

The Nodak Neighbor

November-December 2025

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative

www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Witamy!

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Official Publication of the
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

www.nodakelectric.com

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Officers and Directors

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

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Save the Date

86th Annual Meeting



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
ALERUS CENTER

Meal: 5 p.m. | Meeting: 6 p.m.

On the cover: Danika Flanders and Mari Anna Kazmierczak dressed in authentic Polish style entertain the crowd gathered at the Minto Community Center.

Photography courtesy of The Walsh County Record, Grafton

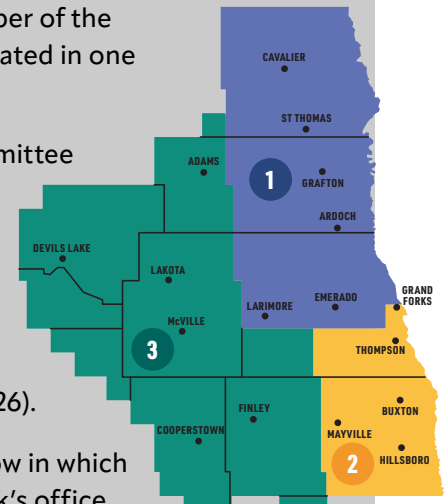
2026 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc. will hold its 86th annual meeting **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Elections for three director positions, plus an additional director position in District 2 for one unexpired one-year term, will be held at the annual meeting.

Members who desire to serve as a member of the Nodak board of directors may be nominated in one of two ways:

1. By Nominating Committee. The committee will meet Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026.
2. By a petition signed by 15 members of Nodak in good standing. The petition must be submitted to Nodak's office 45 days prior to the annual meeting (Monday, Feb. 23, 2026).

If you are interested or would like to know in which district you reside, please contact Nodak's office at 701-746-4461 or 1-800-732-4373 for more information.



HollyDazzle Festival of Lights

At Nodak Electric, we take great pride in being involved in our local community. Joining in on the holiday fun of HollyDazzle is just one way we get to socialize and create connections with our neighbors, while also focusing on making a positive impact beyond just the workplace.

The HollyDazzle event features all sorts of activities in the form of fireworks, hot chocolate, ornament making, cookie decorating, horse-drawn wagon rides, sing-alongs and a parade, just to name a few. It's a great community event that gets Grand Forks and East Grand Forks residents together for a night of holiday cheer. We encourage you to check it out!





Mylo Einarson
President & CEO

Concern for Community

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another — and at Nodak Electric Cooperative, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase — it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve — our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our communities strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take our Operation Round Up® program, for example. Thanks to the generosity of members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we're able to provide real help to local families and organizations that make a difference in people's lives. Every little bit adds

up, and it truly makes a big impact across our service area.

We're also proud to invest in the next generation, whether it's through scholarships that support students pursuing college degrees or a future in electrical line work, or through programs like the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, which gives local students a chance to see democracy in action and broaden their horizons. Supporting our youth today helps ensure a brighter tomorrow for our communities.

Our partnership with the USDA also allows us to invest directly in our local economy by providing loans to new and expanding businesses across our region. These funds help create jobs, grow opportunities and keep our rural communities thriving.

In addition, Nodak proudly supports community organizations

and programs that make life better here at home. From sponsoring local events to joining community celebrations, we're always looking for ways to give back and strengthen the connections that make this such a special place to live and work.

While the holiday season is a time of joy, we also know it can be a time of financial stress for some families. If you're struggling with energy costs or want advice on how to save energy and lower your bill, please reach out. Our team is always here to help, not just during the holidays but all year long.

At Nodak Electric, concern for community is more than a value — it's the heart of who we are. We're grateful to serve a region filled with caring, generous people who look out for one another. From all of us at Nodak Electric Cooperative, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.





Witamy!

Warsaw PNA celebrates 80 years of Polish pride

Photography courtesy of The Walsh County Record, Grafton and Sandy Schuster

Polish heritage is alive and well in northeastern North Dakota, and it was on full display on Nov. 8 in the small communities of Minto and Warsaw. Traditional dress, dance and dinner filled the Minto Community Center, where more than 225 people gathered for an invite-only 80th anniversary celebration of the Warsaw Polish National Alliance, the only PNA lodge in the state.

The festivities began with a Polish mass at the nearby St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Warsaw, North Dakota, from which attendees headed to the Minto Community Center to experience authentic Polish foods – like kielbasa, pierogies and stuffed cabbage – and traditional Polish dancing. The dancers, both children and adults, donned in genuine Polish clothing, are from the area and are trained with the help of event organizer and lodge secretary Sandy Schuster, who has been involved with the local PNA for 45 years. Schuster noted that the Warsaw PNA dancers have a long history of entertaining crowds both locally and across the country. Many past dancers and lodge members returned home for the Nov. 8 event, coming from as far away as Minneapolis.

"The dancers, the alumni that came back, they care about it so much," Schuster said. "Some of them spent many hours and years dancing."

The treasurer of the national PNA based in Chicago was a special guest of the event. He shared words of appreciation for all the

Warsaw Lodge has done for the local Polish community, from offering student scholarships to continuing the traditional dance program. In fact, Schuster was specifically acknowledged with a national award for her dedication to continuing to teach young Polish dancers over several decades.

The evening concluded with live music from Kenny & The Clas-

sics, as lodge members and their friends and families danced and reminisced over 80 years of Polish pride. Schuster says she hopes the next generation will continue to carry the torch of the Warsaw PNA for years to come.

"It's like a labor of love when you have a passion for something," she said. "And that's what I would say about it for me."



Warsaw lodge officers (left to right): Anthony Nowak-Przygodzki, National PNA Treasurer, Chicago, IL; Art Wosick, Treasurer; Sandy Schuster, Financial Secretary/Youth Director; Roger Schuster, President; Sheila Czapiewski, Vice-President; Gary Babinski, Sgt. at Arms. Not pictured: Chris Misialek, Vice President.



"Witamy"

means "welcome" in Polish, especially when a group is welcoming others.





Cole Johnson
Engineering Manager

Quietly powering reliable service

For more than a decade, Nodak's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system has improved accuracy, efficiency and outage response across our electric system.

A proven foundation

Over 15 years ago, Nodak Electric began installing AMI – advanced meters that communicate across the same power lines that deliver electricity to your home or business. This power line carrier (PLC) technology doesn't rely on radio or cellular signals. Instead, it sends encrypted data directly over the existing power lines, allowing Nodak to collect readings and monitor voltage from our office.

Though invisible to most members, AMI has quietly transformed daily operations — reducing field time, improving billing accuracy and helping us maintain reliable service for over 20,000 meters.

Supporting outage management

While member phone calls remain the first step in reporting an outage, AMI data plays a key supporting role once those calls come in. When a section of line is reported out, AMI readings help us confirm the outage location and later verify that power has been restored to each individual service.

This partnership between member reporting and AMI technology means faster confirmation, fewer follow-up calls, and greater confidence that every meter is back online before crews move to the next location.

Accuracy and efficiency every day

Before AMI, crews manually read every meter each month, a time-consuming, weather-dependent task. Today, readings are securely collected through the PLC network, ensuring accurate billing and eliminating estimated reads.

The same system helps identify voltage fluctuations and equipment irregularities, providing early insight into potential issues and improving long-term system reliability.

Looking ahead

After 15 years, AMI continues to be one of Nodak's most valuable tools — a steady, proven technology that keeps operating costs low and service reliability high. As analytics and software continue to advance, we'll keep using AMI data to make smart, data-driven improvements to the system that powers your home every day.



WATCH THE WIRES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The time has finally arrived to create a winter wonderland in your yard for the holidays! But before you pull out all your lights, signs and inflatable reindeer, be sure to create a decorating plan that puts safety first. Always remember to **WATCH THE WIRES**.

STAY 10 FEET AWAY FROM OVERHEAD POWER LINES.

If you are using a ladder to hang lights or are raising large décor like poles or pre-lit structures, look up and around for wires. Electricity can arc from lines if you get too close.



NEVER ATTACH DECORATIONS TO POWER POLES OR UTILITY EQUIPMENT.

Signs and lights do not belong on power poles; nails or staples can damage the pole and cause problems for lineworkers. And no one should be touching the green utility equipment in your yard except for trained professionals. Stay away!



IF ANY DÉCOR IS GOING IN THE GROUND, CALL 811.

Even though your ground stakes, sign poles or posts for inflatables seem like they won't go too deep, there's always a chance you could hit an electrical line or other utility line. Call 811 a few days before you decorate to have the area flagged for lines.





1,800 students. 7 days. 1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative! *Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.*

Learn more at ndyouthtour.com.

To enter the essay-writing contest:

- You must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Nodak Electric Cooperative.

Essay question:

As member-owned organizations, electric cooperatives are always seeking new ways to engage their members. What are some ways electric cooperatives can better communicate and connect, especially with students and young adults?

The application deadline is Jan. 16, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Gretchen Schmaltz, Nodak Electric Cooperative, at 701-746-4461 during regular business hours.

Email entries to Gretchen Schmaltz at gschmaltz@nodakelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 4000 32nd Ave. S., P.O. Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND, 58208-3000.



GREAT REBATES

Add comfort and energy efficiency to your home with help from Nodak Electric Cooperative!

ELECTRIC HEATING (MAX REBATE \$1,500)

HEATING SYSTEMS	REBATE
Plenum heaters, baseboard, electric furnace and hanging unit heater	\$25/kW
Cable floor heat, electric boiler and brick storage unit	\$45/kW
Mini-split or air-source heat pump	\$150/ton
Ground-source heat pump	\$250/ton



WATER HEATERS (MAX REBATE \$550)

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS	REBATE
55 gallon or less	\$125/unit
56-99 gallon	\$200/unit
100 gallon or greater	\$300/unit
Additional rebate for new building construction	\$100
Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to an electric water heater	\$250



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS (MAX REBATE \$750 PER CHARGER)

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS	REBATE
Electric vehicle (EV)	\$50/kW
Commercial – forklifts, Zambonis, etc.	\$50/kW



Rebates are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Nodak Electric offers these rebates to encourage load development, load retention and wise use of energy.

All electric technology rebates/incentives must adhere to the requirements of the Value of Electricity program. All systems must be new equipment and controlled on Nodak's off-peak program. A check will be issued to participating members after a visit from a Nodak technician.

Please call our Energy Services team at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373 if you have any questions about off-peak or the rebate program. Visit nodakelectric.com/rebates to learn more about incentives and criteria.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations/policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity/ expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal/retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA; not all bases apply to all programs; remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR BILLS?

Energy assistance may be available!

- 1 Contact agency and request application
- 2 Fill out application and provide all requested documents
- 3 Upon acceptance, notify Nodak Electric

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

Social Services – Fuel Assistance
 1-866-614-6005

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

Salvation Army – Grand Forks
 701-775-2597

Southeastern Community Action Agency – Fargo
 701-232-2452

Spirit Lake Nation – Fuel Assistance
 701-766-1206

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

Steele County Social Services
 701-524-2584

Traill County Social Services
 701-636-5220

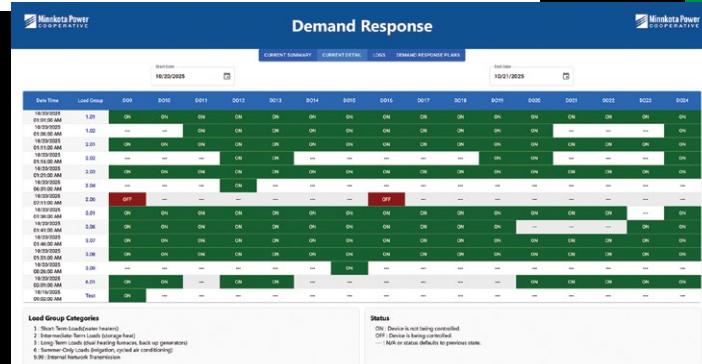
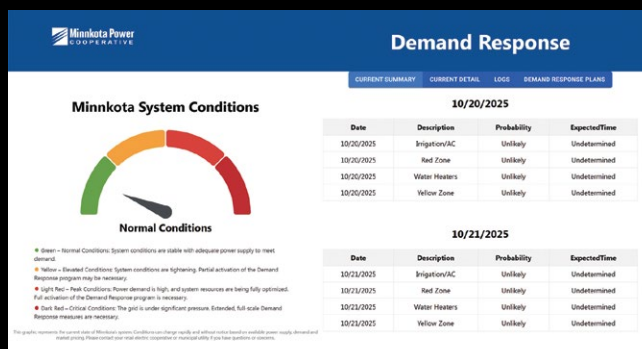
Walsh County Social Services
 701-352-5111

OUR DEMAND RESPONSE WEBSITE

HAS A NEW LOOK!

- Easy-to-understand interface
- Control probability
- Load group detail still available

Have questions about the new site or text/email alerts? Give us a call at **701-746-4461**.



VISIT NODAK.MINNKOTADR.COM