

The Nodak Neighbor

January/February 2013

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



*An
opportunity
to serve!*



2013 director Election

Three districts open
See pages 2 & 3

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Officers and Directors

Chairman of the Board Steven Smaaladen
Vice Chairman Donna Grotte
Secretary/Treasurer David Hagert
Directors Roger Diehl, Bruce Fagerholt,
David Kent, Doug Lund,
Lee McLaughlin and Paul Sigurdson
President & CEO Mylo Einarson
Editor Blaine Rekken

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Did You Know?

Leaving a 60-watt bulb on overnight consumes enough energy to make 24 cups of tea.

Three director positions open

Nominating committee members appointed

The board of directors has appointed the committee on nominations. At its meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013, at the Nodak headquarters building, 4000 32nd Ave. S., Grand Forks, the committee shall prepare and post a list of nominations for the director positions slated for election.

Committee members are: Richard Hanson, McVile, 322-4796; Neal Klamm, Thompson, 599-2198; Paul Klose, Hoople, 894-6266; Julie Lemm, Hillsboro, 636-5465; Harvey Puppe, Hensel, 257-6847; Glenn Rethemeier, Larimore, 343-2668; Paul Retzlaff, Aneta, 326-4235; and Phil Sandford, Michigan, 259-2434; and Joe Zikmund, Forest River, 229-3328.

Three director positions open

Three director positions will be open at the annual meeting April 11, 2013. The directors whose terms expire in 2013 are:

District 1 – Bruce Fagerholt

District 2 – David Kent

District 3 – Donna Grotte

Nomination by committee

If you are interested in being nominated or would like to nominate an individual, you may contact one of the committee on nominations' members.

Nomination by petition

Nominations may also be made by petition signed by at least 15 cooperative members. The signed petition must be received at Nodak's headquarters by 5 p.m. Feb. 25 in order to verify nominee qualifications and allow sufficient time for voting by mail.

Employee retirements, promotions



Marilyn Strand



Cory McKelvey



Jake Lamb



Jared Stadstad

Marilyn Strand retired from Nodak after 35 years of service as an Accountant I. Marilyn started her employment with Sheyenne Valley Electric Cooperative in 1977 and transitioned to Nodak with the merger in 2000.

Cory McKelvey was promoted to district crew foreman of the Devils Lake crew. Cory has been with Nodak for 32 years.

Jake Lamb transferred to the Devils Lake crew from the Grafton crew as an apprentice lineman, and Jared Stadstad transferred from the Cavalier crew to the Grafton crew.

Nodak congratulates Marilyn, Cory, Jake and Jared on their achievements.

An opportunity to serve!

Do you have an interest in serving as a director for your electric cooperative?

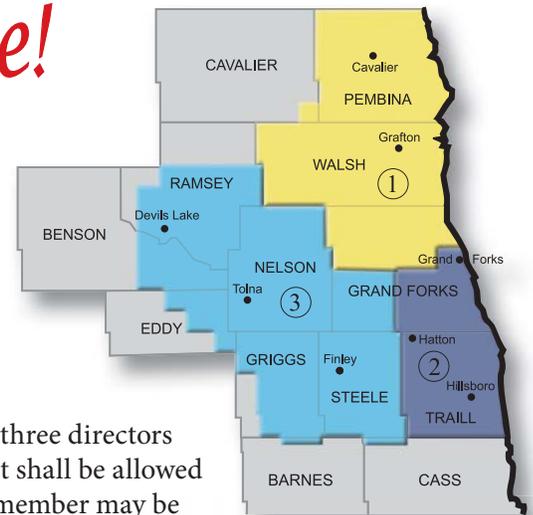
This year, two of the three board positions with expiring terms have directors who are not seeking reelection.

Nodak's service territory is divided into three separate districts served by three directors each. Nodak's bylaws state that no more than two directors in each district shall be allowed to serve from any one county. Any qualified Nodak Electric Cooperative member may be elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors.

To be nominated in 2013, candidates can contact a member of the Nominating Committee before Feb. 12, or file by petition with the cooperative's Executive Assistant before 5 p.m. Feb. 25. A nominating petition can be picked up or mailed to interested members who then must obtain 15 signatures from active members.

The term of office is three years. Three directors will be elected, one from each director district, at this year's annual meeting, which will be held Thursday, April 11, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Nominees must meet the director qualifications set forth in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III – available at the cooperative's website: www.nodakelectric.com. Director candidate packets are available upon request that include the Nodak Bylaws & Articles of Incorporation, cooperative board policy bulletins and a service area map of the director districts. Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to contact the cooperative's office to learn more about the duties performed by directors.



Winter safety tips

Winter months can be challenging. Whether you're out and about with family braving the elements or in your cozy home, don't let severe storms or cold temperatures keep you from enjoying the season. Keeping children warm, safe and healthy is important. These valuable tips offer parents advice for the winter season.

- ❄ Hypothermia develops when a child's temperature falls below normal due to exposure to cold. It often happens when a youngster is playing outdoors in extremely cold weather without wearing proper clothing.
- ❄ Frostbite happens when the skin and outer tissues become frozen. This condition tends to happen on extremities like the fingers, toes, ears and nose. They may become pale, gray and blistered. At the same time, the child may complain that her skin burns or has become numb.
- ❄ Cold weather does not cause colds or flu. But the viruses that cause colds and flu tend to be more common in the winter when children are in school and are in closer contact with each other. Frequent hand washing and teaching your child to sneeze or cough into the bend of her elbow may help reduce the spread of colds and flu.
- ❄ Sledding feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head-first, may prevent head injuries. Consider having your child wear a helmet while sledding and ice skating.

Source: The American Academy of Pediatrics, kidshealth.org, and Kidsource.com

SAVE ON POSTAGE

Sign up for Auto Pay Bank Draft

As the new year begins, members are looking for ways to save money. One way is to sign up for Auto Pay. This is an automatic payment withdrawal from your bank. You can have your payment made automatically from your checking account or savings account. And, you won't have to change your present banking relationship to take advantage of this service. Not only will you save on postage since you won't be sending in your payment, but you also will avoid mail delays due to inclement weather, which could result in late fees.

For more information, please visit
www.nodakelectric.com



Mylo Einarson
President & CEO

Perspective

Be a part of your cooperative's leadership

Consider running for a director seat

Hopefully, by now, you have noticed a couple of entries in this issue of *The Neighbor* on the subject of the upcoming board election. Every election is an important one because it's your chance to appoint the leadership of your cooperative, but this election holds something that is fairly uncommon, at least here at Nodak. Two of the three director positions decided in this election will not have an incumbent in the race.

We have three districts in our service territory with three directors elected from each district for a total of nine board members. All board members are elected for staggered three-year terms, so each year we have one position in each of the three districts up for election.

This year, we have the unique situation where two directors are retiring from service on the board and not seeking reelection. District

1 director Bruce Fagerholt and District 3 director Donna Grotte have both made it known that their intention is not to seek reelection to the board of directors. Director David Kent will be running for reelection to his seat in District 2.

Your board fulfills many vital roles for the cooperative. Not only are they the ultimate decision-makers when it comes to policy-driven initiatives for the cooperative, they are also the local connection to the membership. Board members represent our eyes and ears out in the service area. They bring back member concerns and suggestions, provide a local "neighbor" for you to discuss cooperative business with and represent your interests at the board table.

If you have ever considered serving your cooperative through board governance, those of you

living in Districts 1 and 3 have a unique opportunity. While board membership can be challenging at times and certainly shouldn't be taken lightly, it can be a rewarding experience. Your cooperative can only be as strong as the people who actively participate in it. So if you have a strong commitment to Nodak and a desire to serve, I would encourage you to consider running for a seat on the Nodak board.

A position on the ballot can be obtained through nomination by the Nominating Committee, or by submitting a petition to the corporate offices. Please call the Grand Forks office if you would like more information on the process.

Also, please take note of the changes we've made to this year's annual meeting. For quite some time, the annual meeting has been held on the morning of the first Saturday in April. This year, we are moving the meeting to a Thursday evening. I know how schedules can be difficult to coordinate, especially with today's busy lifestyles.

Undoubtedly, moving the meeting to Thursday night will make it difficult for some who usually attend, but hopefully it will also open the door for others to attend who have not been able to come on Saturday.

Most importantly, we want as many of you as possible to come and participate in the annual meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Grand Forks this April.

Mark your calendars!

*New day and time for
Annual Meeting*

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Alerus Center, Grand Forks, N.D.

Registration and meal at 5 p.m.

Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Coyote outage to impact winter power supply outlook

Minnkota Power Cooperative has informed members of the Joint System that a major outage has occurred at the Coyote Station near Beulah, N.D.

The power plant, which is partially owned by the Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA), is an important resource used to meet the needs of the NMPA participants and Minnkota members.

On Nov. 19, the Coyote Station experienced a significant generator failure that forced operators to take it out of service. While it isn't clear exactly what caused the issue, it appears that the repairs will take several months to complete. The generator rotor, the main rotating part, has already been shipped to North Carolina to be fixed.

Minnkota and NMPA see the highest demand for electricity during the winter months. Both utilities are actively pursuing options to replace

the 120 megawatts of lost energy by making purchases from a regional power market and through the load management program. Many members may already have noticed that load management is in use.

The first option during high demand periods is to purchase energy from the market and avoid controlling off-peak loads. However, there are times when affordable power isn't available. By using load management, Minnkota avoids making costly energy purchases that would be passed down to its members.



Each winter season, the Joint System develops a plan for the load management program. But unforeseen events such as the Coyote outage significantly impact how those plans are carried out and the total number of control hours seen by the end-use consumer.

Minnkota and NMPA will continue to work with Coyote plant operators to ensure a safe and efficient return to service for this key resource in the region's power supply mix.

Planning on upgrading your electric service in the spring?



Pre-planning is essential for Nodak staff.

If you have plans next spring to construct grain drying facilities, a home addition, a new farm building or anything else that requires an increase in electrical usage, please allow enough notice for Nodak personnel.

It is very important to plan ahead so work can be done in time to accommodate the member's need. This applies to both current Nodak members and new members.

Nodak has a system capacity guideline (policy 401) and a power quality guideline (policy 414) in place, and follows a line extension policy (policy 402) to aid in the planning of your installation. The following steps can also help in planning:

- ✓ **Contact an electrician to help plan for your additional power needs.**
- ✓ **Members should review the Meter Installation and Transformer Guide (available on our website at www.nodakelectric.com under "Programs & Services") or call the office at 1-800-732-4373 or 701-746-4461 to have a copy mailed.**
- ✓ **Once the request has been submitted to our engineering group, Nodak will be in contact with the member to set an appointment to stake the job site, provide a cost estimate and sign the proper forms.**
- ✓ **The payment of construction work will generally be billed upon completion of a work order, if the member is in good standing.**

Nodak urges members to plan ahead with any new services or electric service improvements so projects can be completed in a timely manner. Please call our office if you have any questions regarding our line extension procedures.

(Left to right) CoBank representative Rachel Hanson, Major Jonathan Fjellman with the Salvation Army and Nodak President & CEO Mylo Einarson.



Nodak, CoBank donate to Grand Forks Salvation Army

The Grand Forks Salvation Army had a little more to work with this holiday season as they helped communities in Grand Forks County and East Grand Forks, Minn.

Nodak Electric Cooperative awarded the local nonprofit with a \$10,000 donation through CoBank's "Sharing Success" program, which matched nonprofit contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis in 2012.

Two \$5,000 checks – one from Nodak and the other from CoBank – were presented to Major Jonathan Fjellman from the Salvation Army in November.

"Nodak and CoBank really came to the rescue of the Grand Forks Salvation Army this year even before we began our

fund drive by giving us this great donation," Fjellman said. "They told me when the town needed help we were there, and because of them, we can be of service to our community today."

The Grand Forks Salvation Army stocks a food pantry and offers a wide range of other basic needs programs to anyone in need without discrimination. It also operates a Salvation Army store during the week, and leads worship services every Sunday. Donations help with expenses such as food, medical, fuel and more.

The matching grant, which was capped at \$5,000, was approved by the Nodak board of directors in partnership with CoBank, a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American co-ops it serves.

CoBank extended \$3 million nationally to hundreds of



The Salvation Army summer day camp coordinator helps campers stock the food pantry.

Lindy Beauchamp, Social Service case worker, and a young scout help out with the food pantry.



cooperatives across the country under the Sharing Success program. The launch of the program coincides with the United Nations' "International Year of Cooperatives" in 2012. Throughout the year, the U.N. and cooperative organizations are using programs and special events to celebrate the many contributions of co-ops and the strength of the cooperative model.

Mylo Einarson, Nodak president & CEO, said the donation fits under the cooperative principle of "concern for community."

"We are pleased to partner with CoBank to uphold that key cooperative principle," Einarson said. "The Grand Forks Salvation Army has worked diligently for years to improve the quality of life for many of our members and the surrounding communities we serve."



Major Linda Fjellman with Grand Forks Air Force volunteers working a food drive.

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New Year's Resolution #1

GO ON AN ENERGY DIET

The new year brings new resolutions, with the two most popular being dieting and saving money. For 2013, combine these two ideas by going on an energy diet. Start trimming your energy costs and environmental impact by following these resolutions:

- Switch to energy efficient lighting, LEDs and CFLs.
- Clean and replace furnace filters regularly. Heating and cooling account for about 56 percent of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making this the largest energy expense.
- Plug energy leaks with weatherstripping around windows and doors.
- Take advantage of natural sunlight and window shading for no-cost lighting, heating and cooling.
- Maintain water heater temperature at 120 degrees or lower and take short showers instead of baths.
- Adjust your thermostat when your home is unoccupied to avoid heating or cooling an empty house.
- Run the dishwasher and clothes washer only when fully loaded.
- Air dry clothes when possible; clothes dryers are a big energy user.
- Power down, turn off and unplug computers, battery chargers and other electronics when not in use. Also, consider buying a laptop for your next computer purchase; it uses less energy than a desktop computer.
- When replacing older appliances and equipment, purchase high efficiency ENERGY STAR® products.

Source: www.touchstoneenergy.com and www.togetherwesave.com



Meet your Devils Lake crew

Devils Lake crew – (from left) – apprentice lineman Jake Lamb, journeyman lineman Jeremy Steinhaus, district crew foreman Cory McKelvey and apprentice lineman Flint Schlieve.

