



this issue
capital credit checks p2
who powers you
nominations p3
board report p4

Energy Saving Tip

When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature - set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 14.....Scholarship App Due
Feb. 15.....DC Youth Tour Essay Due
Feb. 15 & 16Board Strategic Planning Session
Feb. 22Monthly Board Meeting
Mar. 24.....Annual Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

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

We have not received a winner for January's newsletter yet.



Are You Ready to Serve?

MANAGER'S COLUMN

Joel Janorschke
General Manager

I'd like to thank everyone who came out to the district meeting the last week of January, where I had the opportunity to reflect on 2021 and what our plans are for 2022. I also talked about the potential new facility and answered any questions you had. We also accepted nominations for directors for districts 3, 6, and 9. There is one more opportunity for those who want to run for one of these open seats to do so through nominations by petition. You would need ten (10) or more members from your district in which a vacancy will exist on the Board of Directors, at the next annual meeting (March 24, 2022), to sign a petition no later than 25 days before the annual meeting. The petition shall be posted at the office of Traverse Electric where the list of nominations made at the district meetings is posted.

Traverse Electric's board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of farmers, educators, and business owners. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people from different backgrounds to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That's why when we're seeking new directors, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experiences, expertise, and views. We're seeking local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. But above all else, we're looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on Traverse Electric's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While

day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Traverse Electric board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets
- co-op goals and direction
- co-op's community/charitable contributions
- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- renewable investments and energy mix
- co-op's role and involvement in economic development

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is driving change. Traverse Electric is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within community.

Opportunity to serve

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We're looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model, and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, I hope you'll consider running for a board position. ▶



TEC offers Washington Youth Tour

Spend six days in our nation's capital visiting famous museums and historical sites and chatting with politicians. The best part? Your rural electric cooperative will pay all of the expenses!

Make 2022 the year you experience the monuments that are dedicated to

our country's leaders. Let your voice be heard and get your questions answered.

To apply, visit www.traverseelectric.com or ask your high school counselor. This tour is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14 through Sunday, June 19. ▶

Scholarships offered to local students

Local students are encouraged to apply for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship. Applications are available on our website, www.traverseelectric.com, and from high school counselors.

Applications can also be picked up at our office or emailed upon request by calling our office at 800-927-5443. Please return your completed application to Traverse Electric Cooperative, Attn: Karen Lupkes, PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296 by Feb. 14, 2022. ▶

NEW VERSION OF MOBILE APP

Search for Traverse Electric Coop in your app store to download our mobile app to your apple or android device.

If you already have online account access, log in on our mobile app using the same username and password.

If you don't already have online account access, go to our website at www.traverseelectric.com, click on Online Bill Pay and register, or you can use our mobile app to register and create a username and password.

Please call our office at 800-927-5443 if you have any questions on registering for online account access or on our mobile app. ▶



2021 CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS INVALID ADDRESS LIST

Name	Address	Years in Service
Mike & Denise Bilben	Kimball MN	2005-2015
Brent & Connie Carter	Petersburg ND	2005-2006
Destini Cleveland	Sioux Falls SD	2005-2007
Francis Country Jr	Sisseton SD	2000-2004
Peter Dahl	Chanhasen MN	2004-2016
Jerome & Dawn Dresch	Sauk Centre MN	2003-2017
William Elmstrom	Jordan MN	2003-2020
Dennis Faber	Glyndon MN	2005-2009
Andrea French	St Paul MN	2005
Leo Greseth	Lidgerwood ND	2001-2014
Bonita Hart	New Rockford ND	2004-2016
Chris Huber	Wheaton MN	2005-2017
Terry Kraemer	Elk River MN	2005-2012
Tom Lang	Eden Prairie MN	2003-2009
Leland Larsen	Sisseton SD	2011-2020
LJ LeClair	Anniston AL	2003-2009
Adamae Loberg	Sisseton SD	1973-2015
David Martin	Wahpeton ND	2004-2005
Kandra Murray	Dumont MN	2006-2007
Michael Neuman	Chokio MN	2006-2008
Kevin Olson	Fargo ND	2005-2010
Arlie Raastad	Madison SD	1993-2016
Dan Rehovsky	Alexandria MN	2005-2007
Brian Renville	Old Agency SD	2005-2007
Stephen Schulte	Sioux Falls SD	2005-2015
Roderick & Joyce Stave Trust	Hillsboro OR	1973-2007
Shawn Stickland	Claire City SD	2006-2010
John Todd	Herman MN	1992-2012
Roy & Dorothy Weller	Alexandria MN	2006-2015
Jeannie Whiddon	Webster SD	2003-2020
Theresa Yares	Minneapolis MN	2006-2011

'Who Powers You' Contest Nominations Now Accepted

Nominations are now open for "Who Powers You," a contest being hosted by Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the region's other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. The first annual Who Powers You contest seeks to highlight local figures who are making a difference in their communities.

"No one succeeds alone, and that is especially true in rural areas, where friends and neighbors in tight-knit communities support, encourage and inspire each other," said Joel Janorschke, General Manager. "Those people don't do it for the recognition, but they deserve to be recognized, and we'd like to help make that happen."

Member-owners and employees of the region's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are eligible to be nominated. Nominations are currently being accepted through April 1, 2022. Three final winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact that they have on the community.

Weekly finalists will be announced and featured on Keloland Living starting March 2, 2022, and the three contest winners will be announced on Keloland Living on May 11, 2022.

The Who Powers You contest grand prize winner will receive a \$3,000 prize. A second place winner will receive \$1,500 and the contest's third place winner will receive \$500.

"As an electric cooperative, our services extend beyond delivering safe, affordable and reliable power to our member-owners," said Joel Janorschke. "The Who Powers You contest highlights the commitment of our co-op to the communities and member-owners that we serve. We know that our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them!"

To learn more about the Who Powers You contest and to nominate someone in your community, visit WhoPowersYouContest.com. ▶



TELL US WHO POWERS YOU!

We know our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them! Nominate a member or employee of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative who goes above and beyond.

They could win up to \$3,000!



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Nominate your local hero at WHOWERSYOUCONTEST.COM

#1171

GET BILLING & GENERAL ALERTS

Sign up for email and texts for billing alerts and general notifications for planned outages and other important announcements by either emailing or mailing the information below to TEC.

Name on electric bill: _____

Account number(s): _____

Cell phone number(s) for text messages: _____

Email address: _____

Choose an option for your monthly billing statement:

- Electronic Only (Paperless) Electronic and mailed statements

Check the notifications you would like to receive:

- Payment due soon reminder Payment due now reminder
 Payment posted notification Credit card expiring notification
 General Notifications

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

4th and 5th grade students at Wheaton's Pearson Elementary School learned about static electricity using a Van de Graaff generator, and learned how electricity is generated at a Co-ops in the Classroom presentation on January 18.

The presentation also focuses on electrical safety and the tools and safety gear linemen use when working around electricity, demonstrated by Traverse Electric lineman, Chris Falk.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
Vice President: Russ Armstrong, Wheaton, MN
Secretary: Mark Pearson, Rosholt, SD
Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN
Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Joel Janorschke – General Manager
Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
Stephen Powers – MSR/Master Electrician
Melissa Przymus – Accountant
Susan Wilts – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker
Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
Chris Falk – Journeyman Lineworker
Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
Colden Helberg – Journeyman Lineworker
Dennis Koch – Facility Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Joel Janorschke
Cell: 320.304.1392 | Direct: 320.563.1055
jjanorschke@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Steve Powers 320-808-9104
Conner Bartz
-Apprentice Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309
Big Stone County Grant County
Stevens County Traverse County
Rodney Schaffer 701-235-2840
Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dan Urban 605-222-0143
Marshall County Roberts County

**In case of a power outage, call
(800) 927-5443**

1618 Broadway
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, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Web site: 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.

BOARD REPORT

December 2021 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The December board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 9 AM. Absent: Glynn, Monson.

Staff members present were General Manager, Joel Janorschke, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the November board meeting were approved.

The November check register was approved.

Cooperative Building Solutions presented new facility plans.

Marks reported on the Midwest Annual Meeting.

Janorschke reported on the Northeast Legislative Forum.

Discussed the East River & Basin video reports.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Janorschke presented the 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.

Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:

- November 30, 2021 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.

- A list of new members was reviewed.
- Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Basin capital credit retirement received.

Reviewed and approved the November Financial Report.

Schwagel gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:

- Reviewed new services and completed projects.
- East River plans to upgrade equipment in the Sisseton Sub in the Spring.
- Reviewed recent outages caused by ice/wind. A crew from Agralite assisted with outage restorations for two days.
- COVID has affected a few of our operations employees.
- Reviewed our Safety Program.
- Outages were reviewed.

Approved revisions to Policy 307.

Discussed a strategic planning session in February.

Reviewed the District Meeting schedule for the last week of January.

Approved \$30 Food Vouchers to members registering for our drive-thru annual meeting on March 24.

A list of upcoming meetings and attendees was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned. ▶