

Nodak Neighbor

Official Publication of the Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc. 746-4461 or 800-732-4373 www.nodakelectric.com

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Volume 69, No. 2 March-April 2019 Officers and Directors

Contents

- 2 Notice of Annual Meeting
- 3 Nominees for Board of Directors
- 4 Message to our Members
- 5 Board of Directors and Staff
- 6 Utility Privatization
- 8 Treasurer's Report
- 9 Co-op Facts
- 10 2018 Youth Tour
- 11 Operation Round Up
- 12 Agenda

On the Cover

Through a Utilities Privatization agreement signed in 2018, Nodak Electric Cooperative will maintain distribution infrastructure at Grand Forks Air Force Base and Cavalier Air Force Station for at least 50 years. Story pages 6 and 7.

Notice of Annual Meeting

To the members of Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.:

You are hereby notified that the 79th annual meeting of Nodak Electric Cooperative will be held Thursday, April 11, 2019, at the Alerus Center, 1200 42nd Street South in Grand Forks beginning at 6 p.m., for the following purposes:

- 1. To pass upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, including acting upon reports of directors.
- 2. To elect three directors:

Listed below are candidates either nominated by petition or selected by the Committee on Nominations. The members of the Committee on Nominations are appointed by the board of directors.

<u>District 1</u>	District 2	District 3
(one 3-year term)	(one 3-year term)	(one 3-year term)
Luther Meberg	David Kent	Les Windjue
Park River	Hatton	Devils Lake

3. To transact business that may come before the meeting.

Voting by mail. For the election of directors, the board of directors has authorized the mailing of an absentee ballot to each member. Since the election this year is uncontested, we will not be mailing ballots and return envelopes for the election. However, if you still wish to vote, you are entitled to vote, and we will honor that right by sending you an absentee ballot. Please feel free to call our office at 1-800-732-4373 and request an absentee ballot, and one will be mailed to your address. If the completed ballot is received by 4:30 p.m. on April 10, 2019, it shall be counted as a vote of the absent member.

David Kent, Secretary/Treasurer March 4, 2019



Nominees for Board of Directors

District 1



Luther Meberg

District 1

Luther Meberg, Park River, retired from farming in October 2015. The University of North Dakota graduate and his wife, Linda, have two sons and four granddaughters. Meberg is a past Park River school board director, a past Cenex Harvest States elevator advisory board member, a retired Walsh County commissioner and has also been on an implement dealership board. Luther serves on several committees and boards, including the Dundee Mutual Insurance board and the Park River Rural Fire board. He has also served on the Nodak Electric board for six years.

District 2



David KentDistrict 2

David Kent was first elected to the Nodak Electric Cooperative board of directors in 1989. Kent is a former state legislator, representing District 20 for eight years. Kent is a graduate of North Dakota State University with a degree in Agricultural Economics. He is an agent with Nodak Insurance. Kent serves on the Union Township board and is a member of Goose River Lodge #19, the Kem Shrine and Farm Bureau. He is also a member of the Holmes United Methodist Church. He resides on the family farm with his wife Marguerite. They have three married daughters, three grandchildren and a fourth grandchild on the way.

District 3



Les Windjue
District 3

Les Windjue is a farmer in Morris Township of Ramsey County. He has been married to Karn for 40 years; they have three children and six grandchildren. Windjue attended Devils Lake High School and Lake Region State College. He serves on the Greater Ramsey Water District board. He is a former member of the Lake Region State College Foundation, the Mercy Hospital Foundation board and served on the Peace Lutheran Church council as treasurer. Les has been on the Nodak board for six years.

How to vote

Members may vote *in person* at the Alerus Center on Thursday, April 11, 6 p.m.,

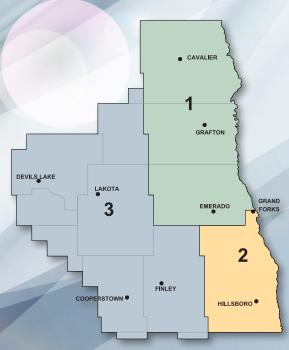
- or -

by mail. Ballots will be mailed upon request prior to the meeting. Voting instructions will be included.

Attention corporate members

If you are a member corporation, cooperative, school, church or township (or other nonnatural person) of Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc., and want to be represented at the members' meeting(s), please request a Designation of Voting Representative form and one will be mailed to you. The form must be completed and signed by an authorized officer of the organization. This form must be completed annually.

In order for the member corporation, etc., to participate in business matters, this form must be received by the secretary of Nodak on or before the date of the members' meeting(s). This form may be mailed with your ballot to Nodak or presented at registration at the members' meeting(s).



Message to our Members



Luther Meberg *Chairman*



Mylo Einarson *President & CEO*

hen we look back on Nodak's history, 2018 will be remembered as the year we were awarded the utility privatization contract for the Grand Forks Air Force Base and the Cavalier Air Force Station. After six years in development, we were awarded contracts for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the electric distribution systems at the two military facilities. Over the next 50 years, the government will benefit from safer, more reliable distribution systems, and our members will enjoy additional revenue and margins that will help keep our rates affordable. The military has been a valued partner of ours for many years - this new agreement solidifies that relationship for decades into the future.

Affordable power is the reason Nodak was established 79 years ago and today it remains a primary focus. We are fortunate to have a committed Board of Directors and a team of dedicated employees to help accomplish this goal. Spurred by a year without a wholesale rate adjustment, in 2018 we were able to hold retail rates steady for the second straight year. Our Deferred Revenue Program also played a small part in helping us stabilize our rates. In 2014, we established a Deferred Revenue Program by setting aside excess revenue that can be recognized in years when we don't quite hit our budgeted margins. Your Board also created a Financial Goals Policy that establishes metrics of financial ratios we strive to meet each year. These two initiatives help ensure we are able to retire capital credits, maintain stable rates and enjoy a healthy, robust financial position. This commitment to financial security is a critical piece to the health of your cooperative and our ability to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members for years to

Over the last several years, your cooperative has enjoyed steady growth in both total number of metered services and in kilowatt-hour sales. In 2018, we topped the milestone of 20,000 metered services for the first time as well as an increase of nearly 3.8 percent in kilowatt-hour sales. Continued growth serves to stabilize rates by providing a larger number of members and an increased number of kilowatt-hours to spread fixed costs over. One of our largest growth areas is the Grand Forks region. We were pleased to begin a new 20-year franchise agreement at the

beginning of the year with the city of Grand Forks and to continue the valued partnership we've enjoyed with the city and residents of the region.

Having a growing, financially healthy cooperative is obviously something we strive for. Beyond the comfort of a strong balance sheet, this financial security puts us in a position where we can return our members' investment in the cooperative back to the members. Once again, your Board of Directors chose to return your patronage investment and retire \$1.4 million in capital credits in 2018. This capital credit retirement is part of the Board's continued commitment to be good stewards of your capital and give it back to you in a timely fashion.

In addition to providing low-cost power to our members, commitment to community is one of our core guiding principles. As a means to fulfill that commitment, our Operation Roundup Trust continues to make lasting impacts on the lives of our neighbors in need. By amassing pennies from bills rounded up to the nearest dollar from the almost 8,500 members who participate in the program, our Operation Roundup board was able to donate more than \$56,000 last year to worthy causes. Since its inception, our Roundup board has put more than \$88 million of your pennies to work helping individuals and organizations throughout the Nodak Electric service area. What a shining example of how each of us doing a little bit can make a huge impact. One of the cooperative movement's greatest assets is we have the strength in numbers to accomplish our objectives.

The utility industry continues to change slowly in some areas and more rapidly in others. As we look ahead, we see opportunities as electric vehicles and smart homes gain popularity and technologies become more prevalent. We also see challenges in the ever-increasing complexity of our industry. Your Board of Directors and employees see a bright future ahead as we commit to innovate and adapt to these changes. Our mission is to serve the needs of our membership, and we are as committed as ever to fulfilling that pledge. Thank you for your support and patronage over the past year and thank you for the opportunity to serve you and be part of this wonderful organization. We look forward to visiting with you at the annual meeting on April 11 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Board of Directors



From left: Les Windjue, Devils Lake; Paul Sigurdson, Edinburg; Andrew Sorbo, Grand Forks legal counsel; Mylo Einarson, president & CEO; Steven Smaaladen, Aneta; Luther Meberg, Park River; David Hagert, Grand Forks; Dave Brag, Finley; Cheryl Osowski, Grafton; Peter Naastad, Hatton; and David Kent, Hatton.

Staff



Steve Breidenbach *Engineering Manager*



Tom Edwards Accounting/Finance Manager



Mylo Einarson President & CEO



Blaine Rekken Member/Energy Services Manager



Dan Schaefer
Line Superintendent



Kim Soper Executive Assistant

Our Mission

Nodak Electric Cooperative is proud to serve as your local electric provider. We believe that working together toward a common vision is the cooperative difference. We do this by operating on a not-for-profit, cost-of-service basis. Margins are given back to the members in the form of capital credits to reduce their electric costs. Co-ops put consumers first. These core business principles that have supported your local cooperative and all cooperatives for years are still alive and very strong today. Nodak's mission is based on the following statement: "Nodak *Electric Cooperative is dedicated to* be an efficient provider of quality electric service with leadership that demonstrates the highest regard for its member-owners."



be used for utility system maintenance, operation, renewals and replacements.

Cited benefits include:

- Air Force funds industry standard upgrades to installation utility systems, in coordination with the contractor's accepted schedule;
- Air Force can focus resources on the core mission:
- Base mission is not impacted during utility system transfer;
- Military civil engineers still receive training on privatized systems when training is included in the utility services contract;
- Readiness of installation personnel is not negatively impacted;
- It provides long-term operational stability.

The process of UP began approximately six years ago, when the Air Force solicited contracting partners to privatize utilities on its military installations. Nodak submitted a Request for Proposal on Oct. 8, 2012. It consisted of four main parts:

- An introduction of who Nodak is as a power supplier;
- Nodak's past performance based on information provided by existing commercial/industrial members;
- Nodak's steps on providing superior service;
- Method of determining inventory costs.

During the negotiation phase, discussion centered on addressing initial system deficiencies, operating and maintenance cost adjustments, identification of special equipment needed, installation access to equipment and specific training requirements.

Nodak was awarded and signed the privatization contract in June 2018 with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and began a 150-day transition period to true-up actual physical inventory of distribution assets at both installations, order necessary equipment and materials, determine the number of credentialed workers needed,







develop a training plan for air base personnel, find a suitable temporary service center building and procure any special equipment.

On Dec. 1, 2018, Nodak
Electric Cooperative became
the owner, operator and maintainer of the
electric utility infrastructure at the Grand
Forks Air Force Base, located 14 miles west
of the city of Grand Forks and the Cavalier
Air Force Station, located 15 miles south of
the U.S.-Canadian border.

Nodak will continue to "Aim High" while providing services to the Air Force.



Photos courtesy of Grand Forks Air Force Base



Treasurer's Report



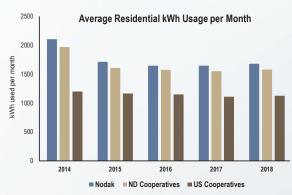
David KentSecretary/Treasurer

s treasurer of Nodak Electric Cooperative, thank you for your patronage this past year and thank you for the opportunity to present the 2018 financial statements of the cooperative.

Approximately 56 percent of our revenue is related to commercial accounts that are not entirely affected by seasonal variances in climate, which gives us revenue stability as compared to other cooperatives in our region. Those commercial accounts added \$2 million worth of revenue in 2018 as compared to 2017. Additionally, the other 44 percent of our revenue comes from the general service members who are affected by extreme cold in the winters and the heat of the summers. As a result of those seasonal climate changes, those accounts, along with 463 newly metered accounts, added \$1.6 million to the revenue roles in 2018, for a total revenue value of \$106.7 million. Total expenses for 2018 measured \$104.3 million compared to \$100.8 million 2017, with \$2.9 million coming from power costs due to increased kilowatt-hour sales volume.

Margins for 2018 were valued at \$3,131,575, which was within \$133,000 of the 2017 level. Even though the weather may throw our projections off in any given year, we budget for margins in the \$3 to \$3.5 million mark each year, and we have been consistent in reaching those levels.

As member-owners of the cooperative, you are welcome to a more detailed explanation of the finances of Nodak Electric if so desired. Please feel free to contact our office for additional information and assistance.



Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS		
Net Utility Plant	103,206,590	102,144,684
Cash	6,477,834	2,858,583
Receivables	12,009,647	11,644,146
Other Assets and Debits	12,449,104	11,029,842
Total Assets	134,143,175	127,677,255
LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS		
Total Margins & Equities	50,936,815	49,069,709
Long-Term Debt	60,680,559	56,789,955
Other Liabilities & Credits	22,525,801	21,817,591
Total Liabilities & Credits	134,143,175	127,677,255

Income Statement

As of December 31, 2018 and 2017

2018	2017
106,678,218	103,044,861
88,817,438	85,874,259
4,700,817	4,508,587
986,838	982,357
2,149,427	1,994,323
4,281,334	4,151,228
851,801	813,138
2,481,310	2,513,404
104,268,965	100,837,296
2,409,253	2,207,565
496,831	530,207
225,492	260,483
3,131,576	2,998,255
	106,678,218 88,817,438 4,700,817 986,838 2,149,427 4,281,334 851,801 2,481,310 104,268,965 2,409,253 496,831 225,492

	The Year 2018	Looking Back	
CASE PAGE (COLOR) CASE PAGE (CO	NUMBER OF METERED SERVICES 20,095	2017 19,651 2016 19,517 2015 19,143	
	TOTAL KWH SOLD 1,157,245,851	2017 1,115,063,956 2016 1,057,478,857 2015 1,081,943,820	
	CAPITAL CREDITS \$1,395,586	2017 \$1,771,018 2016 \$1,833,248 2015 \$ 803,730	
TOURS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P	OPERATION ROUND UP \$51,632	2017 \$48,172 2016 \$41,014 2015 \$45,928	
	ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES \$11,246	2017 \$25,168 2016 \$31,030 2015 \$49,728	

Co-op Facts

Counties served:

Cavalier, Pembina, Walsh, Benson, Ramsey, Nelson, Grand Forks, Eddy, Griggs, Steele,

Traill, Barnes and Cass

Number of employees: 67

Square miles: 8,820

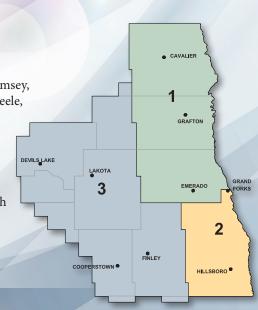
Total miles of line: 8,183

Board meeting: First Tuesday of each month

Date first energized: Dec. 23, 1939

Power supplier:

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.





Lilly Bina of Park River represented Nodak Electric Cooperative on the Youth Tour in 2018. She submitted the following article, summarizing her trip experience.



When thinking about experiencing our nation's capitol in a fantastic way, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is the way to go. It's a remarkable trip with many opportunities to learn about our local electric cooperatives and our nation's history.

While in D.C., we visited many historical sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and the World War II Memorial. We also had the opportunity to visit many museums, some of which were the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian Museums and the Newseum. When we weren't touring a museum, we were enjoying a ferris wheel ride at the National Harbor or meeting with our state's senators at the Capitol. One evening after exploring downtown Alexandria, we, along with Georgia, enjoyed a water boat cruise down the Potomac River. This was one of the moments we had to get to know each other. On Capitol Hill Day, we had the opportunity to meet with Sens. Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven to discuss the inner workings of our nation's government.

Among the most memorable and rewarding parts of the trip were the friendships we formed. On the first day of the trip, all of us were quite shy and nervous, but by the seventh day we had formed friendships that would last a lifetime.

When I think of a "trip of a lifetime," the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour fits the profile. It is to Nodak Electric Cooperative that I owe extreme thanks for the remarkable experience.



peration Round Up is a program that rounds up members' monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. The resulting funds are put into a special account to assist others in need. The funds collected through Operation Round Up are used for a variety of projects, programs and items throughout the Nodak service area.

The Round Up board meets quarterly and considers each application that has been received since the previous meeting. It awards funds to the applicants based on how well the application fits the original funding guidelines: 1) Individuals or families in crisis; 2) Services – ambulance and fire; 3) Community youth needs with emphasis on permanent benefit; 4) Scholarships with emphasis on re-education of displaced agricultural people; 5) Senior needs with emphasis on permanent benefit; and 6) No requests for funding of utility and space heating energy will be accepted.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program with roughly 60 percent of the 14,751 members participating. Since the program started, a total of \$882,329 has been distributed to individuals and organizations throughout the Nodak Electric service area.

Operation Round Up Board of Directors



From left: Wayne Reinhart, Maureen Puppe, Trish Schindele, Corrine Berg, Pam Montag, Mitch Vold and Jay Estvold.

2018 Recipients

		•			
Altru Ambulance Service \$	125.00	Raenette Tewes	1,250.00	Gary Woinarowicz	300.00
Aneta Ambulance Service	125.00	Vicki Tresenriter	1,250.00	BreAnn Ziegelmann	917.00
Binford Ambulance Service	125.00	Jeff Unterseher	1,250.00	Angela Zimmerman	882.00
Cooperstown Ambulance Service	125.00	Thomas Wetzel	1,250.00	Cooperstown Bible Camp	1,000.00
Drayton Ambulance Service	125.00	Kassie Wilson	500.00	Grace Hesse	376.00
Finley Ambulance Service	125.00	Cavalier HS After Prom Party	50.00	Matthew Houska	400.00
Fordville Ambulance Service	125.00	Central Valley HS After Prom Party	50.00	Anna Magnuson	800.00
Hillsboro Ambulance Service	125.00	Dakota Prairie HS After Prom Party	50.00	Duane Marynik	1,500.00
Hoople Ambulance Service	125.00	Devils Lake HS After Prom Party	50.00	Michael Mertens	2,000.00
Hope Ambulance Service	125.00	Drayton HS After Prom Party	50.00	Dick Olsen	1,400.00
Lake Region Ambulance Service	125.00	Fordville-Lankin HS After Prom Party	50.00	Everly Peterson	2,500.00
Lakota Ambulance Service	125.00	Grafton HS After Prom Party	50.00	Raenette Tewes	
Larimore Ambulance Service	125.00	Grand Forks Central HS After Prom Party	50.00	Gracie DeCoteau	535.00
McVille Ambulance Service	125.00	Griggs County Central HS After Prom Party	50.00	Brooke Estvold	429.00
Michigan Ambulance Service	125.00	Larimore HS After Prom Party	50.00	Deborah Heath	300.00
Northwood Ambulance Service	125.00	Midway HS After Prom Party	50.00	Grace Hesse	443.00
Pembina County Ambulance Service	125.00	Minto HS After Prom Party	50.00	Jaxon Hesse	388.00
St. Ansgar Hospital Ambulance Service	125.00	Park River HS After Prom Party	50.00	Kierra Hodny	
Valley Ambulance & Rescue Squad	125.00	Red River HS After Prom Party	50.00	Roger & Julie Jackson	2,450.00
West Traill Ambulance Service	125.00	Thompson HS After Prom Party	50.00	Jose Patlan, Jr	150.00
Joshua Amundson	1,500.00	Valley-Edinburg After Prom Party	50.00	Luke Riley	1,000.00
Patty Clifton	1,250.00	Janet Bennet	500.00	Charles Schwarz	1,000.00
Emiliano Contreras	1,250.00	Dennis Denault	1,000.00	Gloria Seltvedt	1,000.00
Grace Hesse	425.00	Grace & Jaxon Hesse	1,500.00	Allan Stokka	2,500.00
Jaxon Hesse	400.00	William Morin	875.00	Chad Tetrault	,
Daniel Jallo		Tyler Nakonechney	1,895.00	Emmalynn Tomlinson	300.00
Robert Johnson		Stephanie Nordstrom	500.00	Jeff Unterseher	1,000.00
Francine McClendon		Gloria Peterson	500.00	Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN	1,000.00
James Ottem	458.00	Gloria Seltvedt	1,000.00		\$56,273.00
Charles Schwarz	1,250.00	Coleman Stadstad	2,500.00		, , = . 0.00



