

# The Nodak Neighbor

January-February 2017

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative  
[www.nodakelectric.com](http://www.nodakelectric.com)

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



## Winter Woes



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Official Publication of the  
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

[www.nodakelectric.com](http://www.nodakelectric.com)

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Officers and Directors

Chairman of the Board . . . . . Paul Sigurdson  
Vice Chairman . . . . . Luther Meberg  
Secretary/Treasurer . . . . . Les Windjue  
Directors . . . . . David Hagert, David Kent,  
Doug Lund, Lee McLaughlin,  
Pete Naastad and Steve Smaaladen  
President & CEO . . . . . Mylo Einarson  
Editor . . . . . Blaine Rekken

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on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/nodakelectriccooperative](http://www.facebook.com/nodakelectriccooperative)

## Is your name on the Unclaimed Capital Credits list?

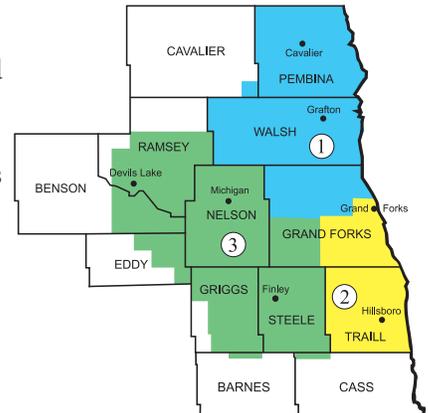
**On the cover:** Snowstorms and extreme temperatures have caused damage throughout Nodak's system this winter. Crews have spent long hours braving the elements to restore power to members.

# 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. Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, at the Nodak headquarters building, 4000 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 English, Grafton, 701-352-3266; Daniel Flanagan, Edinburg, 701-993-8544; Jason Hanson, Webster, 701-395-4317; Richard Hanson, Grand Forks, 701-739-0950; Lawrence Kadlec, Pisek, 701-284-6289; Neal Klamm, Thompson, 701-559-2198; Julie Lemm, Hillsboro, 701-636-5465; Glenn Rethemeier, Larimore, 218-779-3222; and Paul Retzlaff, Aneta, 701-326-4235.



## Three director positions open

Three director positions will be open at the annual meeting on April 6, 2017. The directors whose terms expire in 2017 are:

- District 1 – Open**
- District 2 – Pete Naastad**
- District 3 – Steve Smaaladen**

## Nomination by committee

If you are interested in being nominated or would like to nominate an individual, you may contact a committee on nominations member.

## 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 Monday, Feb. 20, to verify nominee qualifications and allow sufficient time for voting by mail.

- 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](http://www.nodakelectric.com)



*Mylo Einarson  
President & CEO*

## Open director position in District 1

While the national elections of the past November may be fading from your memory, voting for politicians is not the only way we as co-op members can practice democracy.

Every co-op, whether it's Nodak Electric Cooperative, your credit union, or a farm cooperative, follows the basic principle of democratic member control. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policy and making decisions. All these cooperatives work on the same system of one member, one vote. Most often, you are asked to vote and elect individuals who will represent you on the board of directors. These folks are your friends, neighbors and may even be you!

Any member in good standing of the co-op can run for the board. Of our nine board members, three are elected each year at our annual meeting in April, which means with only a few exceptions all members have the opportunity to run for the board each year. This year, we again have three director positions up for election; however, one of our incumbent directors has chosen not to seek reelection. That means we will certainly have at least one new board member when the election is finished. Will it be you?

Being a member of the co-op's board is an incredibly important position. A director's decisions impact issues such as service, rates, work plans and bylaws. These positions hold great responsibility and require men and women who

understand our communities' needs and serve the cooperative members' best interests.

If you or someone you know is interested in hearing more about how to run for a seat on your cooperative's board of directors, contact us at the headquarters in Grand Forks and we'll help you through the process. Even if you choose not to have that level of participation, you should all feel empowered to reach out to current board members and candidates, or encourage your friends and neighbors to participate. When our members are actively involved with the cooperative, we are all better off.

As a cooperative, we invite our members to take an active role. In fact, it is critically important to the survival of the cooperative business model that we use our voices to be heard on the issues that matter to us.

The cooperative business model is a great one – it fosters engagement and creates strong

communities. Over 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this value when he said, "The cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is governed by a board, every person has one vote and only one vote. Everyone gets profits based on their use of the cooperative. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral, as well as financial value."

Those words are more true today than ever before. Let your voice be heard and take the time to participate in your cooperative's election and your cooperative's board of directors.

In closing, I'd like to thank Director Lee McLaughlin for his 25 years of dedication to the Nodak board of directors. His countless contributions have been invaluable in making Nodak what it is today. We wish him luck in his next adventure, and extend our heartfelt thank you for his service on our board.

**Mark your calendars!**

**77<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Meeting**

**Thursday,  
April 6, 2017**

**Alerus Center  
Grand Forks, N.D.**

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

# Nodak awards \$2,000 in grants through RDFC funds

**T**hriving, prosperous communities and nonprofit organizations are essential to the strength of our region. To build that strength in its service area, Nodak Electric Cooperative awarded \$2,000 in grants to Gardar Township Hall and Adams Rural Fire District through the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC).

RDFC provided the grant funds in order to make more people aware of its larger loan program that funds community-based projects and nonprofit entities with low-interest financing.

The Gardar Township Hall project received \$1,000 through Nodak Electric that was used for expenses related to a major renovation effort on the 100-year-old building. The building was moved this fall to a new, structurally sound foundation where several projects are set to begin.

As a lifelong resident of the township, Nodak board chairman Paul Sigurdson is happy to see the town hall being brought back to life. He remembers when the building was bustling with community dances, civic organizational meetings and school basketball games.

“I’m afraid there wouldn’t be anything left of Gardar if the township hall had gone,” Sigurdson said. “It’s kind of a nostalgic place. We would use it for all sorts of community events and clubs.”

Residents believe the building can once again be the heart of the community. So far, about 75 percent of the \$50,000 fundraising goal for Phase 1 of the project has been reached. In addition to moving and stabilizing the building, funds will be used to install new doors and windows, re-side the building and replace the roof.

Phase 2 of the project, which is estimated at \$55,000, would include the installation of bathrooms, kitchen facilities, electrical upgrades and a heating system.

The project wouldn’t be possible without countless volunteers who stepped up to provide expertise, labor,

materials and other services. Resident Dawn Eckhardt has been coordinating donations for the project locally and through a GoFundMe page. She is also keeping people informed through Facebook.

“It’s been amazing to see the number of people not just locally but all over the country who are connecting with the project and sharing stories,” Eckhardt said. “We already have people contacting us about when it will be ready to start holding events.”

To donate to the project, visit:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GardarNDTownshipHall](http://www.facebook.com/GardarNDTownshipHall)

GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/2gn322c>

## New Adams fire department

The Adams Rural Fire District also received a \$1,000 grant to help construct a new 6,250-square-foot fire hall on Main Street. Nodak Director Luther Meberg presented the check to Fire District Board President Jody Erickson this fall.

“Every little bit helps,” Erickson said. “It keeps our costs down, and we’re very thankful for that.”

The \$300,000 project replaces the town’s existing fire hall that was built in the 1960s. Space limitations were a driving factor in building new, a decision that received strong support from the community, Meberg said.

“There were height issues with the fire trucks,” Meberg said of



*Dawn Eckhardt, project coordinator and Nodak board chairman Paul Sigurdson*



the existing building. “They could barely get them inside the door. The place was jampacked.”

The new fire hall will have plenty of room to work on vehicles and has a dedicated training area for the 15-20 volunteers and the associated quick response team. The new building provided an added bonus to the community, as a new mechanic shop will soon open in the old fire hall.

“It’s a very cool project,” Erickson said. “Filling a hole on Main Street in a small town with something like this doesn’t happen very often.”



Left to right: Bill Bata, Nodak board of director Luther Meberg, Jody Erickson and Derrick Lundquist.



## SCAM ALERT

### *Beware of scammers posing as Nodak employees*

Scammers go to great lengths to try to dupe victims. Nodak Electric Cooperative knows this firsthand.

Nodak Electric Cooperative has been made aware of scammers who have called some of you, our member-owners, to tell you about a past-due bill that needs to be paid immediately or their power will be disconnected. Sometimes the caller instructs members to purchase a prepaid debit or credit card and share the card information for payment.

These incoming calls might be displayed as local numbers. In fact, it’s possible that they might even display Nodak Electric’s real phone number. “Spoofing” occurs

when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity.

There have even been reports of those numbers mimicking Interactive Voice Response systems, making it seem even more like the caller is a legitimate representative if you hang up and call back. Sadly, this is all part of an effort to steal your money and financial information.

When you’re dealing with a suspicious caller, keep a few things in mind. Nodak will not disconnect an account without first issuing notices to the member. The cooperative’s collection policies provide for

a reasonable timeline to make payment arrangements before power is disconnected, if that action becomes necessary. Nodak does not require or strongly recommend a specific payment method or type. We offer a variety of payment options and members can choose which best meets their needs.

Members who think they are dealing with a suspicious call are advised to hang up immediately and call Nodak Electric at 1-800-732-4373 or 701-746-4461 to verify their account status and report this illegal activity.

We encourage you to be alert and protect yourself.



# BE PREPARED FOR WINTER'S WRATH

*Nodak Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day of the year, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. Nodak Electric Cooperative wants you to remain safe during severe winter weather, so consider preparing now for the possibility of power outages this winter.*



## STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES

Mother Nature isn't always kind to power lines. Winter winds, snow and ice often prove to be too much for utility poles and power lines. If you see a downed power line or utility pole, contact Nodak Electric Cooperative immediately.

Do not go near the line or the pole. Just because it's on the ground doesn't mean it's safe to approach.

## TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

Because power outages can't be totally eliminated, Nodak Electric Cooperative offers these steps to follow if an outage occurs:

- Confirm the outage. Check your own fuses and circuit breakers first.
- Call the cooperative. If the outage is widespread, the phone lines may be busy, but keep trying. Your cooperative will send a line crew to find the problem and restore power as quickly as possible.

If you have additional questions about outages, please call Nodak Electric Cooperative at 800-732-4373.

## OPERATE GENERATOR SAFELY

If your standby electric generator has been in storage since last winter, make sure it is still operating properly - before an outage occurs.

And always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator. Most important is the transfer switch that disconnects the farm or home from the power line and connects it to the generator. It must be a double-throw transfer switch which prevents the generator from feeding electricity back onto the power line. This protects the lineworkers who may be working to restore your service.

If you have additional questions, please call Nodak Electric Cooperative. We will be glad to work with you to make sure your generator is used properly.

## DURING AN OUTAGE

To prevent an overload on the system while power is being restored, take these steps:

- Turn off every inside light except one.
- Turn down your thermostat.
- Make sure your kitchen range is off, both the surface and the oven.
- Turn off all unnecessary appliances and unplug sensitive electronic equipment.
- When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting.

# Retirements



Vern Dubuque  
Engineering  
Representative

## Vern Dubuque

After 42 years of employment at Nodak Electric, Vern Dubuque has retired. Born and raised on a farm west of Grand Forks, Vern started working part time at Nodak in May 1975. He was promoted to full-time status in January 1976 as an engineering representative, a position he held for his entire career.

Vern and his wife, Pam, have two children and two grandchildren. In his spare time, Vern enjoys deer hunting, fishing and UND hockey. He is looking forward to traveling and spending more time at the lake in the summer.



Lee McLaughlin  
Director  
District 1

## Lee McLaughlin

Lee McLaughlin, a Nodak board member since 1991, is retiring.

McLaughlin also represents Nodak on the Minnkota Power Cooperative board and represents Minnkota on the North Dakota statewide board. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, he became a cooperative credentialed director and attended board leadership classes.

McLaughlin earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from North Dakota State University. He is a former board chair of the Walsh Rural Water District and Walsh County Farmers Union. A former county fair board member, he served 14 years as a 4-H leader.

McLaughlin spent 11 years as vice president of agricultural lending at Bremer Bank in Grafton before returning to the family farm in 1982. In 2008, NDSU honored McLaughlin and his wife, Judy, with the Outstanding Agriculturist Award. The McLaughlins retired from farming in 2011.

They are members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lankin, where Lee has served in leadership positions. The McLaughlins have three grown children and seven grandchildren.



Wayne Rocksvold  
Warehouseman

## Wayne Rocksvold

Wayne Rocksvold, warehouseman, has retired after 31 years of service.

In September 1986, Wayne started at Nodak as a warehouseman, which was a job of many duties.

Retirement for Wayne will include spending more time with his wife, Julie, two kids and playing with his two young grandkids. He will also enjoy cleaning his fleet of motorcycles, a trip to Sturgis and spending every day with his dog, Walter.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons – holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com)

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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# New year. Same great rebates!

**Add home comfort and energy efficiency to your New Year's resolutions with help from Nodak Electric Cooperative**

## Electric heating rebates

- \$20/kW rebate for the installation of a qualifying electric heating system that is on off-peak.
- Air-source heat pump incentive is \$100/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.
- Ground-source heat pump incentive is \$200/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.

**Homeowners adding new off-peak heating systems qualify for these rebates.**

- Equipment must be new and off-peak systems must have a qualified backup.
- Homeowner will receive a rebate check after a visit from a 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**

## New electric water heater rebates

Enjoy reliable hot water and save money at the same time with Nodak Electric Cooperative's electric water heating rebate program.

Water heating is one of the largest energy expenses in most households, making it a smart area to try to improve efficiency. New electric water heaters are among the most efficient and durable products in the market today. With great new incentives from your cooperative, it has never been more affordable to upgrade.

All rebate-qualifying water heaters must be on the off-peak program, which allows your water heater to draw electricity during times of low demand, such as late at night, when it's less expensive. The water heater is temporarily turned off during high demand periods, both saving energy and money on your monthly bill. Participants in the off-peak program also receive a lower monthly rate for the electricity their water heater uses.



Electric Water Heaters (must be on off-peak)	Incentive Per Unit
55 gallon or less	\$100
56-99 gallon	\$150
100 gallon or greater	\$200
Additional rebate for new building construction	\$100
Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane	\$250

### Rebate requirements:

- Must be new purchased electric water heater installed on Nodak Electric's system.
- Must be on off-peak/load control.
- Must be 240 volts and hard-wired.
- Tankless water heaters do not qualify for rebate.
- Hybrid heat pump water heaters do not qualify for rebate.
- Rebate limit of \$500 per member-account.
- Maximum \$300 rebate for coupling of two water heaters in parallel or series.
- Multifamily dwellings do not qualify for rebate; exceptions considered on case-by-case basis.

**Contact Nodak Electric Cooperative today to find out more about the water heater rebate program!**