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All In The Family by Minnkota Power Cooperative

In the middle of the night when storms rage through northwest Minnesota, Leslie Huot can’t help but worry.

Her three sons – Travis, Jesse and Adam – are electric cooperative line workers in the region. If the lights go out, working day and night in treacherous conditions is just part of the job.

“I’m very proud as a parent to have linemen,” Leslie said. “It’s a dangerous profession, but it’s a good profession.”

Leslie knows firsthand the importance of what her sons do for a living. She’s worked the phone lines at Beltrami Electric Cooperative in Bemidji, Minn., for the last 17 years. Having line workers as sons helps her answer questions and relay information out to the membership.

“I feel I have a better understanding of the linemen I work with,” Leslie said. “When they get called out on storm jobs, I know what they’re going to be doing, because my boys do the same thing.”

While it is rare to have four immediate family members working for electric cooperatives, it is even more rare that each works for a cooperative in the Minnkota system. Travis is the line foreman at Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative in Bagley, Minn.; Jesse is a journeyman lineman at North Star Electric Cooperative in Baudette, Minn.; and Adam is an apprentice lineman based out of Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association’s outpost office in Moorhead, Minn.

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M State Foundation and Alumni
and Minnesota State Community and Technical College
Invite You to

Join Our 50th Anniversary Celebration!
Friday, March 9
Elks Lodge • Wadena, Minn.

5 pm: Social hour
6 pm: Dinner and entertainment

Preregistration is required. Register now to reserve your seat!
Purchase tickets online at www.minnesota.edu/electech50,
or complete and mail the form on the back of this flyer.
Dinner and drink tickets are $25 if purchased by March 1 or $30 after March 1.
Come and enjoy an evening of socializing and memories with graduates of the Electrical Technology program (formerly known as Construction Electrician) at M State, Northwest Technical College and Wadena Area Vocational Technical Institute.

Door prizes will be awarded!

405 Colfax Avenue SW, Wadena, MN 56482
M State Foundation and Alumni is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization that raises financial resources on behalf of M State.
Electrical Technology
50th Anniversary
Registration Form

Alumni and Friends - use one form per person/couple

Name ____________________________________________________________________________

Spouse/Guest Name _______________________________________________________________________

Grad Year ___________________________ Maiden name (if applicable) _________________________

Email _____________________________________________ Phone ____________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________ State ________________ Zip ______________________

Admission Tickets

Number of Dinner/Drink Tickets - $25 Each ___________________ Total Purchase $_________________

☐ Credit Card ☐ Check (make checks payable to M State Foundation and Alumni)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card No. ___________________________________________ CVV Code _____________________

Signature ____________________________________________________________________________

Sponsorship Opportunities

☐ Platinum Sponsorship - $1,000 includes 8 dinner/drink tickets, ads on social media and in event program

☐ Gold Sponsorship - $500 includes 4 dinner/drink tickets and ad in event program

☐ Silver Sponsorship - $300 includes 2 dinner/drink tickets and ad in event program

Please complete this form and return to: M State Foundation and Alumni
Attn: Electrical Technology 50th
405 Colfax Ave SW
Wadena, MN 56482

If you have questions, please call 218.631.7819 or email mstatefoundation@minnesota.edu.
M State Foundation and Alumni

On behalf of the Lake Region Electric Trust Board for Operation Round Up, I am pleased to inform you that M State Foundation and Alumni Fund was selected for a donation to be used for scholarships.

Funding was provided by Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) members who generously opt to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest whole dollar and through abandoned unclaimed capital credits. Priority is given by the board of trustees for Operation Round Up to keep funding in our service area, where it benefits rural members in particular. Awarding donations to organizations like yours distributes funding to all our communities.

Thank you to Lake Region Electric Trust for your support!

Holes for Poles fundraiser on February 10th was a great success!

Thank You!
Building Community Building Partnerships

Profile

Bulletin Board

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Scholarship Opportunities

Need a Scholarship?
Apply Now

Scholarship application can be found at:
minnesota.edu/scholarships

Application Deadline: April 15, 2018
These scholarships are for Fall semester 2018 payout.

Culinary Arts Gala

Join Us On Social Media!

Bulletin Board

Support M State Foundation and Alumni.
When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.
Go to smile.amazon.com

M State Third Annual Culinary Arts Gala

5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25
M State Café Commons - Moorhead Campus
Proceeds will benefit the Maynard Hemmah Culinary Arts Scholarship
The Huots were initially drawn to cooperatives because of the rural setting and their reputation for having a family atmosphere. They haven’t been disappointed.

Growing up

Leslie and her husband, Mark, say there were no clear-cut signs that they were raising three future line workers. But when the family moved to Bemidji from western North Dakota in 1994, the tall trees in the area provided a perfect training ground for pole climbing. In fact, on their first day in town, Jesse climbed so high he needed a ladder to get down.

“They were always climbing trees,” Leslie said. “They couldn’t stand to stay inside. So we knew they probably weren’t going to like sitting in an office someday.”

Even electrician work included too much time inside for Jesse, 30, who was the first in the family to enter the line trade. After sharing stories of a typical day on the job, his brothers followed the same career path.

As much as Jesse enjoys the fresh air and open spaces, the camaraderie on his crew may be his favorite part.

“You pretty much live with each other,” Jesse said. “A lot of other jobs, people come and go. When you get into a cooperative, people don’t leave too often.”

With a younger line crew at North Star Electric, he believes there is chance for his guys to be together for many years to come. Working on power lines in remote areas means everyone has to trust each other,

Adrenaline rush

From one brother to the next, the Huots admit they are drawn to the adrenaline rush of line work and the satisfaction of doing something that makes a difference in people’s lives. One of the career highlights for the brothers is working together on a storm project near Bagley. Each of the Minnkota cooperatives routinely reach out to help each other when Mother Nature strikes.

“We’ll have outages when we’re working nonstop for days on end,” said Travis, 31. “When you turn the power back on and they’re appreciative, it makes a guy feel pretty good.”

Jesse is not the only employee at North Star who has other relatives who work for other electric cooperatives. Tim Pelach, line foreman in Baudette, has a son, Jake, who is a lineman working for Lake Country Power in Cook, Minn., and Glen Marcotte, line sub-foreman in Littlefork, has a twin brother, Joe, who is a line foreman working for PKM Electric Cooperative in Warren, Minn.

Jesse and Adam Huot are both graduates of Wadena Electrical Line Worker program.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Electrical Line Worker Club Fundraiser on February 24th.