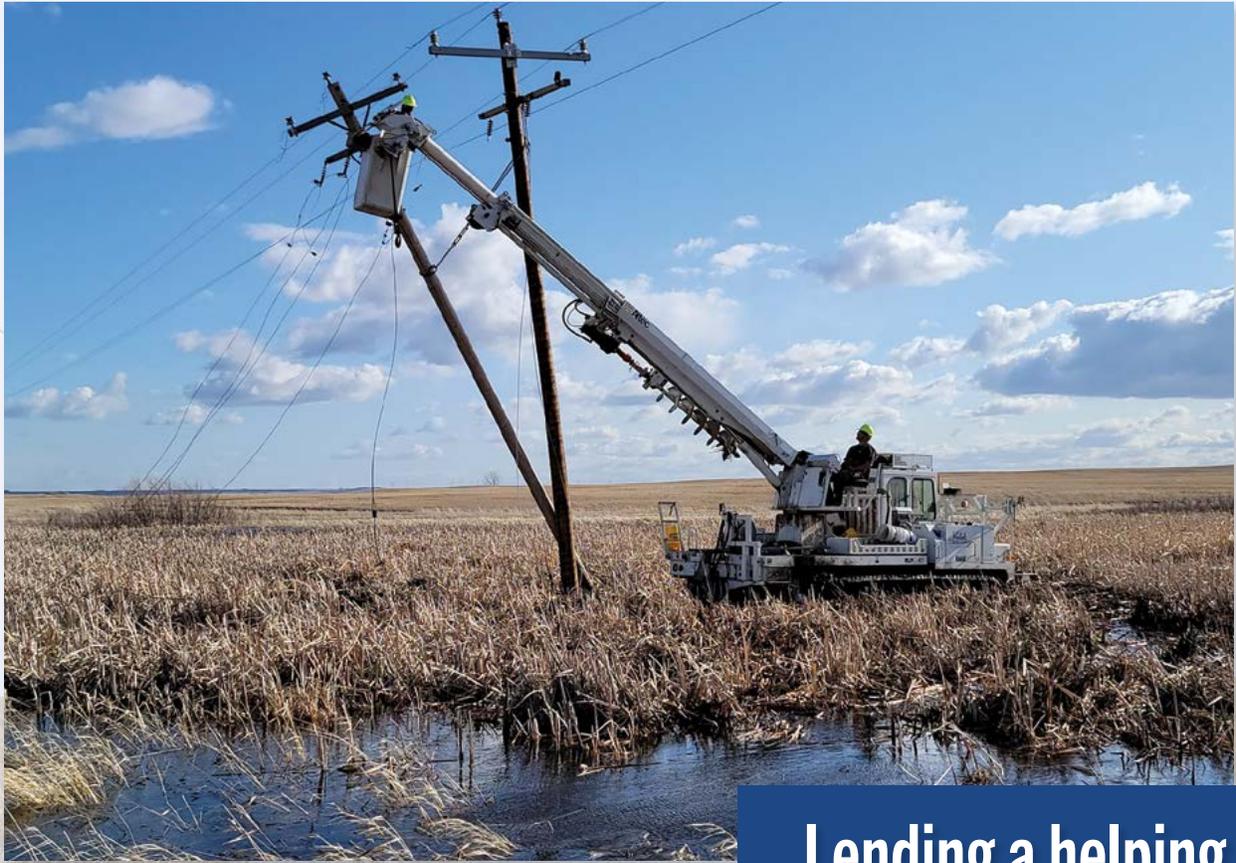


The Nodak Neighbor

May-June 2022

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Lending a helping hand

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Officers and Directors

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

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**Our offices will be closed
Monday, May 30, in observance
of Memorial Day**
If you experience an outage,
call 1-800-732-4373.

On the cover: On May 2, eight Nodak lineworkers headed west to Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative to assist with restoration efforts after the co-op's service area was hit with a devastating late April storm.

New Seasonal Apprentices



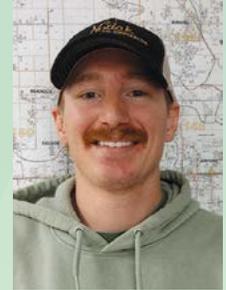
Chris Becker

Chris, originally from Langdon, N.D., will be working on the Construction crew.



Brad Bergman

Brad, originally from Grand Forks, N.D., will be working on the Hillsboro crew.



Blake Kaercher

Blake, originally from Cavalier, N.D., will be working on the Grand Forks crew.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Military Appreciation Month is a special month-long observance honoring those in and out of the United States Armed Forces. The Senate selected May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show its gratitude and recognize the men and women – past and present – who serve our country.

Each year, Military Appreciation Month reminds Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed Forces have played in the history and development of our country. May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to note our military's achievements. We thank you, service members, for your dedication and strength in keeping our nation safe.





*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Making the best of bad weather

Once again, we fell victim to bad weather on our annual meeting day. You may recall that the last time we held an in-person annual meeting the same thing happened. Shortly before that meeting was supposed to begin, visibility started to diminish when a spring blizzard descended upon us. We suspended all the nonessential parts of the meeting and hurried everyone back home as quickly as we could. That was 2019. After two long years of waiting through the pandemic, we were finally able to get together in person, only to have the meeting shortened by inclement weather once again. For those of you who came to the meeting, thanks for braving the storm. For those that didn't make it, we promise to do our best to have a wonderful annual meeting next year.

We were certainly only mildly inconvenienced by the weather event we had, but the cooperatives in northwestern North Dakota were not so lucky. Heavy amounts of snow and ice devastated much of their dis-

tribution systems. With an estimated 4,000 poles broken and thousands of residents without power, one of our guiding principles, cooperation among cooperatives, came into action. Twenty-three of our lineworkers volunteered to go out west and help restore power. I'm happy to report that as of this writing, after many long days, almost all accounts have been reenergized and our line crews are returning home safely.

As an electric cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month each May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

Thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted each year as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity

can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. It's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity. I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Finally, I'd like to say congratulations and thank you to our three incumbent directors who were reelected to three-year terms at our annual meeting. Our cooperative is as strong as it is because of the dedication and hard work of folks like them who choose to offer their services on our board of directors.

DIGGING SOON?

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident; always call 811 before you dig.



Visit www.call811.com for more information.

COLOR CODING FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

WHITE	Proposed excavation
PINK	Temporary survey markings
RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
GREEN	Sewer and drain lines



New facility enhances service to GFAFB

Nodak Electric Cooperative took its support of the Grand Forks Air Force Base (GFAFB) to the next level in 2021 with the addition of a unique service center. The 4,500-square-foot facility is government funded as a part of a utilities privatization (UP) agreement between the co-op and GFAFB. The agreement, signed in 2018, made Nodak the owner and operator of the electric infrastructure on the base. The new on-site service center will allow crews to serve the base and its residents more quickly, safely and thoroughly.

Nodak will use the new facility in several ways. A classroom inside the building will help train Nodak line and base personnel on the electrical systems of the GFAFB, both overhead and underground. There is also office space for crew members who need work stations during a job on the base. A large portion of the square footage is warehouse storage space for

utility vehicles and materials used to maintain the electrical distribution system.

“The fact that we will have equipment and material at our on-base warehouse means it will take less time to restore power to base residents,” said Dan Schaefer, Nodak line superintendent. “Otherwise, we would have to run to Grand Forks for material. Any time we can restore service in a timely manner, it makes Nodak and GFAFB stronger partners.”

The construction of the service center happened right in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it ultimately took 14 months from start to finish. Meetings have already taken place at the facility, and crews continue to add office furniture and shelving to make the space more functional.

“Having a facility of this quality makes our jobs of maintaining the electrical system on the GFAFB easier,” Schaefer said.



Be prepared for summer **STORM SEASON**

Despite the best efforts of Nodak Electric Cooperative and other utilities, outages, surges and low voltages can still occur for many reasons, especially lightning from summer storms.

Even though your cooperative has an up-to-date distribution system with preventative measures like lightning arresters placed throughout the system, equipment can fail and nature is unpredictable. In fact, a lightning bolt can push an estimated 10 to 100 million volts of electricity with an average current of 30,000 amps.

Be aware that only in the case of negligence would Nodak Electric Cooperative or any utility's insurance be liable to pay for damage to a member's property. While surges and low voltage are rare, they can damage sensitive equipment. These types of events take many forms:

- Lightning strikes a power pole, sending a surge in voltage through the power lines.
- A vehicle hits a power pole, knocking down one phase of a three-phase feeder, causing low voltage.

If you ever do experience a surge or low voltage event, turn off and disconnect sensitive equipment as quickly as possible. Doing so is the best defense. Also, many types of surge protectors help protect electrical equipment against voltage fluctuations. Members can purchase whole-house surge protection from an electrician or protection for individual equipment like computers. Surge protectors absorb some of the electric surge and divert the rest to ground. Look for UL-listed products.

Finally, uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems are powered by batteries and provide time for the user to correctly save or shut off items they have on a computer. Some UPS systems provide protection against voltage sags or spikes for however long they are rated to work. Acts of nature like lightning strikes are not covered by many insurance policies. It is always a good idea to check your homeowner's insurance policy to see what is covered and ask for advice on protecting sensitive electronic equipment.



Don't let scammers score by collecting your personal and financial information. Here are 3 things to look for that will help strike out scammers.

STRIKING SCAMMERS OUT



THIRD BASE

If you are ever contacted by an agency with an amazing deal on solar panels that will help save on electricity or they offer you tax credits for using solar energy — **STRIKE 3** scammer! Adding solar panels to your home is a lengthy and expensive undertaking. When identifying a scam, look for unrealistically low prices or any company saying they will lease you solar panels without a contract.

SECOND BASE

If someone claiming to be Nodak Electric Cooperative calls and says you have overpaid your utility bill and they can begin issuing you a refund if you provide them with your financial information — **STRIKE 2!** Nodak Electric Cooperative will never call and request your financial information.

FIRST BASE

If you receive a call saying your power will be turned off in the next hour if you don't reply with immediate over-the-phone payment — **STRIKE 1** scammer! Nodak Electric Cooperative will never demand your immediate payment over the phone.

HOME BASE

Tips to throw scammers out of the game:

- Always ask to speak to a trusted Nodak Electric employee.
- Know that Nodak Electric will only ask for personal information in order to identify members calling in.
- A tone of urgency is often a trick scammers use to try and gain information from you.
- Gather as much information as you can from the scammer and contact your local authorities. Also, make Nodak Electric aware of the scam.
- If you are unsure about a call, just hang up.

If you ever have any doubts about your utility bill, please call our office at 800-732-4373 or stop by in person.

LENDING A HELPING HAND

“Cooperation Among Cooperatives” is one of the cooperative principles Nodak Electric values above all else, and our team lived that principle in early May. Nodak crews headed west to Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative to assist with restoration efforts after the co-op’s service area was hit with a devastating late April storm. Ice buildup from the weather system knocked out power for not only Burke-Divide members, but also for co-ops in the surrounding area.

Crews in the west were working around the clock to fix these outages, and co-ops across the state started to step in to lend a hand. On Monday, May 2, eight Nodak lineworkers traveled to the site of the destruction to help restore power. We are grateful to have such a hardworking and dedicated crew, and we wish all of the best to our co-op neighbors.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Nodak Electric Cooperative website. The logo for Nodak Electric Cooperative is on the left, with the tagline 'A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative'. The navigation menu includes links for 'Start, Move or Stop Service', 'SmartHub', 'Outages', 'Contact', 'View & Pay Bill', and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, there are dropdown menus for 'My Co-op', 'My Account', 'Programs', 'Energy Information', and 'News'. A large green banner with a white border contains the text 'Unclaimed Capital Credits' in white. Below the banner, there is a search form with the text 'Enter your last name to see if a Capital Credit is available to you.' and a 'SEARCH' button.

Enter your last name to see if a Capital Credit is available to you.

Last Name:

If you would like to claim a Capital Credit, please call us at 746-4461 or 800-732-4373.

Nodak Electric is collectively owned by its members. Our mission is to provide electric power at the cost of service. Any remaining margins are returned to our member-owners and that ownership is called equity with the cooperative. Nodak Electric uses that member equity to offset the cost of debt for construction and maintenance-saving interest expense that would otherwise be factored into the cost to provide electric service to our members through their electric rates. It is a continuous cycle of the member building equity with Nodak and then eventually being paid for usage of that equity. Over the course of our history, over \$50 million in capital credits has been returned to our membership. Ownership of your cooperative has benefits!

Go to nodakelectric.com/unclaimed-capital-credits to see if you have unclaimed capital credits.

Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

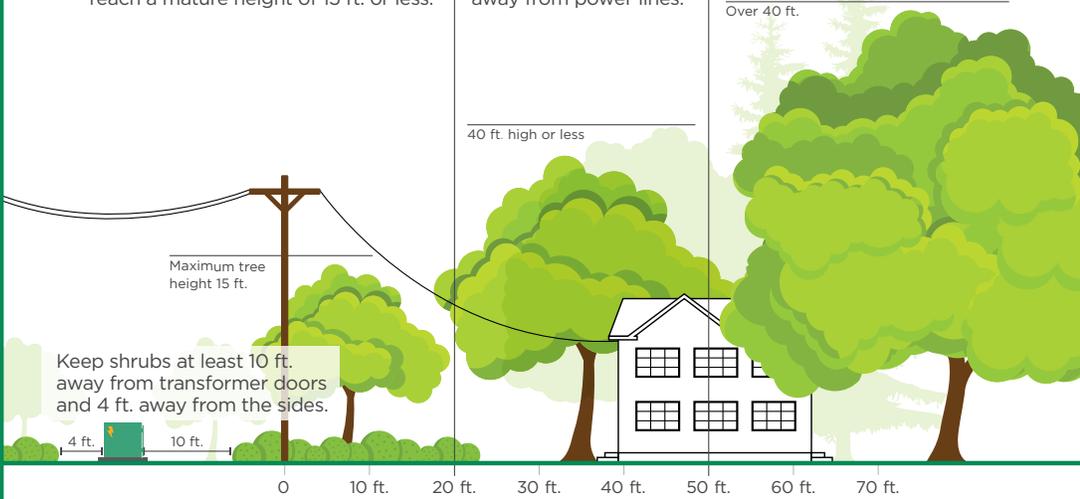
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



REMINDER:
Keep shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. away from the sides.



Nodak has hired the following contractors

North Plains Utility Contracting
Trenching/plowing

Dakota Tree Service
Tree trimming

Joe Ritter Painting
Metal refinishing service

RAM Utilities
Pole inspection

Rhino Contracting
Boring/trenching

AW Power
Tree trimming

These contractors are currently working in our service area. They will have a Nodak Electric decal on their vehicle. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800-732-4373.

NORTHERN THUNDER AIR & SPACE EXPO

June 18, 2022
319th Reconnaissance Wing
Grand Forks Air Force Base
Airshow 2022

Mark your calendars! For the first time in over a decade, the Air Force's premier aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds, will perform at Grand Forks Air Force Base. This event is free and open to the public, so please come out and enjoy the amazing show and visit with us.

82nd annual meeting held

The 82nd annual meeting was held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D., on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

During the meeting, directors Luther Meberg, David Kent and Les Windjue were reelected for a three-year term and the minutes of the 81st annual meeting were approved. There were 71 members in attendance at the annual meeting.



District 1



Luther Meberg
District 1

District 2



David Kent
District 2

District 3



Les Windjue
District 3