

The Nodak Neighbor

September-October 2016

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative

www.nodakelectric.com

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2017 Youth Tour***

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Official Publication of the
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

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September-October 2016
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Pete Naastad and Steve Smaaladen
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Editor Blaine Rekken

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Daily cycling of electric storage heat to begin in late October

Members heating with electric thermal storage, such as thermal storage room units, thermal storage furnaces or slab/in-floor heating, should turn on their heating system prior to Oct. 15 to allow a heat reservoir to build up before daily cycling of loads begins. The actual date cycling begins varies each season. Thermal storage heating is controlled each day from 7 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Around the co-op

New director Pete Naastad

Pete Naastad has been chosen to fill the unexpired term of Roger Diehl. Pete is an excavation and utilities contractor from Traill County. He has lived in rural Hatton all of his life. Pete and his brothers started Naastad Brothers, Inc., in 1974. Though Pete's brothers left the company, he and his wife, Karen, have continued to work at Naastad Brothers. Now their sons have joined them at the company.

Pete is a past member of the Hatton School Board and the Bethany Church Council. He was also on the board of the Land Improvement Contractors Association, Community Club Apartment Board, Hatton Prairie Village Loyalty Club and was past president and a current member of the Hatton Men's Club.

Pete and Karen have two sons and a daughter, three goddaughters and eight grandchildren.



Pete Naastad
Director, District 2

New hire

Heather Lizotte, a Minot, N.D., native, joined the Nodak team in July as a receptionist. Her duties include handling of inbound phone traffic, processing cash receipts and service orders.

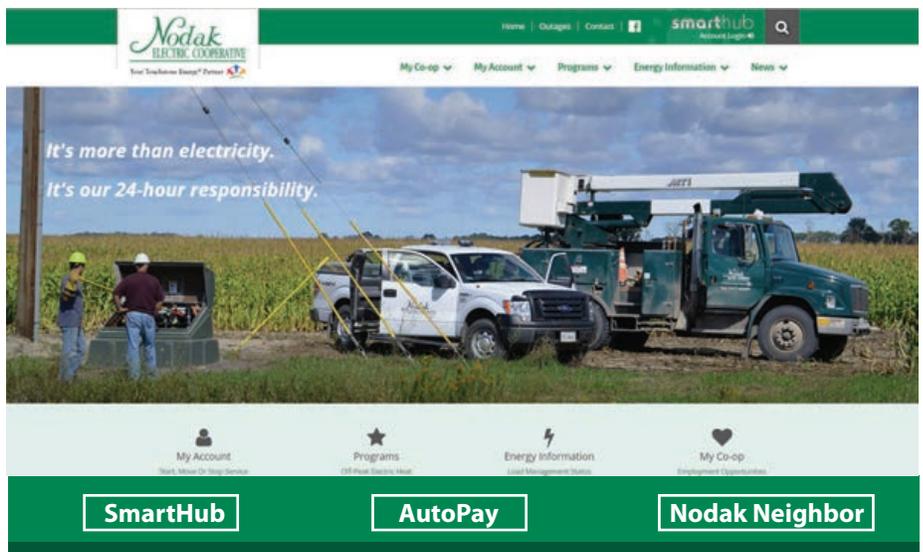
Heather attended Minot State University for physical education and coaching, while playing basketball for Minot State. Previous work experience includes a relocation specialist and work in the financing and customer service area.

She has a 22-month-old daughter, Nya, who is the center of her life. She also has a passion for sports and enjoys coaching basketball, a sport in which she helped lead the Bishop Ryan High School girls basketball team to multiple championships. In the winter, she travels to St. Cloud frequently to watch her younger brother, Jon, play hockey for the Huskies and spends summer Sundays at the racetrack watching both brothers, Matt and Jon, race to the checker flag.



Heather Lizotte
Receptionist

Check out our new website! www.nodakelectric.com





Mylo Einarson
President & CEO

What membership means

Have you ever thought about how many organizations or businesses you are a member of? Many businesses use the word “member” to describe their customers. You may be a member of a business like Sam’s Club, Costco, American Express, or even a book club or athletic club. In these instances, you pay a membership fee to purchase the right to buy their goods and services; however, you don’t get the opportunity to vote, serve on the board of directors, attend the annual meeting or participate in the organization in a meaningful way.

In cooperatives like Nodak Electric Cooperative, membership really does mean more than just the right to buy electricity. Co-ops of all types are founded on seven cooperative principles that give us guidance and strategic direction. Membership also gives you rights as



an owner of the cooperative.

Because you are an owner, there is a business relationship that ensures the mutual interests of both the co-op and its owners are kept at the forefront. Your participation in the co-op through purchasing services and thereby sharing in the margins through the allocation of capital credits is just the beginning of how you can be involved as a member-owner. Voting for the board of directors, or other business activities such as a potential merger is one way you can have an impact on the direction of the cooperative.

Serving on the board of directors or one of our various committees is another. Attending your annual meeting and voicing your opinion, posting on our social media links, or participating in grassroots legislative activities on our behalf are additional ways you can participate in the cooperative you own.

The cooperative business model is by far the best one available. It is up to those of us who work here, those who serve on the board, and members like you to ensure the principles and values we all cherish do not fade away over time. As a member-owned cooperative, we are here for only one purpose – to serve our members. If we succeed in doing that, our owners will value being members of our cooperative, not just a customer.



DEFINED BY PRINCIPLES

There are more than 29,000 co-ops in the U.S. alone. All are guided by the same set of seven cooperative principles.

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic control
3. Members’ economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community

JUNE 10 to 16, 2017

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

HIGH SCHOOL
SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!
An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school in the fall of 2017.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Nodak Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Gretchen Schmaltz, Nodak Electric, at the address listed above, or call 701-746-4461 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2017. Emailed entries should be directed to gsmaltz@nodakelectric.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Nodak Electric Cooperative, 4000 32nd Ave. S., PO Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3000.



ESSAY QUESTION:

Democracy is the foundation of our American way of life and of cooperative enterprise. The fundamentals of democracy include voter participation, political party affiliation, and public debate of issues. Describe what you think makes our current democracy strong, and provide suggestions for ways our democracy can be made stronger and more effective.

TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Nodak Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT

www.ndyouthtour.com and www.youthtour.coop



Hunting electrical equipment is never in season

SOME HUNTING TIPS

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and fire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction – and a serious hazard – to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.

As fall approaches, along with various North Dakota hunting seasons, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and electrical equipment are NOT on the hunting season list.

Nodak Electric Cooperative encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season. Be aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks. Repairs can be costly in both equipment and outages to our members. As a nonprofit cooperative, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

This doesn't include the inconvenience, damages and hazards to members down the line who require power for medical equipment or other needs while a

line worker does some hunting of his own looking at spans of line trying to locate the problem.

Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.

Sometimes the damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, and is only discovered when an unexplained outage occurs.

Landowners are also

encouraged to take note of nonmembers who are hunting on their property, and remind them to be aware of power lines.

We recognize the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities. Enjoy the great outdoors. Just be sure to hunt only what's in season.



Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are considered low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Community Options of Bismarck
www.communityoptionsnd.com
1-800-823-2417

Dakota Prairie Community Action
701-662-6500

Grand Forks County Social Services –
Fuel Assistance
701-787-8535

Griggs County Social Services
701-797-2127

Nelson County Social Services
701-247-2945

Pembina County Social Services
701-265-8441

Ramsey County Social Services
701-662-7050

Red River Community Action Agency
701-746-5431

Salvation Army – Grand Forks
701-775-2597

Southeastern Community Action
Agency – Fargo
701-232-2452

Spirit Lake Nation – Fuel Assistance
701-766-1206

Spirit Lake Social Services
701-766-4404

St. Joseph Social Cares & Thrift Store –
Grand Forks
701-795-8614

Steele County Social Services
701-524-2584

Traill County Social Services
701-636-5220

Walsh County Social Services
701-352-5111

Burning season

Burning season is upon us as everyone is preparing for winter. We ask members to use extra caution and some careful planning while doing a “controlled” burn. It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole.

Most of Nodak Electric’s power poles are pressure treated with a chemical to prevent moisture from entering the pole. This will make a wood pole out in our part of the country last for more than 50 years, providing the chemical is not compromised.

The chemicals used to treat a pole are flammable, once a flame reaches the flammable material on any treated pole, it will spread to the top of the pole very quickly. This will shorten the lifespan of a wood pole considerably as the treatment will leave the pole due to the intense heat, or worse yet the wood in the pole will start on fire.

Plan your burn ahead of time. Make sure you are able to monitor the size of the burn you are planning. If there are any poles or electrical equipment in the area, clear all vegetation/weeds at least 6 feet to make sure the fire does not get intense around the equipment. Stay on-site until all fire hazards are clear.

Having a safe electrical distribution system is important to Nodak Electric. Having poles and equipment that are degraded by fire creates unneeded outages, extra cost and most importantly a potentially dangerous situation.



Harvest SAFETY

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Nodak urges farm operators and workers to:



- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines – at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call Nodak immediately.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Manage your electric account with

smart hub

- Create and log in to your Nodak Electric account
- Make payments
- View past billing history
- Receive email or text alerts
- Contact the cooperative via a Web form
- Access the cooperative Facebook page and Twitter feeds
- Update your personal/ payment information
- View past service requests
- Check electrical usage

Access SmartHub by visiting our website at www.nodakelectric.com

Electric off-peak heat rates begin Oct. 1

Members with subtractive or separately metered off-peak electric heating systems will be charged the applicable off-peak rate for energy usage beginning Oct. 1. The off-peak rates will continue to be charged for energy usage through May 31, 2017. Current off-peak rates are \$0.06/kWh for long-term and \$0.075/kWh for short-term controlled systems (price includes the \$0.004/kWh renewable energy market adjustment charge). It is a good idea to inspect, clean and test your heating system before cold weather arrives. Please check to make sure all of your electric heat circuit breakers are on prior to Oct. 1.

Get ready for WINTER

Check for leaks

- Check around doors and windows for leaks and drafts. Add weatherstripping and caulk to any holes and make sure doors are sealed properly.
- Electric wall plugs and switches can allow cold air in. Installing pre-cut foam gaskets that fit behind the switch plate will effectively prevent leaks.
- Examine heating ducts for leaks. Over time, ducts can leak from being torn or crushed and flattened. Old duct tape can dry up and fall away over time, allowing heated air into your attic or under the house.

Check insulation

- Insulate your attic. In an older home, that can be the most cost-efficient way to cut home heating costs.
- Weather strip and insulate your attic hatch or door to prevent warm air from escaping out of the top of your house.

Check your heating system

- Get a routine maintenance inspection of your heating system each fall to make sure it's in good working order.
- Replace air filters monthly.
- Make sure all heating vents are open and not blocked by furniture.

Source: consumerenergycenter.org

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a. Total Number of Copies (net press run)			
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3841 (Exclude paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		14259	14480
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3841 (Exclude paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		14174	14395
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(1) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)			
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))			
		14174	14395
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(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3841			
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g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 page 42)			
		10	10
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)			
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i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15h times 100)			
		99	99

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I certify that 85% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

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Blaine Reckten Date: Aug 14, 2016
 Customer/Energy Service Manager

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Meet your Michigan crew

(from left) Scott Midstokke, crew foreman; Eric Hjelmstad, journeyman lineman; Logan Gehrke, seasonal apprentice lineman; and Bret Poehls, journeyman lineman.

