

The Nodak Neighbor

January-February 2020
Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Piling all that
Snow
page 6

SAVE THE DATE!
80th Annual Meeting
April 14, 2020

SINCE 1940
YEARS OF POWER
80

The Nodak Neighbor

Official Publication of the
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

www.nodakelectric.com

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January-February 2020
Officers and Directors

Chairman of the Board Luther Meberg
Vice Chairman Les Windjue
Secretary/Treasurer David Kent
Directors Dave Brag, David Hagert,
Pete Naastad, Cheryl Osowski,
Paul Sigurdson and Steve Smaaladen
President & CEO Mylo Einarson
Editor Blaine Rekken

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on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/nodakelectriccooperative

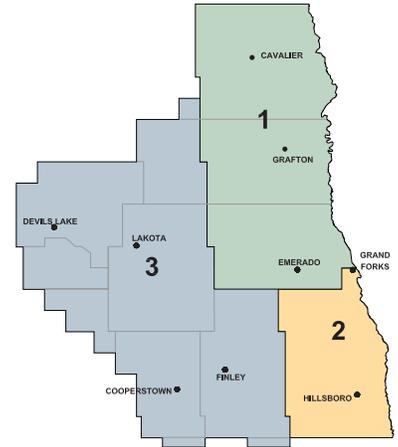
On the cover – In the event of an outage, by keeping snow clear of power equipment, line workers can access equipment easier and get power restored to members quicker.

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. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020**, 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: Daryl Evenson, Devils Lake, 701-739-9093; Daniel Flanagan, Edinburg, 701-993-8544; Richard Hanson, Grand Forks, 701-739-0950; Shannon Johnson, Park River, 701-331-2933; Neal Klamm, Thompson, 218-779-7378; Julie Lemm, Hillsboro, 701-430-1536; Jared Peterka, Forest River, 701-520-2937; Glenn Rethemeier, Larimore, 218-779-3222; and Paul Retzlaff, Aneta, 701-270-0181.



Three director positions open

Three director positions will be open at the annual meeting on April 14, 2020. The directors whose terms expire are:

District 1 – Cheryl Osowski (incumbent seeking re-election)

District 2 – Pete Naastad (incumbent seeking re-election)

District 3 – Steve Smaaladen (incumbent seeking re-election)

Nomination by committee

If you are interested in being nominated or would like to nominate an individual, you may contact a nominations committee 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 Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, to verify nominee qualifications and allow sufficient time for voting by mail.



If you are one of the more than 2,000 Nodak Electric Cooperative members who participate in the money-saving off-peak program, there is an easy way to see when your electric heat or water heater is being controlled.

Just go to www.nodakelectric.com and click on Load Management Status under the Energy Information tab to see if that load is being controlled. You will need to know your load group and double order to understand the chart. To see if you are being controlled, just look for the group number on the left and the double order number on the top and match those two up. You are controlled if the box says OFF. Load group and double order numbers are usually listed on your load management receiver for each relay on the upper left or on a label placed on the unit. If you are unsure of your load group and order number, please give Energy Services a call at 800-732-4373.

Perspective



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Your team. Your voice. Your power.

Plan to attend **your annual meeting**

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and emails to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. With such busy lifestyles, we tend to protect our “spare time,” so in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether our time and effort to attend is beneficial. In other words, “what’s in it for me?” You may think attending your cooperative annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category; however, I ask you to think again.

Nodak Electric exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our member-owners. We also exist to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community

we serve, you have a perspective that is valuable, and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At our annual meeting, co-op leaders discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming year. The annual meeting is also the time to vote for board members who will represent you, the members of the cooperative. Each year, three of our nine directors are elected for three-year staggered terms. Although you may vote prior to the meeting by mail, the annual meeting is your chance to hear the candidates before you make your choice.

The annual meeting gives you the chance to be part of the business meeting once a year and see your directors in action. It also gives the membership the opportunity to ask questions of the board and management. You may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there’s no need to attend the meeting. However,

every energy bill you pay to the cooperative helps ensure better service and reliability for everyone. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Nodak wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While your cooperative provides convenient electronic options for bill paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all of us.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it has been a while, please stop by. Our cooperative family looks forward to visiting with you! We will have food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Help us celebrate our 80th anniversary at your

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Alerus Center
Grand Forks, N.D.

REGISTRATION AND MEAL AT 5 P.M.
MEETING AT 6 P.M.



Your team. Your voice. Your power.

Great rebates to start the new year.

Add home comfort and energy efficiency to your New Year's resolutions with help from Nodak Electric Cooperative. Nodak Electric offers the following rebates to encourage load development, load retention and wise use of energy.

Electric heating

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

Electric heating rebate requirements

- Electric heating must be on off-peak with a qualified backup heating system.
- Electric heat equipment must be hardwired (no plug-in loads eligible for rebate).
- Air-source heat pumps do not have to be a part of an off-peak heating system to be eligible for this rebate.
- Must be at least 240 volts and hardwired.
- Multifamily dwellings do not qualify for rebate. However, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Rebate limit of \$1,200 per member/owner account.

Water heaters

Electric Water Heaters	Rebate
55 gallon or less	\$125
56-99 gallon	\$200
100 gallon or greater	\$300
Additional rebate for new building construction	\$100
Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to an electric water heater	\$250

Water heater rebate requirements

- Must be off-peak controlled.
- Must be at least 240 volts and hardwired.
- Tankless water heaters do not qualify for rebate.
- Hybrid heat pump water heaters do not qualify for rebate.
- Multifamily dwellings do not qualify for rebate. However, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Rebate limit of \$550 per member/owner account.
- Maximum \$300 rebate for the coupling of two water heaters in parallel or series.

Electric vehicle chargers

Electric Vehicle Chargers	Rebate
Electric vehicle (EV)	\$50/kW
Commercial – forklifts, Zambonis, etc.	\$50/kW



Electric vehicle charger rebate requirements

- Charger must be a Level 2 unit, wired on a dedicated 240-volt circuit, sub-metered and connected to a Nodak-issued load control device.
- Member must participate in Nodak's load control program for EVs.
- Money-saving energy rate of \$0.062/kWh for charging your vehicle during specific time periods each day plus a \$3.95/month facility charge.
- One-time rebate per charger installation of \$50/kW with a \$500 maximum rebate.

In addition to the above listed requirements for electric heating and water heating rebates, 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.

Ways winter electric usage can affect your bill

Avoid surprises before your bill arrives. Monitor your usage with SmartHub at www.nodakelectric.com



Members sometimes call us with concerns about their electric bills – especially in January and February. Keep in mind, the bill you open in January reflects your December holiday usage and perhaps even Thanksgiving usage, depending on your usage. Your February bill is impacted by any below zero cold spells in December and January.

Winter conditions

Shorter days and longer nights mean lights are on twice as long as in summer months. More time is spent indoors, families watch more hours of television, water takes longer to heat and so on. Even if your heating system is gas, it still needs electricity for operating the fan and the air exchanger.

The holidays

The holidays are fun, but a month later when you open your electric bill, the warm and fuzzy memories fade away. Consider the extra baking and cooking, entertaining guests, your Christmas lights and other holiday activities that are reflected on your January bill. If you have kids, they were home for winter break – and how many X-Boxes do you have?

Dirty furnace filter

A clogged filter makes it difficult for your furnace to run efficiently, which causes higher costs and can lead to other problems. Change your furnace filter on a regular basis.

Space heaters

Electric heaters are a big culprit of very high electricity use. A small heater can cost you \$100 or more per month if used continuously. Though it requires investment, electric in-wall, cove and baseboard heaters are more efficient, and they qualify for an electric rebate.

Vehicle block heaters

Many electric block heaters are up to 1,500 watts and use as much electricity as fifteen 100-watt light

bulbs. Use a timer to schedule specific running time.

Days in the billing cycle

Your bill may reflect 28 days of electricity usage or 31. Four days' difference can be as much as \$25 or more. Be sure to look at the usage period listed on your electric bill.

Any of these culprits aren't dramatic on their own, but together they add up and can contribute to a higher winter bill.

Why do we keep asking for your phone number?



Your phone number is an important tool when it comes to power outages. Having your correct phone number in our system helps identify your location when you call us to report a storm-related or accidental outage, and it also helps us proactively communicate with you when we have to temporarily shut off your power due to a system or equipment upgrade.

Planned outages

Occasionally, the equipment used to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, the cooperative will send an automated phone call, informing you when there will be a planned interruption to your electric service.

Unplanned outages

Mother Nature can send icy conditions or high winds, which topple tree branches onto power lines. Sometimes a contractor accidentally cuts into an underground cable or a vehicle crashes into a power pole. These are the times Nodak Electric depends on you reporting the outage. When you experience an unplanned loss of power, please call 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373.

Don't let electrical safety get buried in the snow

Winters in North Dakota present challenges to members and Nodak's line workers. A daily or even hourly question: Where do we put all this snow?

Keep safety in mind when clearing snow from your driveway and other areas around your home or business. Electric cooperative members need to be mindful of the location of power equipment and make sure it is clear and accessible for Nodak's crews. Please take note of the locations of pad-mounted transformers, meters, regulators, cabinets, poles and overhead wires before moving snow.

Snow piled on electrical equipment not only impacts your safety, but also has the potential to affect electric service to hundreds of homes and businesses in your neighborhood. The National Electric Code states to allow at least 10 feet in front of power equipment and 3 feet on the sides and back for line workers to be able to access the area in the event of an emergency.

In addition to paying attention to ground-level equipment, be sure to look up and be aware of overhead power lines – especially when removing snow from your roof. Also, make plans to pile snow away from power lines where children might play.

In the event of an outage, clearing snow around utility equipment will make it easier for line workers to get power restored. Nodak recommends using a shovel to prevent damage. This allows members to be aware of the utility infrastructure below. If members notice damaged equipment, please contact Nodak at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373 so it can be inspected.



Around the co-op

Ford retires

Guy Ford, electronic technician, retired from Nodak with 38 years of service.

Having multiple positions throughout his career, Guy started working with the construction crew, then moved to work with the Devils Lake crew for 10 years. He then transferred back to Grand Forks until retirement.

Plans for retirement include fishing and playing with his grandkids.



Guy Ford
Electronic Technician
Tech Department

Transfer

Alex Larson, apprentice electronic technician, transferred from the Grand Forks crew to the Tech Department.



Alex Larson
Apprentice Electronic Technician
Tech Department

Three obtain journeyman certification

Three apprentice linemen recently completed certification for journeyman lineman. They are:

Travis Pederson and **George Gardiner**, both of the Finley crew; and **Trey Lovcik**, Devils Lake Crew.



Travis Pederson
Journeyman Lineman
Finley Crew



George Gardiner
Journeyman Lineman
Finley Crew



Trey Lovcik
Journeyman Lineman
Devils Lake Crew

Did you know?

In today's world, you won't find many items that cost less than \$5. You can purchase a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a Big Mac meal from McDonald's. But did you know that an average day's worth of electricity costs less than \$5?



SURGE PROTECTION ⚡

Keeping your Electronics and Home Safe

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association estimates that **60-80%** of surges originate from **internal sources** (within a home or business). Keep your valuable electronics **safe** by protecting them from the surges that can **damage or destroy them**.

! What is a power surge? A power surge is a sudden and unwanted **increase in voltage** that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment. Surges can occur when large appliances, such as air conditioners, turn on and off. Surges can also originate from electric utilities or lightning.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION

GOOD



Point-of-Use Surge Protection

Easy to use
- just plug in.



Only protects electronics **plugged into the device**.



Must be **replaced** over time or after a major surge event.

BEST

Whole Home Surge Protection



Must be installed by a **qualified electrician**.



Provides protection for your **entire electrical system** at home including large appliances, outlets, and light switches.



Protects against **larger surges** and provides **longer lasting** surge protection than point-of-use devices.



No surge protection can handle a **direct lightning strike**. **Disconnect** sensitive electronics if you suspect a surge is coming.

Power strips and surge protectors are **not the same**. Not all power strips offer surge protection.





For 80 years we have enhanced **your power**,

in the form of North Dakota-grown electricity
for your home, farm or business,

in the form of efficiency information
from your Nodak team or SmartHub,

in the form of shaping your co-op through
member meetings and elections.

Your team. Your voice. Your power.



Help us celebrate our 80th anniversary at your annual meeting April 14, 2020.