

The Nodak Neighbor

May-June 2025

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



2025 MN/ND Veterans Honor Flight

Nodak Electric Cooperative is proud to support our veterans. Recently, the 2025 MN/ND Veterans Honor Flight sent veterans from around the valley to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials that are dedicated to their service and sacrifices. The goal of the Veterans Honor Flight is to take as many of these heroes to see their memorials as possible. With every component of the trip, the focus is on the safety and comfort of the participants; it is truly tailored to create a memorable, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Of those veterans, retired Nodak employees (former line superintendent Ken Quanrud of Emerado, North Dakota, and former lineman Don Heit of Grand Forks, North Dakota) and current Nodak member volunteers (Operation Round Up board member Wayne Reinhart of Hatton, North Dakota, and Nominating Committee

Chairman Paul Retzlaff of Aneta, North Dakota) attended the three-day trip. The days included viewing the changing-of-the-guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, the National Archives, a tour of Fort McHenry, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and many other memorials.

We salute all who have served and those currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. We recognize that our freedom comes with a cost, and we owe our sincere gratitude to these individuals and their families for their sacrifices and contributions.

View additional photos on the back page. >>>

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Officers and Directors

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

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MAY IS NATIONAL
ELECTRICAL
SAFETY MONTH

Regularly check electrical
cords, plugs and other outlets
for any signs of damage,
fraying or exposed wires.

On the cover: Retired Nodak employees and partners participated in the MN/ND Veterans Honor Flight on April 20-22, 2025.

Honor Flight photos courtesy
of Shawn Morrissey Photography

NOTICE OF DIRECTOR POSITION OPENING

Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Due to the retirement of longtime director David Hagert, the board of directors of Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc. is seeking applicants to fill the remainder of the unexpired term from District 2. Interested members from District 2 who meet the qualifications summarized below are encouraged to submit a detailed letter expressing their interest and explaining their unique abilities for serving as a director to Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attention: Mylo Einarson, President & CEO, PO Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3000 or email to: nodak@nodakelectric.com. **Applications must be received at Nodak's Grand Forks office by 4:30 p.m. on July 3, 2025.** If you have any questions regarding the qualifications for appointment to the board of directors or District 2 boundaries, please call Mylo Einarson at 701-746-4461 or 1-800-732-4373.

SUMMARY OF DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicant must:

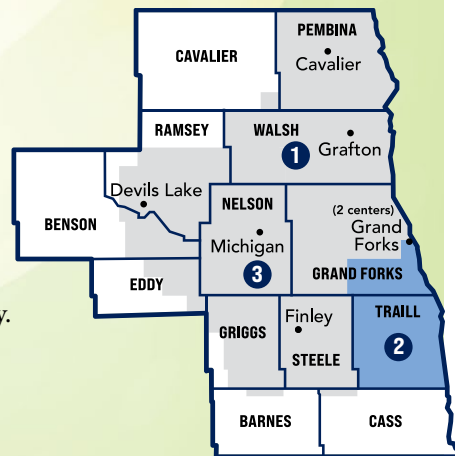
1. Receive electric service from Nodak Electric at applicant's primary residence located in the district and be a voting resident of such district.
2. Have an account in good standing with the cooperative.
3. Never have been convicted of a felony.
4. Not be an employee or former employee of the cooperative within three (3) years, or otherwise have a financial interest in a business that contracts with the cooperative.
5. Not be a close relative of an employee of the cooperative.
6. Agree to regularly attend monthly board meetings.

Further information on qualifications can be obtained from Mr. Einarson at the phone numbers listed above.

GRAPHIC OF DISTRICT:

For reference in determining qualifications as a member of the cooperative's District 2, included herewith is a map of the cooperative's director districts.

The board of directors will consider all qualified applications and will determine appropriate next steps in its process of appointing someone to fill this position, including potential interviews, depending on the response to this notice.



Perspective

Retail electric rate increase



Mylo Einarson
President & CEO

At Nodak Electric Cooperative, our mission is to provide you, our members, with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. For many years, we've been proud to hold the line on electric rates, avoiding increases even as inflation and market volatility placed pressure on nearly every sector of the economy. However, after eight years of stable rates, the time has come when we must make a necessary adjustment.

Beginning June 1, retail electric rates will increase by slightly over 10%. This decision was not made lightly, and I want to be transparent about the reasons behind it.

Why now?

Several factors have combined to increase the cost of providing electric service:

1. **Increased Wholesale Power Costs:** A large portion of your electric bill, about 84%, goes toward the cost of power we purchase from our wholesale power supplier. While we work closely with Minnkota Power Cooperative to ensure stability, the cost of generating and transmitting power has gone up due to fuel prices, compliance costs and supply chain disruptions.
2. **Inflation and Rising Operational Costs:** Like households and businesses across the country, we are paying more for just about everything — materials, equipment, fuel and labor. Transformers and underground cable, for example, have

increased in cost by as much as 30% in recent years. Our lineworkers and staff work hard to maintain and improve our electric system, and competitive wages are necessary to retain skilled employees in today's workforce.

3. **System Investments and Reliability:** Providing you with reliable service means continuously investing in our infrastructure. Whether it's replacing aging lines, preparing for extreme weather or upgrading technology, these projects ensure your power stays on. These proactive investments help us avoid larger costs down the road.

What it means for you

The average residential member will see an increase of approximately \$13-\$15 per month, depending on energy usage. While any increase is difficult, we have worked hard to keep the adjustment as modest as possible.

We've also taken steps to reduce costs internally before passing any burden on to our members. From streamlining operations to improving efficiency through technology, we continually look for ways to do more with less.

Help is available

We understand that rising costs can be difficult for families and businesses. That's why we offer a range of programs to help manage your energy use and control your bill:

- Budget billing to even out monthly payments
- Energy efficiency rebates to lower usage
- Load management programs for off-peak savings
- Energy assistance resources for those in need

If you have questions or concerns about your bill or this rate change, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We are here to help.

Moving forward — together

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Nodak does not raise rates to generate profits. Every dollar we collect goes directly into operating, maintaining and improving your electric system. Our goal is always to deliver the best value for your energy dollar.

We remain committed to transparency, accountability and service to our members. Thank you for your understanding, your trust and your continued support as we power through these challenges together.

Nodak Electric
will be closed on
July 4, 2025, for
Independence Day.
Have a safe and
happy 4th of July!

RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

A rate adjustment has been approved by Nodak Electric's board of directors in response to wholesale and distribution cost increases. See the tables below for specific rate component change information.

	OLD RATE	NEW RATE	DIFFERENCE
General Service - Farm, Rural Residential and Small Commercial			
Facility Charge Per Month:			
Single Phase	\$39.20	\$45.00	\$5.80
Three Phase	\$82.45	\$88.75	\$6.30
Energy Rate All kWh	\$0.104	\$0.113	\$0.009
Urban			
Facility Charge Per Month:			
Single Phase	\$14.25	\$18.45	\$4.20
Three Phase	\$31.40	\$47.40	\$16.00
Energy Rate All kWh	\$0.104	\$0.113	\$0.009
High Density			
Facility Charge Per Month:			
Single Phase	\$27.20	\$33.65	\$6.45
Three Phase	\$59.95	\$67.25	\$7.30
Energy Rate All kWh	\$0.104	\$0.113	\$0.009

	OLD RATE	NEW RATE	DIFFERENCE
Monthly Energy Usage Charge Increase for General Service, Urban & High Density (excluding facility charge)			
500 kWh	\$52.00	\$56.50	\$4.50
1,000 kWh	\$104.00	\$113.00	\$9.00
1,250 kWh	\$130.00	\$141.25	\$11.25
1,500 kWh	\$156.00	\$169.50	\$13.50
Off-Peak			
Facility Charge Per Month:			
Submeter	\$3.95	\$6.50	\$2.55
Energy Rate All kWh (Oct. - May):			
Short-Term Control	\$0.077	\$0.081	\$0.004
Long-Term Control	\$0.062	\$0.069	\$0.007
Rental Lighting (monthly charge)			
40 Watt LED	\$8.50	\$9.00	\$0.50
73 Watt LED	\$12.00	\$12.50	\$0.50
100 Watt LED	\$18.00	\$18.50	\$0.50

Electric rate information is available in the My Co-op page at www.nodakelectric.com.



KIERA WILLIS SELECTED FOR NORTH DAKOTA YOUTH TOUR

Kiera Willis, a sophomore at Thompson High School, has been selected to represent Nodak Electric Cooperative on the North Dakota Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June 2025.

Kiera loves being involved in activities, such as cross country, track, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Sources of Strength, and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She is the current District 3 FCCLA President.

The Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is more than a trip to the nation's capital to sightsee. It is a prominent event in which thousands of high school students from across the United States gain an understanding of our nation's history and the freedoms we enjoy, along with the many costs of those freedoms.



The Youth Tour is designed to provide an opportunity for outstanding rural young people to better understand the value of rural electrification. It familiarizes youth with the historic and political environment of our nation's capital through firsthand looks at monuments, historically significant national sites and government buildings.

Nodak Electric Cooperative believes in investing in today's youth. We are investing in our – and your – future. We know we have the brightest students right here in this area, and we want to give them the opportunity to experience the past, present and future of our country.

Congratulations, Kiera!

AROUND THE CO-OP

RETIREMENTS



Dan Schaefer

With more than four decades of service, Dan Schaefer has decided to step down from his duties as Line Superintendent. He graduated from Lineman College in Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1982 and began his career immediately after school with Nodak in the spring of 1983 as an Apprentice Lineman on the Fordville crew. In 1988, he transferred to the Edinburg crew, followed by a move to the Grafton crew in 1995. In 2007, Dan relocated to work at the headquarters in Grand Forks to assist with the installation of the new TWAC system. In 2009, he became Line Superintendent, a position he held until his retirement in February.

After 42 years with the cooperative, both as a lineman and Line Superintendent, Dan's retirement plans are to stay busy by traveling with his wife, spending time with his grandkids and enjoying more time at the lake. We wish Dan all the best in his retirement.

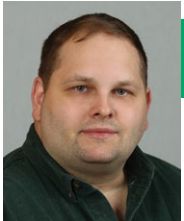


Kurt Kelley

After an incredible 32 years of dedicated service to the members of Nodak Electric, Kurt Kelley, Grafton Crew Foreman, is off to a well-deserved retirement! Kurt graduated from Lineman College in Bismarck, North Dakota, and began his career with Nodak in May 1993 as an Apprentice Lineman with the Devils Lake crew. He then transferred to the Grafton crew in 1997 as a Journeyman Lineman. In 2010, Kurt was promoted to Crew Foreman, a position he held until his retirement.

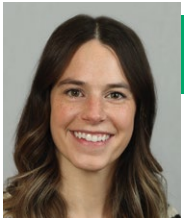
Looking forward to retiring, spending more time on the family farm and potentially traveling more, Kurt said with a laugh, "I'm never going to have to worry about answering the on-call outage at 2 a.m., but I will miss visiting with all the members." However, leaving with him will be a wealth of experience that just cannot be replaced. His expertise and commitment will be greatly missed. We wish Kurt many happy and healthy years as he transitions to life as a retired lineman.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Michael Helle

Michael Helle, an East Grand Forks native, has joined Nodak as an Information Technology Specialist. His duties will include providing troubleshooting, technical support and maintenance of Nodak's computer systems. Michael previously worked for Grand Forks County. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his new Corgi puppy, Belmont.



Marina Schaefer

Marina Schaefer, an East Grand Forks native, joins Nodak from the UND Alumni Association and Foundation as an Accountant. Her duties include assisting in the cooperative's material inventory process, processing of utility work orders, processing accounts payable and miscellaneous receivables, and reviewing plant expenditures and changes in plant investment. Marina resides in Grand Forks with her husband, 1-year-old son, and puppy Morty.

Welcome to the co-op, Marina and Michael!

PROMOTIONS



Jared Stadstad
Foreman, Grand Forks East Crew



Wade Haman
Lead Lineman, Grand Forks East Crew

TRANSFERS



Avery Rosinski
Apprentice Lineman, Grafton Crew



Paul Gapp
Journeyman Lineman, Grand Forks West Crew



Jordan Holm
Journeyman Lineman, Grand Forks East Crew

MINNKOTA ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT OF FLICKERTAIL WIND FARM

On Jan. 15, Minnkota Power Cooperative, your co-op's wholesale power provider, announced plans for the development of Flickertail Wind Farm near New Rockford, North Dakota. The new 370-megawatt (MW) wind project will be owned and operated by PRC Wind, while Minnkota will purchase all energy produced under a long-term agreement.

With construction scheduled to start by 2027, the project is a cornerstone of Minnkota's long-term strategy to diversify its energy portfolio while ensuring the continued delivery of cost-effective and sustainable electricity to its member cooperatives.

"Flickertail Wind Farm represents a tremendous opportunity to enhance our energy portfolio with a carbon-free resource, fulfill the vision of local landowners and harness North Dakota's abundant energy potential," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota President and CEO. "As the demand for electricity continues to grow in our region and across the nation, it's critical for us to develop new energy resources and continue to diversify our power supply strategy."

Flickertail Wind Farm originated as a collaborative effort between local community members and the New Rockford economic development board. To turn their vision into reality, they engaged with PRC Wind as a strategic partner to drive development, secure commercial agreements and bring the project to fruition.

"Flickertail Wind Farm exemplifies the power of collaboration, combining community-driven vision with strong utility partnership to meet the growing demand for electric power," said Paul White, PRC Wind CEO. "We're proud to work alongside Minnkota and its member cooperatives to bring this community-initiated project to life, delivering a cost-effective

and homegrown energy source for the long term." Flickertail Wind Farm is being developed in Wells and Eddy counties on nearly 43,000 acres. The project is expected to inject approximately \$100 million directly into the local community and create 300 jobs during construction.

The project will feature up to 112 wind turbines, along with a dedicated substation, 15 miles of transmission line, access roads, and an operations and maintenance facility. It has been carefully planned to support local agricultural activities and protect the surrounding natural environment.

Energy produced will be integrated onto the electric grid on Minnkota's existing 345,000-volt transmission line, which delivers energy to a substation in Grand Forks. From there, the energy will be sent to communities throughout eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

The project is scheduled to initiate the permitting process at the state and local levels in 2025. Upon securing the necessary approvals, detailed engineering, procurement and construction activities are planned to begin by 2027.



NODAK ELECTRIC HAS HIRED THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTORS

NORTH PLAINS CONTRACTING
URD Cable Installation

JOE RITTER PAINTING
Painter

ACE UTILITIES
Contract Cable Locator

WLK INSPECTIONS
Pole Testing

DAKOTA TREE
Tree Contractor

ARROW E.
Tree Contractor

CARR'S TREE SERVICE
Tree Contractor

These contractors are currently working in our service area. They will have their company logo on their vehicle (except for Joe Ritter Painting, which will have a Nodak logo). If you have any questions, please contact us at 800-732-4373.



OPERATION ROUND UP® RETIREMENT UPDATES



CORRINE BERG
Nodak Electric extends its sincere thanks to Corrine Berg for her dedicated service as a director on the Operation Round Up board. Having completed her third and final three-year term, Ms. Berg's contributions were invaluable. Her insightful guidance and diligent efforts significantly impacted the lives of those assisted by the Operation Round Up program.



PAM MONTAG
A heartfelt thank you from Nodak Electric to Pam Montag for her exceptional dedication as a director on the Operation Round Up board. Over her three impactful three-year terms, Ms. Montag's insightful leadership and diligent work have made a significant difference in the lives of those assisted by the program.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 10, 2025



The 85th annual meeting was held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota, on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

During the meeting, directors Les Windjue, Luther Meberg and David Kent were reelected for three-year terms and the minutes of the 84th annual meeting were approved. There were 184 members in attendance at the annual meeting.



**LUTHER
MEBERG**
District 1



**DAVID
KENT**
District 2



**LES
WINDJUE**
District 3

2025 MN/ND VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT



Nodak nominating committee chairman, Paul Retzlaff – Army Veteran, 1968-1971, 1st Lieutenant with the Combat Engineers of the 101st Airborne, Fort Hood, TX – visits the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Nodak Operation Round Up® board member Wayne Reinhart – Navy Veteran, 1970-1975, USS Sunfish Nuclear Sub, Charleston, SC – visits the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Retired Nodak employees Ken Quanrud (left) – Navy Veteran, 1969-1973, jet engine mechanic on the flight deck of the Coral Sea – and Don Heit (right) – Army Veteran, 1968-1970, Vietnam, 4th Infantry Division at Central High – visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

★ **MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH** ★

Military Appreciation Month is a special monthlong 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.