket list. Speaking of a "bucket list," Steve said that he has a perfectly happy life and doesn’t need to do anything extreme. "Why jump out of a perfectly good airplane."

We talked about some of the things Steve has to look forward to in retirement and he had a comment about each one. For instance:

- No more going to work – “I’ll still be working but not for wages”
- More time to spend with family and friends – “Absolutely, can’t wait”
- Earning the official bad driver license and handicap parking – “I’m postponing this as long as possible”
- Waking up at the crack of dawn and not doing it for a boss, able to do whatever you want – “Can’t wait”
- Living expenses - “Highly doubt there will be any decreases, recreation isn’t cheap”
- If I showed up for dinner one evening what would you make? – “Venison” – (no surprise there).

So, for Steve the best part of waking up in the morning after retirement will be the same as working, “a cup of coffee.” He has an enormous appreciation and thanks to the members of KPC for all their understanding and patience through storms and other incidents where the electricity has been interrupted. “Kandiyohi Power Cooperative has been a great place to work.” It’s been a lifelong career for Steve. He has enjoyed and appreciated everyone he has worked with, past and present, and loves the close knit family atmosphere. Steve, being the leader of the Safety Committee since he became Line Superintendent in 1983, would like to leave us with these words, “Have a Safe Day!”
Welcome Anthony Stern!

Anthony Stern is named the new CFO at Kandiyohi Power Cooperative. Only being at KPC for a short time, we already know he is a great fit for our KPC Team. Anthony is a hometown boy, growing up in Kandiyohi and graduating from Willmar Senior High School. He then went on to Concordia College in Moorhead where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Accounting. Anthony has worked at Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP (CDS), where he was a Senior Accountant, for the past 7 years.

His wife Brittany and daughters, Kensey, 3 and Kolbie, 1 month old are his pride and joy. Spending time with his family is what makes for a great day. Another past-time of Anthony’s is hunting, so I had to ask what he would serve if I came over for dinner and he said, “steak.” Steve Gahlon said he’d serve me venison – sorry Steve, I’m going to Anthony’s. He also enjoys fishing, boating and golfing, in which he would love to play a round or two at the Augusta National Golf Club where the Masters is played. One thing he doesn’t enjoy is the laundry, but he figured out that if he messes it up enough he doesn’t have to do it anymore. Now the secret is out.

Looking into the future 25-30 years from now, Anthony hopes to still be at KPC. A good stable company, a position that he hoped to hold one day, and a very welcoming and family orientated environment is what drew Anthony to KPC. When he was much younger, he dreamed, as all little boys do, of being a professional baseball player. When he grows up, he wants to be exactly what and where he is now. For Anthony, his biggest challenge right now is busy training, including a trip to the REMA Annual conference, which was very informative and educational. He is looking forward to being comfortable in his new position and getting to know all of his fellow team members. We are thrilled to have him on board and wish him the best as he settles into his new position. Welcome Anthony to KPC!
Plant Trees In the Right Place

Planting trees near power lines – It is important to avoid planting trees that will grow into power lines. The small tree you get from a nursery can grow rapidly and engulf the power lines on your property. Tree encroachments can be a major cause of serious and fatal accidents involving contact with power lines. During storms, falling limbs or trees can bring down power lines, creating dangerous situations.

Trees are a common cause of electric service interruptions. Even with regular tree pruning, power companies must respond to many service calls because of trees – adding to the overall cost of electrical service. Buried utility lines can also pose serious risks when planting trees. When choosing a site you must locate all underground electric, gas, water, sewer, cable and telephone lines. All lines must be located before you dig. Once located, do not dig within 24 inches of these line locations.

Credit #993761001

Planning to Dig? Contact GSOC
at 651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org/submit

Grill Season Is Here.

We can order grill replacement parts for most grills

NOTICE:

Propane Budget letters have been sent. Now is the only time to sign up for Budget. Please return bottom portion of letter by June 1st. The first payment due July 15th.

LIMITED SPACE

Due to limited space this month, the Want Ads are available on our website at www.kpcoop.com

Kilowatt
Legislation Enables Co-ops to Continue Utilizing Water Heaters in Demand Response Programs

Congress passed a key piece of legislation Tuesday, April 21, that enables hundreds of electric cooperatives to continue utilizing large capacity, electric-resistance water heaters as part of their demand response programs.

A provision of the "The Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015" (S. 535) was written in response to a Department of Energy (DOE) regulation now in effect that effectively bans the manufacture of water heaters with storage capacities of more than 55 gallons, which threatened energy and money-saving programs offered by electric cooperatives.

A collaborate effort between the National Rural Electric Association (NRECA), DOE, lawmakers and other stakeholders aided in S.535 passing the U.S. House by a voice vote, which sent it to President Obama for his signature. Senators Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., authored the bill, which cleared the U.S. Senate on March 27.

"Electric co-ops across the country appreciate the incredible perseverance of Senators Portman, Shaheen and many others for their leadership in passing S. 535," NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson said. "The bill helps save consumers money, promotes reliability of the grid and helps integrate renewable energy — truly a win-win-win piece of legislation."

Recognized as a national leader in load control, Great River Energy was at the forefront of the effort to preserve grid-enabled water heaters for demand response programs. Gary Connett, director of demand-side management and member services, testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Power in support of S. 535.

"The electric industry is searching for a low-cost battery to store electricity," Connett said. "We think we have it. It’s in the basements of approximately 100,000 homes in Minnesota. It charges each night, and discharges every day in the form of hot water." Once enacted into law, the water heater provision in S. 535 will sustain access to these water heaters while manufacturers also produce appliances called for in the new efficiency regulations.

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**Marathon Electric Water Heaters now available at KPC**

Kandiyohi Power now has Marathon Electric Water Heaters in stock!!!

- 105 Gallon
- Most durable water heater made with warranty
- Complete with a factory installed vacuum relief valve, ¾” brass tee and ¾” brass nipple for easy professional installations
- Replaceable brass drain valve
- All wiring run in conduit for easy control wiring
- Seamless blow molded polybutene tank with no anode rod required for a corrosion free life
- High temperature, commercial-grade dip tubes for greater durability, which are offset from the concave bottom, creating a "whirlpool effect" which helps prevent sediment build-up
- Every tank includes 4’ of pipe insulation for even greater savings

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**Texas Caviar**

2 cans Pinto Beans – drained  
2 cans Black Beans  
1 can Black-eyed Peas  
½ cup Red Onion – chopped  
2 chopped Peppers  
(Red, Yellow, Green or Orange)  
1 Jalapeno – chopped  
1 jar Pimento – drained  
1 jar Salsa (Pace)

**Dressing**

- ½ cup Salsamic Vinegar  
- 1 T. Garlic  
- 1 cup Brown Sugar  
- 1 tsp. Salt  
- ½ cup oil  
- 1 tsp. Pepper

Cook until sugar dissolves. Cool. Pour over beans. Chill & serve with tortilla chips.
FOR SALE – MAY 2015 – KILOWATT

• 10" table saw and 10" miter saw, Craftsman, $175. 320-212-5656.
• Hewitt heavy duty aluminum boat lift with wheels, canopy and boat guides. 320-354-5132.
• Blue topper for 6' Chevy box, $300; Air tailgate for Chevy, metal, black, $100. 320-894-6389.
• MinnKota trolling motor; Cast iron stove; Motorized leaf wagon. 320-796-6713.
• Used 1980 Anderson casement window, two crankouts, 60"x96", $450. 320-441-2034.
• 33” Snapper rear engine rider mower, 12hp, $275. 320-212-7154.
• Firewood, hardwood, dry split full chord, $170; Boat, $400. 320-760-4066.
• Canoe; Sailboat; Futon; Furniture; Household items. 412-977-2021.
• Fancy tame roosters, $5 each. 320-354-4432.
• Timberline woodburning fireplace, insert or free standing, $175 o/b/o. 320-974-8579.
• Credit #993420001.
• Great condition Yamaha drum set, barely used, $700. 320-905-6234.
• Dock, wood, 10 sections, L-shaped bench, ladder, hardware, $1200. 320-290-1043.
• Beautiful silver coffee server set with sugar & creamer, $25. 320-693-2707.
• Arcade, upright, 60 games, like new, you haul it, $300. 320-905-9126.
• 66” finish cut Trailmower Swisher, 3 extra unopened blades, $1500. 320-894-1154.
• 11 dock sections, steel framed, carpeted w/bench ladder, $150/section o/b/o. 320-424-2030.
• 4x5 round bales hay & bedding; Overhead fuel tank stand. 320-905-6195.
• Shore Master 96” wide boat lift canopy grey cover wheels. 320-253-9515.
• Credit #280499001.
• 1999 Olds Silhouette, loaded w/options, 180K, $2995 o/b/o. 320-523-1606.
• Pop-up pickup camper, queen bed, 3-way fridge, like new. 320-693-2792.
• Combination organ and piano with drums, excellent, $50 o/b/o. 320-354-5480.
• 1993 ½ ton Chevy pickup, runs good, $800 o/b/o. 320-979-5873.
• (by owner) 32’ x 4’ Hewitt steel dock w/wheels on each end, $850. 320-905-6129.
• Motorized leaf wagon; Cast iron wood burning stove, $40. 320-796-6713.
• Pontoon lift, Hewitt 3000 narrow 22' rails, good condition, $950. 320-523-2379.
• Antique dry sink. 320-894-9118.
• Electric boat lift motor. 320-905-9390.
• Horse carriage, 4 wheels, 2 seats, pole, shafts, vintage, $1900. 320-264-5228.
• Credit #101266003.
• Norway Lake home or cabin, privacy, 2 BR, 2BA, 2 acres, 32x64 shed, shop. 612-756-2915.
• 1997 home, 14716 Breezy Point Rd, Atwater, must be moved. 612-723-5162.
• Shoreliner boat trailer, good tires/lights, freshly greased, for larger boat, $950. 320-295-2701.
• 1984 Lund Pro Angler 50hp Mariner, Sparten trailer, extras, good cond, $2900. 320-894-8038.

FOR RENT – MAY 2015 – KILOWATT

• Trailer seasonal spot on seasonal resort on lake, $1300. 320-354-4266/320-894-0962.
WANTED – MAY 2015 – KILOWATT

- Deer antlers, old decoys: duck, goose, crow, owl, fish. 320-796-6993.
- Experienced welder looking for welding jobs. 320-212-4565.
- Someone to fix a 1918 player piano. 320-264-2681.
- Old fishing lures; Old wooden duck, goose, fish decoys. 320-796-5684.
- Cyclemower or 2-pt brushhog. 320-354-4432.
- Kanney stoneware Springflower pattern. 320-894-9118.
- 12’ disc plow, hydraulic cylinder, good shape only. 320-212-3500.
- Two male shorthair barn kittens to be kept outside. 320-212-6952.
- Prom dress size 0 or 00 petite for summer formal event. 320-235-8680.
- Good railroad ties to build outdoor raised garden. 320-235-4890.

GIVEAWAY – MAY 2015 – KILOWATT

- Dining room table, 6 chairs, china hutch, you pick up. 320-796-6713.

KILOWATT CREDIT SCORECARD

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PLEASE NOTE: Account numbers are used. They are up to 9 digits, as appearing on your monthly bill. If you find your account number in this KILOWATT, please notify us by the 4th to claim your credit. We then will credit your bill. Do not deduct that amount from your bill; pay as usual. Dan Gafkjen found his name in the April Kilowatt. Each Account Number is worth: $5.00.