

The Nodak Neighbor

November-December 2014
Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS!

**Win A Trip
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS.

The Nodak Neighbor

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 David Hagert
Vice Chairman Paul Sigurdson
Secretary/Treasurer Luther Meberg
Directors Roger Diehl, David Kent,
Doug Lund, Lee McLaughlin,
Steve Smaaladen and Les Windjue
President & CEO Mylo Einarson
Editor Blaine Rekken

2015 director elections



Paul Sigurdson, District 1

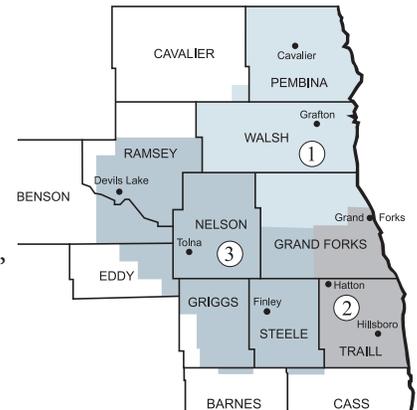


David Hagert, District 2



Doug Lund, District 3

Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc. will hold its 75th annual meeting Tuesday, March 31, 2015, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D. Election for three positions will be held at the annual meeting. Incumbent directors up for reelection are: Paul Sigurdson, District 1; David Hagert, District 2; and Doug Lund, District 3.



Customers who desire to serve as a member of the Nodak Board of Directors may be nominated in one of two ways:

1. By the Nominating Committee. The committee will meet Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015.
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 (Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015).

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Nodak's office at 701-746-4461 or 1-800-732-4373.

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Snowbirds
 If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time this winter, remember to call Nodak Electric to make billing arrangements while you are away. Nodak offers automatic checking or credit/debit card payments and online payment options.

Check us out on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/nodakelectriccooperative

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting!

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
 Alerus Center, Grand Forks, N.D.

Registration and meal at 5 p.m.
Meeting at 6:30 p.m.



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Save the date: March 31, 2015

I hope you all had a chance to read the save the date notice on the previous page for our annual meeting March 31, 2015. Every annual meeting is a special day for us at Nodak as that's when we get the opportunity to get reacquainted with old friends and meet our new neighbors. Our next annual meeting brings the excitement of marking our 75th year of existence. Seventy-five years ago, when electricity was only available to residents and businesses in urbanized areas, local farmers and landowners banded together, took matters into their own hands and brought the power of electricity to northeastern North Dakota.

Today, few of us know what it was like to live without electricity. We can only imagine the profound impact electricity had on North Dakotans' way of life, on our economy and on our health. Seventy-five years ago a group of forward-thinking, ambitious, rural residents brought change and shined a light on the need to turn the lights on in rural America.

Now we have a new generation of electric cooperative members. We are owners of the cooperative just like the farmers and ranchers who answered the call to light our area 75 years ago. Much like our founders, today's co-op members embody the democratic ideals of the cooperative business model of neighbors helping neighbors with the purpose of improving the lives of our members and the communities in which we work

and live.

Seventy-five years ago, for-profit electric utilities had determined the urban boundaries they wished to serve, and decided against extending their lines into the rural areas of North Dakota. These profit-minded utilities considered our low population density a poor investment and concluded it was not in the best interest of their investors. Because of the bold initiative of our founders, today Nodak members not only have the power of electricity in our homes, we enjoy the benefits of the cooperative business model. Because the cooperative

is democratic, every member has one vote. Our members control and direct Nodak, not money, not politics and not profits. Any revenue left over after paying our expenses and debt service is returned to our members who purchased electricity, not to a stockholder/investor whose sole motivation is a return on their investment.

Over the past 75 years, this business model has served us well. During that time, Nodak has grown from what was initially considered a poor investment by these profit-minded utilities, to one of the larger electric cooperatives in the United States. Today, we provide our members with more than one billion kilowatt-hours annually. We serve members stretching out over almost 9,000 square miles of service area, and do so on 8,000 miles of power lines – all owned by our member-owners.

There's a lot of history behind that growth, and although the future will not be without challenges, there are bright times ahead. On March 31, 2015, we all will celebrate accomplishments of our forefathers and unite to overcome the challenges ahead. I'd like to encourage you all to save the date and join us for a historical perspective of Nodak Electric Cooperative and commemorate the milestone birthday of Nodak's 75 years. We hope to see you all then. Until then, I hope you have a happy and safe holiday season.



Cooperative 7 Principles

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



Win A Trip TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 13-19, 2015

**Just write a winning essay, and you could win
the trip of a lifetime from Nodak Electric Cooperative!**

Essay Contest Details

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2015.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Nodak Electric Cooperative.
- Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½- by 11-inch typewritten, doublespaced pages on this topic: ***If you were asked to influence other students your age to become more actively involved in their electric cooperative – including attendance at the electric cooperative annual meeting – what would you tell them and why?***
- Submit your essay in hard copy or electronic format to Nodak Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, doublespaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2015, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.
- **The deadline is Jan. 30, 2015.** Emailed entries should be directed to gschmaltz@nodakelectric.com, and hard copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Nodak Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3000.
- If you have a question, contact Gretchen Schmaltz, Nodak Electric, at the address listed above, or call 701-746-4461 during regular business hours.

WWW.NODAKELECTRIC.COM

(701) 746-4461





Off-peak members should expect average winter control hours

Additional Young 2 energy to help limit control hours

Last winter, the so-called polar vortex sent much of the region into a deep freeze.

Even if the cold-weather phenomenon returns this winter, members who participate in the off-peak electric heating program should anticipate an average number of winter load control hours.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, your cooperative's wholesale power provider, estimates 240 hours of dual-heat load control this winter. This compares to the 10-year average of 255 hours and last year's total of 301 hours.

The key difference from last year is that Minnkota has increased its purchase of energy from the Young 2 power plant by about 114 megawatts capacity. As part of a long-term transaction, the additional energy from the coal-based plant will help meet peak winter demands and future load growth projections.

"The added Young 2 energy will reduce our exposure to the volatility of the wholesale energy market and should also help limit our hours of control," said Todd Sailer, Minnkota senior manager of energy supply.

Winter load control projections are based on reliable power plant operations and normal market conditions. Sailer warns that load control estimates can change due to circumstances such as storms, power plant outages and transmission line congestion. The availability of wind resources also has the ability to impact control hours.

"If our power supply resources

perform well, we will have power to serve our loads at almost all hours during the winter season," Sailer said. "The challenge comes when we have unplanned outages or during extreme cold periods when the demand for electricity is high."

Surplus energy can typically be purchased from the regional wholesale energy market at affordable prices. With demand skyrocketing across the Midwest last winter, prices momentarily went as high as \$2 per kWh.

"Controlling load during these periods protects consumers from the volatility of the market and prevents the need to build new power plants just to serve peak loads," Sailer said. "The savings by doing this are passed on to members through the low off-peak electric rate, which is approximately half of the regular retail rate."

An off-peak system consists of an electric heating source as its primary component. A supplemental heating source will need to operate several hundred hours or more during the winter season. Sailer said members with a well-maintained backup heating system should not notice a difference in comfort level when their off-peak heating system is controlled.

"The ability to manage costs and plan for the heating season is one of the many benefits of the off-peak electric heating program," Sailer said.

Millions of dollars have been saved due to the successful opera-

tion of Minnkota's load management system over the past 36 years.

"Load management is a vital tool for Minnkota and the associated systems to use to keep wholesale power prices competitive and winter heating bills low for retail consumers," Sailer said.

Electric heat rebates available

Great new incentives are available for the installation of qualifying electric heating equipment. Cooperative members will receive \$20 per kilowatt (kW) installed with a maximum rebate of \$600. The system must be the primary heating source in the building and on the off-peak program with a qualified backup heating source. The system must be hard-wired; plug-in systems are not eligible.

Some restrictions apply. Please contact the cooperative's member services department for more information.



Is your name on the
**Unclaimed
Capital Credits
list?**
Check our website

New employee

Dane Hanson

was hired as an journeyman lineman with the Grand Forks crew. Dane, a Greenbush, Minn., native and graduate of Bismarck State College in the journeyman lineman program, previously worked at Nodak for a year in a temporary position.

Prior to working for Nodak, he worked for McCone Electric Cooperative in Circle, Mont., where he earned his journeyman lineman status and most recently at PKM Electric Cooperative in Warren, Minn.

Dane and his wife, Valerie, live in Thompson, N.D.



Dane Hanson

Nodak crews wear pink to raise awareness for breast cancer

This year, Nodak's crews donned pink hard hats in place of their familiar white ones to recognize National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It's a reminder for everyone to use available screening and tests for any early cancer detection, which increase survival rates tremendously. We've all been touched by family and friends fighting cancer. By wearing pink in honor and memory of all who have been affected by this disease, it reminds us to get involved and stay informed.



Engineering crew: Casey Hansen, Electrical Engineer; Dustin Weisser, Engineering/Operations Specialist; Vern Dubuque, Engineering Representative; and Cole Johnson, Electrical Engineer.

Holiday SAFETY TIPS

- **Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.** Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- **Do not overload electrical outlets.** Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.
- **Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.** More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.
- **Keep combustibles at least 3 feet from heat sources.** Half of all home fires were caused by decorations being too close to a heat source.
- **Protect cords from damage.** To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources or attached by nails or staples.
- **Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.** Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires.

– Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



Michigan crew: Bret Poehls, Journeyman Lineman; Eric Hjelmstad, Journeyman Lineman; and Alex Schuler, Seasonal Apprentice Lineman.



Grand Forks crew: Derek Sondreal, Journeyman Lineman; Dane Hanson, Journeyman Lineman; Ben Haarstad, Apprentice Lineman; and Jared Stadstad, Apprentice Lineman.



Use your space heater safely

Many people turn to space heaters as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly. Nodak Electric Cooperative offers these tips for using your electric space heater safely:

- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture or bedspreads.
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- When buying a heater, choose one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Always unplug the heater when it is not in use.
- Never go to sleep with a space heater still operating.
- Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.
- Do not use a heater in a bathroom. Parts of the heater could be damaged by a high-moisture area.
- Keep heaters away from water to prevent electrocution.
- Do not use an extension cord or power strip with a space heater.
- Do not use the heater to dry clothes.
- Place the heater on a flat, level surface.
- Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.
- Unplug the heater by pulling the plug straight out from the outlet. Inspect the cord periodically. Do not use a heater with a damaged cord.
- Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.

– Source: safeelectricity.com

What does it cost to operate a space heater?

Most electric space heaters you find at home centers are typically one of two types, convection or radiant. A convection heater blows air past an electric element and is used to increase the temperature of the air in the room. Radiant heaters warm surfaces in the room and not the air directly. What they have in common is the desired effect of providing comfort for the room occupant and their cost to operate.

Each space heater is labeled with the wattage of the unit, which is approximately 1,500 watts. The cost to operate a 1,500-watt heater continuously for one hour, for example, is $(1,500 \text{ watts}/1,000 \text{ watts per kilowatt}) \times \$0.096/\text{kWh}$ (Nodak Electric's current energy charge) = 14.4 cents per hour of use. If used four hours per day for 30 days, electric space heating can add \$17.28 to your electric bill in one month, and can amount to more if operated longer.

RECHARGE YOUR WALLET

with Nodak's electric heating
rebate program!



Incentives available for installation of an off-peak electric heating system

- \$20/kW** – Installation of a qualifying electric heating system that is on off-peak.
- \$100/ton** – Installation of an air-source heat pump. Must be controlled on off-peak.
- \$200/ton** – Installation of a ground-source heat pump. Must be controlled on off-peak.

- Equipment must be new and off-peak systems must have a qualified backup.
- Homeowner will receive a rebate check after visit from Nodak Electric technician.
- Maximum incentive per off-peak meter is \$600.

*Contact our Energy Services Department
for details at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373*

Seasons Greetings

*from all of us
at Nodak Electric!*

*Nodak's offices will be closed
for the following holidays:*

Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday,
Nov. 27 & 28

Christmas
Wednesday & Thursday,
Dec. 24 & 25

New Year's Day
Thursday, Jan. 1