

The Nodak Neighbor

July-August 2025

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

JUNE STORM CLEANUP

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Vice Chairman..... Steve Smaaladen
Secretary/Treasurer..... Ryan Benson
Directors..... David Brag, David Hagert,
David Kent, Luther Meberg,
Pete Naastad and Cheryl Osowski
President & CEO..... Mylo Einarson
Editor..... Blaine Rekken
Content Provider..... Gretchen Schmaltz

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happy LABOR DAY

Nodak Electric offices
will be closed **Monday,
Sept. 1**, for Labor Day

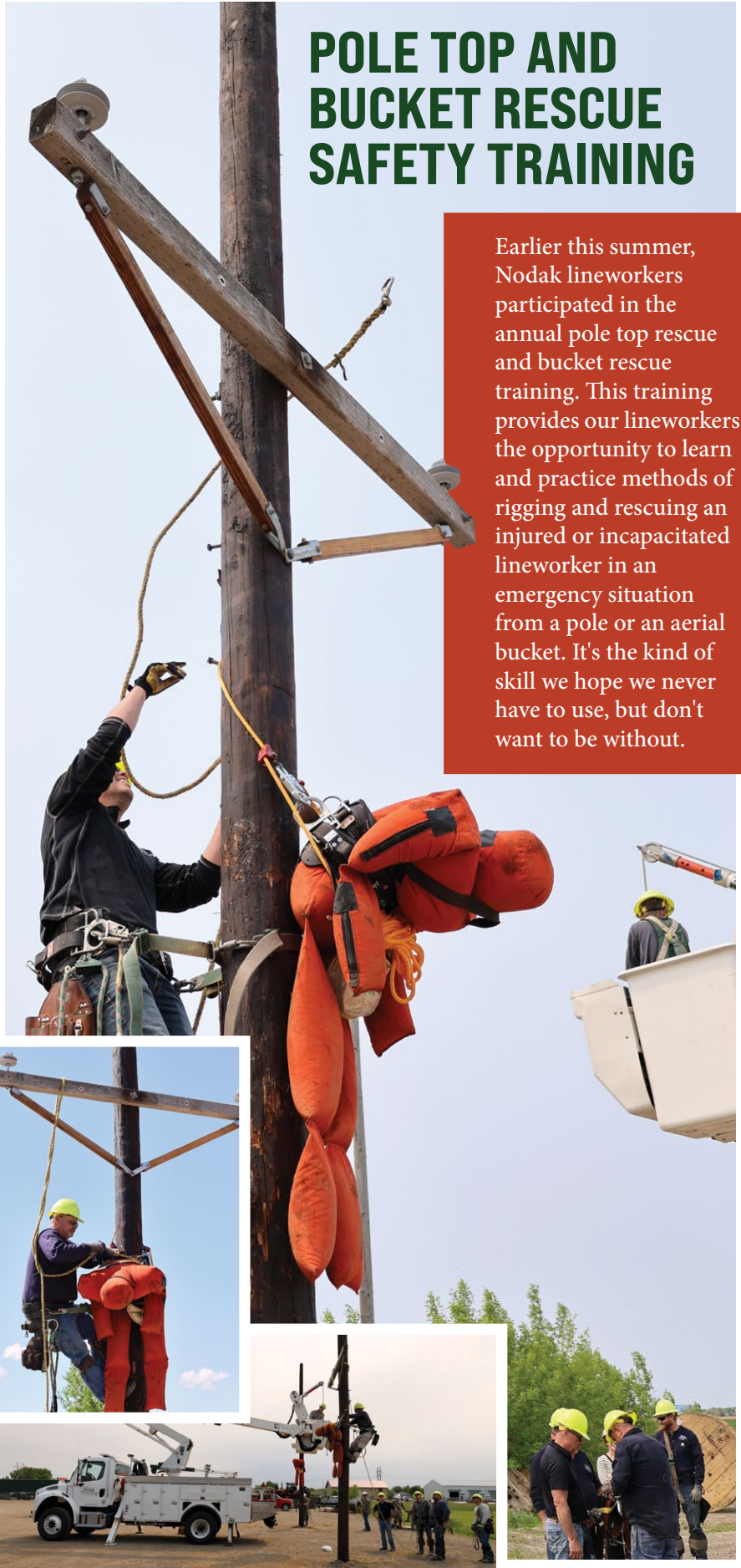
**In case of outages, call
toll-free 1-800-732-4373**

On the cover: The Michigan crew replaced poles in a farmyard that were damaged in the June storm.

Pictured: Journeyman Lineman Eric Hjelmstad (in bucket) and Crew Foreman Scott Midstokke.

POLE TOP AND BUCKET RESCUE SAFETY TRAINING

Earlier this summer, Nodak lineworkers participated in the annual pole top rescue and bucket rescue training. This training provides our lineworkers the opportunity to learn and practice methods of rigging and rescuing an injured or incapacitated lineworker in an emergency situation from a pole or an aerial bucket. It's the kind of skill we hope we never have to use, but don't want to be without.



STORM CAUSES WIDESPREAD DAMAGE AND OUTAGES ACROSS NODAK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TERRITORY

On June 20-21, 2025, a strong storm system swept through eastern North Dakota, leaving a trail of destruction and challenging conditions for both residents and Nodak line crews. The storm, which struck late Friday night, resulted in widespread electrical outages affecting thousands of meters across Nodak Electric Cooperative's service area.

At its peak, approximately 2,200 members were without power, with damage spanning from Hannaford to Hillsboro. The storm downed power lines and toppled at least 74 utility poles. The extreme weather also disrupted service from Minnkota Power Cooperative, causing outages at six substations feeding the region, adding to the outage impact.

Despite difficult conditions and intermittent rainfall that continued throughout the weekend, Nodak's line crews worked tirelessly to restore service. By Saturday

night, approximately 550 meters remained without power, and that number was reduced to 150 by Sunday evening. Full restoration was achieved by early evening Monday, June 23.

The restoration effort involved nearly 1,800 labor hours and nearly 21,000 miles of driving.

Due to the scale of the damage, North Dakota Governor Kelly Armstrong declared a statewide disaster, opening the door for FEMA assistance to help recoup some of the restoration expenses. Nodak Electric Cooperative has already begun preparing the necessary documentation to support this process.

This storm is a reminder of how quickly weather can change everything and how dedicated line crews are to restoring power and keeping our communities running, no matter the conditions.





Mylo Einarson
President & CEO

Who owns what?

As summer arrives with long, sunny days and rising temperatures, it also brings the increased likelihood of severe storms. These storms can roll in quickly and leave a trail of damage, including outages caused by wind, lightning or falling trees. While Nodak Electric Cooperative is always ready to respond swiftly and safely to power outages, it's equally important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electrical system are their responsibility — and which are maintained by the cooperative. Knowing the difference can help prevent delays, keep everyone safe, and speed up the restoration process when the weather takes a turn.

What Nodak maintains

Nodak is responsible for maintaining and repairing all electric infrastructure leading up to, and including, your meter. This includes:

- Utility poles
- Overhead and underground distribution lines
- Transformers
- Electric meters

If any of this equipment is damaged, rest assured, Nodak's dedicated crews will be dispatched to make necessary repairs and restore service as quickly as possible.

What you're responsible for

Homeowners (or property owners) are responsible for the electric components that connect the meter to your home or business. This includes:

- The service panel (breaker box)
- Underground service lines from the meter to the structure
- The weatherhead and service mast (for overhead connections)

If a storm damages any of this equipment, it must be repaired by a licensed electrician before Nodak can safely restore power to your home. We know how eager you are to have electricity restored during an outage, and having these repairs completed promptly helps us get your lights back on without delay.

Trees, landscaping and electric safety

We all take pride in the trees and landscaping that enhance the beauty of our neighborhoods. But when it comes to power reliability, overgrown trees and limbs can be a serious hazard, sometimes causing power outages, flicks or potentially even the chilling possibility of fire. Nodak proactively trims vegetation around power lines throughout our service area to reduce the risk of outages and ensure safe, reliable service. If you notice a tree limb interfering with a distribution line, please call our office so we can address it safely.

Working together for a faster recovery

Storm damage is never welcome, but with thoughtful preparation and a clear understanding of responsibilities, we can all help ensure a quicker recovery and a safer community. If you're unsure whether a repair is your responsibility or ours, don't hesitate to reach out. We're always here to help. Give us a call at 701-746-4461.

MINNKOTA TRANSMISSION LINE INSPECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FALL

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Nodak Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, will be inspecting its transmission line structures in preparation for upcoming project work. EXO, a contractor, will be assisting Minnkota personnel in the pole testing. All inspections will be completed using ATVs/UTVs. Minimal land disturbance is anticipated.

The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that electricity can be delivered safely and reliably to your area, as well as prioritize project work. If you have questions, please visit minnkota.com or call 701-795-4000.

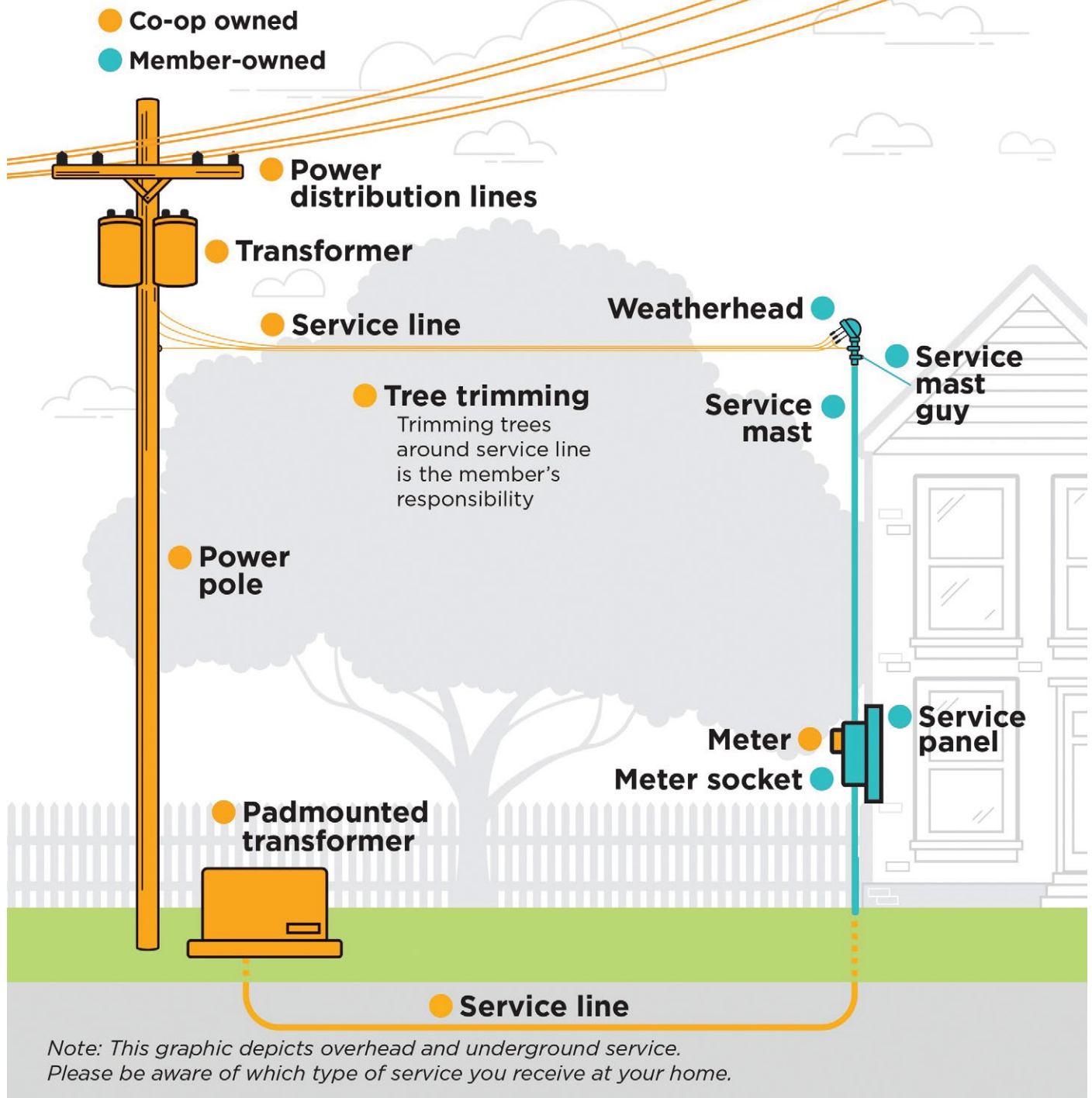


Minnkota Power
COOPERATIVE

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



AROUND THE CO-OP



PROMOTIONS



Andrew Peterson, CPA, was promoted to Accounting and Finance Manager in May following the retirement of Tom Edwards. Andrew is a native of Fertile, Minnesota, and is a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a degree in accounting. Andrew started working at Nodak Electric in 2013 as a Plant Accountant.



Derek Sondreal was promoted to Assistant Line Superintendent. He attended Northwest Lineman College in Idaho, and then started at Nodak as a seasonal apprentice lineman in May 2008. Derek became a permanent employee as a journeyman lineman with the Grand Forks crew in June 2009. He then was promoted to lead lineman in 2015 and then district crew foreman with the Grand Forks crew in 2018.



Jay Raymond has been promoted from Assistant Line Superintendent to Line Superintendent. Jay, a Grand Forks native and Red River High School graduate, attended UND and graduated from Bismarck State College. He joined Nodak in 1991 as a journeyman lineman in Fordville. There, he was lead lineman from 1993 until 2001 when he transferred to the Devils Lake crew as a journeyman lineman. In 2007, Jay moved back to Grand Forks where he was a journeyman lineman for the Grand Forks crew for a short period of time before he was promoted Assistant Line Superintendent.

BOARD RETIREMENT



David Hagert retired from Nodak Electric's board of directors after serving cooperative members for over 34 years, representing Nodak Electric members in District 2. He has served on the Nodak Electric board since 1991. During his tenure, Hagert completed the required courses to receive the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate. He also completed the NRECA Board Leadership Program and served in various leadership roles, including chairman.

"David has been a steady leader on the board," said Mylo Einarson, President and CEO. "His expertise played a pivotal role in providing quality service to all of our members. We are grateful for his years of dedication to the cooperative and wish him all the best in his retirement."

In his community, he has served on the Grand Forks County Planning and Zoning Commission and the North Dakota Atmospheric Resource Board. He has also served on the Emerado school board, the Emerado-Arvilla Lions Club, the Northwood Jaycees, the Grand Forks County Crop Improvement Association, Grand Forks County Farm Bureau, and as a past treasurer of Pleasant View Township.

David and his wife, Karen, live on the south end of Grand Forks. In retirement, David and Karen plan to spend quality time with their family and relax.

RETIREMENT



Tom Edwards began his career in February 1983 as a bookkeeper for the cooperative, where he worked for 10 years before transitioning to plant accountant for an additional 10 years. In 2004, Tom was

promoted to Finance Manager, which he held until his retirement. Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated dedication, steady leadership and industry expertise, all of which have left a lasting impact on Nodak and our members. Congratulations, Tom, on a well-deserved retirement. We are grateful for everything he's done over the years and wish Tom many happy and healthy years of traveling with family and cheering on the Twins!

SUMMER INTERNS



Tyler Olsen



Dylan Galle

Each year, Nodak brings in summer interns to help in the engineering and operations departments. This is a great opportunity for students to gain practical skills and experience in their field.

This year's interns are both attending the University of North Dakota (UND). **Tyler Olsen**, from South Elgin, Illinois, is a junior majoring in Electrical Engineering, and **Dylan Galle**, a Grand Forks native, is a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Both Tyler and Dylan's job duties will include route planning and physical staking out in the field, maintaining One Call locates data, assisting with dispatch and outage responsibilities, and updating the ESRI mapping system.

Welcome, Tyler and Dylan!

SEASONAL WORKERS



Kadyne Hein
Devils Lake Crew
From Langdon, ND



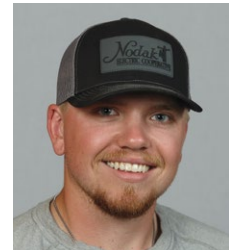
Tucker Woods
Grafton Crew
From Park River, ND



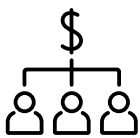
Wyatt Neuman
Michigan Crew
From Carrington, ND



Jack Lund
Grand Forks
East Crew
From Thompson, ND



Brooks Braun
Grand Forks
West Crew
From Finley, ND



This year, Nodak Electric returned **\$3.42 million** in capital credits to its members who paid for electricity for the years 2006-2007 and 2024. Nodak Electric Cooperative's board of directors approved the retirement at its March 2025 meeting.

As a not-for-profit organization, Nodak Electric operates at cost, and any excess revenues or margins are returned to our members in the form of capital credits. Since its inception, Nodak Electric has retired \$63 million back to members.

Members of Nodak Electric are also owners. Unlike investor-owned utilities who distribute profits to shareholders, Nodak Electric returns portions of the cooperative's margin to members in the form of capital credits.

Capital credits are a form of equity representing the member's ownership share in Nodak Electric. Capital credits are recorded in a separate account for each member and accumulate over time. This is one of the benefits of being a Nodak Electric member. Please keep your address and contact information current, even after you leave Nodak Electric service area. An updated address will ensure capital credits are returned to the member.

Visit nodakelectric.com/unclaimed-capital-credits to see if you have any unclaimed capital credits.

NORTH DAKOTA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

2025 YOUTH TOUR

"Trip of a lifetime is an understatement. It was absolutely amazing!" said Kiera Willis, Nodak Electric's Youth Tour delegate, who recently returned from the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June.

Kiera joined 14 other North Dakota high school students on the 61st Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip. They spent seven days touring museums and memorials, visiting with their state's congressional delegation, learning history, character building and understanding the cooperative business model. During the tour, they developed leadership skills and established a network of peers.

Education is a fundamental principle of electric cooperatives. Boards of directors and managers say they believe it is imperative to help students understand the democratic process and gain the skills necessary to become tomorrow's leaders. By sponsoring the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, North Dakota's electric cooperatives are helping high school students experience government firsthand by visiting Washington, D.C., meeting their representatives and senators, and building a better understanding of our country and their role as engaged citizens.

