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## Mark Your Calendar

May 15 . . . . . Electric Bills Due

Closed for

May 25 . . . . . Memorial day

May 26 . . . . . Board Meeting



## Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by June 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit.**



## Tucker Steffens selected to attend the 2026 Washington DC Youth Tour

Tucker Steffens, son of Cody and Jessica Steffens was selected to attend this year's Washington DC Youth Tour, June 15-20, 2026. Tucker is a student at Campbell-Tintah High School in Campbell, MN. Tucker wrote an essay on the topic "What moment in American History do you wish you had been a part of, and what would you have contributed?" Tucker's essay titled "A Passion Beyond Earth: Engineering America's Path to Space" was written about the Space Race and the Apollo 11 mission and how he would have contributed as an engineer.



## Congratulations to All 2026 Scholarship Recipients!

**\$1,500 Basin Electric Scholarship**  
Recipient: : **Keira Kohl**

Keira Kohl of Lidgerwood, ND is the daughter of Sandra Kohl and is a senior at Rosholt High School. After graduation, Keira plans to pursue a degree in Nursing at South Dakota State University.



**\$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship**  
Recipient: **Kiera Wiertzema**

Kiera Wiertzema of Breckenridge, MN is the daughter of Daniel and Kim Wiertzema and is a senior at Breckenridge High School. After graduation, Kiera plans to obtain a Liberal Arts Transfer Degree from NDSCS before transferring to Minnesota State University Moorhead for a degree in Speech Language and Hearing Sciences.



**\$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship**  
Recipient: **Leah Hart**

Leah Hart of Campbell, MN is the daughter of Kelly and Jessica Hart and is a senior at Campbell-Tintah High School. After graduation, Leah plans to attend NDSCS to obtain a Liberal Arts Transfer Degree before transferring to the University of North Dakota for a degree in Nursing.



**\$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship**  
Recipient: **Valerie Myrum**

Valerie Myrum of Sisseton, SD is the daughter of Curtis and Tiffany Myrum and is a senior at Sisseton High School. After graduation, Valerie plans to attend Lakes Area Technical College for a degree in Ag-Business and Precision Technology.





## Reducing the Risk of Wildfires

**JEREMY HUHNSTOCK**  
General Manager

Gone are the days when wildfires were primarily confined to the western United States. Today, more than 30 states, including the states our territory covers, Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota, face elevated wildfire risk. The reality is clear: wildfire risk is no longer regional—it is national. And it demands action from all of us.

At Traverse Electric Cooperative, protecting our members and the communities we serve is our highest priority. As we recognize National Wildfire Awareness Month in May, I want you to know that wildfire mitigation is not seasonal work for us. It is a year-round commitment embedded in how we operate and invest in our local system. Traverse Electric is in the process of creating a wildfire mitigation plan to ensure we are doing everything possible to prevent wildfires in our area.

One of the most important ways we reduce wildfire threats is through our comprehensive vegetation management program. Overgrown trees and power lines are a dangerous combination, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Throughout the year, Traverse Electric and our contractor, Carr's Tree Service, crews proactively trim and remove vegetation that could come into contact with power lines and other critical infrastructure. This work requires careful planning, coordination with property owners and ongoing inspection. While it may not always be visible, it is one of the most effective tools we have to prevent fire ignition and maintain reliable electricity.

Wildfire mitigation also requires thoughtful public policy. Managing electric infrastructure in and around public lands can present unique challenges. That is why we support practical, commonsense solutions such as the Fix Our Forests Act, which would streamline the ability of electric cooperatives and other utilities to maintain power lines on federal lands and reduce hazardous "fuel" buildup.

There are important steps each of us can take to protect our homes and neighborhoods. Properly

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extinguish fires by dousing them with water, stirring the ashes and ensuring they are cool to the touch before leaving the area. Avoid outdoor burning on windy or excessively dry days. Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable debris. Use lawn equipment carefully, particularly during hot conditions, and always check local regulations for burn bans or restrictions.

Wildfires are becoming more complex and more widespread, but through proactive system management, smart investments, sound policy and community partnership, we can reduce risks and strengthen resilience.

At TEC, we take this responsibility seriously. Our members depend on us not only for reliable power, but for leadership in safeguarding the communities we call home. ▶

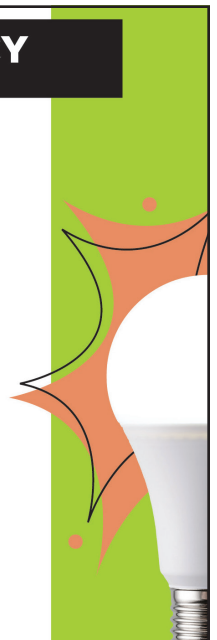


Global Mapping Solutions will be working to GPS Traverse Electric's system from May until October. Please follow our Facebook page to follow along with their journey through our system. If you have any questions, please call the office.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Scholarship Recipients

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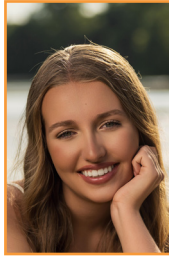
### \$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship Recipient: **Piper Goodhart**

Piper Goodhart of Beardsley, MN is the daughter of Wayne and Sarah Goodhart and is a senior at Sisseton High School. After graduation, Piper plans to attend South Dakota State University for a degree in Biology: Human Dynamics. **31710**



### \$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship Recipient: **Adria Bartnick**

Adria Bartnick of Sisseton, SD is the daughter of Michael and Rachel Bartnick and is a senior at Rosholt High School. After graduation, Adria plans to attend North Dakota State University for a degree in Human Development and Family Sciences / Elementary Education.



### \$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship Recipient: **London Rinke**

London Rinke of Wheaton, MN is the daughter of James and Tracie Rinke and is a senior at Wheaton Area High School. After graduation, London plans to attend the University of South Dakota for a degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology.



### \$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship Recipient: **Emily Kellen**

Emily Kellen of Beardsley, MN is the daughter of Robin and Leanne Kellen and is a senior at Clinton Graceville Beardsley High School. After graduation, Emily plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for a degree in Business Finance.



## May Is National **Electrical** Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. Follow these tips to stay safe!

- **Inspect Equipment Regularly:** Check cords, plugs, and devices for damage. Replace or repair faulty items to prevent shocks or fires.
- **Avoid Overloading Circuits:** Don't plug too many devices into one outlet. Use surge-protected power strips.
- **Practice Cord Safety:** Keep cords away from foot traffic and heat sources. Never run them under rugs or furniture.
- **Hire Professionals for Electrical Work:** Always call a licensed electrician for repairs to ensure safe and compliant work.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

### Traverse Electric

is conducting a member satisfaction survey. Your feedback will help us improve our services to you and plan for the future. To take our survey, please visit this link

<https://survey.app.cfgroup.com/ahPs3cOSV2S8p3HQ/?Brand=Traverse%20Electric%20Cooperative,%20Inc>



or scan the QR code

All responses are anonymous and confidential. Thanks for participating

# March 2026 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The March regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 9 AM.

- Absent: None.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- General Manager Huhnstock called the meeting to order.
- Reorganization of the board: President-Diekmann, Vice President-Monson, Secretary-Glynn, Treasurer-Marks.
- The agenda was approved.
- The minutes of the February regular board meeting were approved.
- The February check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: *Welcome to Our Member Resolution Process*.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- Gaulrapp, Diekmann, Ehlers, and Hamling reported on the NRECA PowerXchange.
- Diekmann reported on the MREA Annual Meeting.
- Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:
  - ◊ Provided a Basin Electric update.
  - ◊ Provided an East River update.
  - ◊ REED Fund review.
  - ◊ NRECA update.
  - ◊ MREA and MN legislative update.
  - ◊ SDREA and SD legislative update.
  - ◊ Other matters of interest.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
  - ◊ February 28, 2026 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.

- ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ◊ NISC Call to Order discussed.
- ◊ Audit will be held the week of May 11.
- ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the February 2026 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
  - ◊ Provided a crew update.
  - ◊ Reported that East River will need to shut down the Victor Substation in July for 4-6 weeks. A portable sub will be utilized during this time.
  - ◊ Will plan to upgrade switch gear in the Victor Substation.
  - ◊ Contractor will begin boring soon.
  - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
  - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
  - ◊ A lineman is leaving. The job opening is posted and we hope to have a new lineman start soon.
- Reviewed the Traverse Electric Annual Meeting held on March 19.
- Approved paying for the chassis for the new line truck to save on the cost of the motor.
- Approved advertising for an Operations Assistant.
- Discussed the slow mail delivery of the monthly electric bills to our members.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▀

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN  
 Vice-President: Terry Monson, Veblen, SD  
 Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD  
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN  
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN  
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN  
 Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD  
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN  
 Kaley Thoennes, Chokio, MN

## OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager  
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager  
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager  
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant  
 Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

## OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman  
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker  
 Jordan Pearson – Apprentice Lineworker  
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician  
 Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

## GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock  
 Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055  
 jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

## MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz  
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

## ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309  
 Big Stone County Grant County  
 Stevens County Traverse County  
 Brent Piekarski 651-420-0855  
 Wilkin County

## NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779  
 Richland County

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Nick Helseth 605-280-2188  
 Marshall County Roberts County

In case of a power outage, call

**(800) 927-5443**

6590 State Highway 27  
 P.O. Box 66

Wheaton, MN 56296 USA  
 Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443  
 Local phone: (320) 563-8616

## Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
 May 1–September 30

Web site: [www.traverseelectric.com](http://www.traverseelectric.com)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**Our Mission:** To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.

## TEC February 2026 Financials

	Feb 2025	Feb 2026	YTD 2026
Total Revenue.....	\$1,265,206.12	\$1,318,242.85	\$2,891,987.33
Cost of Power.....	\$742,708.79	\$776,349.71	\$1,683,224.88
Total Cost of Service.....	\$1,199,717.26	\$1,215,414.87	\$2,545,788.75
Operating Margins .....	\$65,488.86	\$102,827.98	\$346,198.58
Total Margins.....	\$81,046.36	\$111,560.67	\$362,764.05
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased ....	11,841,843	11,044,046	24,659,269
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales .....	11,270,684	10,543,402	23,515,334
Line Loss .....	4%	4%	4%