

CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



Dakota Electric's 2018 Annual Meeting and Elections — Thursday, April 26

St. Michael's Social Hall
22120 Denmark Ave.
Farmington, MN 55024

- Registration and informal opportunity to speak with candidates from 6:30 - 7 p.m.
- Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

VOTING INFORMATION

Survey & Ballot Systems, an independent firm, oversees the voting process and will mail a ballot to every Dakota Electric member on April 9. Members can vote by mail or online at dakotaelectric.com. Ballots must be re-

ceived at Survey & Ballot Systems' office no later than noon on April 26, or members may bring their ballots to the annual meeting. Ballots should not be dropped off or mailed to Dakota Electric Association's® office.

To vote online, members will need their account number and e-signature, both of which will be included with the ballot mailed on April 9.

Once again this year, members may use a mobile device to scan the QR code located with the balloting materials to be quickly logged in to vote.

Board Candidates

The following candidates will be placed on the ballot for Dakota Electric Association's 2018 board of directors election.

District 1

Jerry Pittman, Lakeville, incumbent
Curt DeCoux, Burnsville

District 2

Clay Van De Bogart, Lakeville, incumbent

District 3

Ken Danner, Apple Valley, incumbent
Douglas Bonar, Farmington

District 4

Judy Kimmes, Hampton, incumbent

All directors are elected by membership vote to serve three-year terms on the 12-person board of directors.



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Upcoming events

Lineworker Appreciation Day.....	April 9
Cold Weather Rule ends	April 15
Apple Valley Home & Garden Expo..	April 21
Board Meeting	April 26, 8:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting.....	April 26, 7 p.m.

Dakota Electric Association® is a registered service mark of the cooperative.

April 2018



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2017 Year-End Review

Letter To Our Members

Being a member-owned electric cooperative, we strive for noticeably superior member services. This is not only one of our strategic goals, it is the culture at Dakota Electric Association. Every one of our employees and board members plays a role in demonstrating noticeably superior service each and every day.

We are thankful that our members send us notes from time to time to express their gratitude for our service. A member from Lakeville wrote a note saying, *"We have been members of Dakota Electric for almost 40 years. The excellent service along with the friendly, reliable people we have come in contact with over the years has been truly remarkable. Thank you!"* We share these notes with our employees to assure them that our members do appreciate their hard work. Comments like this generate a great deal of pride among our employees and motivate them to constantly improve.

Our commitment to the environment was evident last year as well. Dakota Electric energized its first utility-scale solar installation near Hastings. The 1-megawatt (MW) project consists of 3,600 solar panels, and the energy produced is delivered solely to member-owners throughout our distribution system. In 2018, we plan to install a 2-MW solar array with details currently being finalized. The board of directors has asked staff to explore up to an additional 10 MW of solar projects and possibly couple these projects with battery storage. These renewable energy initiatives are in addition to the impressive renewable mix from our power supplier, Great River Energy, that includes wind, solar, hydro and refuse-derived fuel.

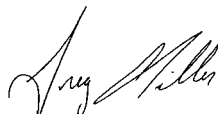
Dakota Electric continues to add approximately 1,000 new services a year. Even with the addition of new services, energy sales are flat or declining primarily due to our energy conservation and efficiency programs. The good news is that our electric rates are slightly lower this year. Our wholesale power provider is forecasting very moderate cost increases for the foreseeable future, which will continue to make our rates very competitive with neighboring utilities.

Our system reliability continues to be world class thanks to proactive system maintenance, ongoing line patrol, tree trimming, and our knowledgeable line workers and system control staff. These combined efforts help to improve outage prevention and restoration. In addition, work continues on our Advanced Grid Infrastructure (AGI) project, which will replace our aging electric meters and load control receivers with state-of-the-art devices that will detect outages and report them directly to our dispatch center. This will enhance our ability to provide reliable service. We plan to conduct a pilot project at our headquarters later this year and field test a few thousand meters in 2019 before full deployment begins in 2020. Watch for more information as we get further into this important project.

As you can see, we have a lot of exciting things happening this year and beyond. We will keep you informed every step of the way. On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Dakota Electric Association, thank you for the privilege to serve you, our member-owners.



JIM SHELTON
Chairman, Board of Directors



GREG MILLER
President and CEO





2017: Continued achievement in service and reliability

As a member-owned cooperative, we strive to provide quality service to our members. Below is a brief overview of our 2017 achievements:

- Reliability indices, as reported to the Public Utilities Commission, continue to be among the best in the nation:
 - Outage frequency per member averaged less than one outage every four years (normalized for major events).
- Helped bring the first electric school bus to Minnesota to test the technology in a real-world environment.
- Continued the installation of remote monitoring and distribution equipment controls to allow improved restoration times.
- Completed construction on a new substation north of Randolph to improve capacity and service to the southern part of our service territory.
- Helped members conserve more than 30.6 million kilowatt-hours (kWhs) of electricity, which is enough energy to power approximately 3,000 homes for an entire year.
- Reduced our wholesale power bill by approximately \$17 million through member participation in Energy Wise® off-peak programs.
- Member service representatives received 151,756 calls in 2017 and answered 89 percent of calls in 20 seconds or less.
- Meter readers completed approximately 1.4 million meter readings, estimating approximately one percent of all readings.
- Awarded \$200,000 in scholarships and educational donations using unclaimed capital credits.
- Launched a smartphone app that allows members to quickly report outages and more.
- Provided turnkey lighting retrofits to 21 small businesses, helping them save more than 240,000 kWh.

2018 Goals

RELIABILITY

- Complete the installation of fiber optic communication to all substations in 2018.
- Address the poorest performing feeders to improve reliability in outage-prone areas.
- Finalize Advanced Grid Infrastructure (AGI) contracts and begin tests on the new technology.

EFFICIENCY

- Encourage residential members to conserve 4.8 million kWhs of electricity through energy-efficiency rebates and programs.
- Offer rebates and grants to help business members conserve at least 11.5 million kWhs.

AFFORDABILITY

- Work with our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy, to minimize power cost increases.
- Work with legislators on the impact potential legislation may have on Dakota Electric members.

COMMUNITY

- Send five high school students to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's government.
- Continue to recognize local firefighters through our Spirit of Excellence Award.
- Actively support the communities we serve through various volunteer efforts.

ENVIRONMENT

- Install 2-MW solar array (8,000 panels) near Randolph.
- Distribute more than 6,000 tree seedlings to communities and schools.

MEMBERSHIP

- Pay out more than \$2.5 million in capital credits.
- Host the fourth annual Energy Trends Expo to inform members on the latest energy-efficiency trends and technologies.
- Host the annual Member Appreciation Event at the Minnesota Zoo.

Five considerations when buying an electric vehicle

The decision to purchase an electric vehicle (EV) instead of a conventional car that runs on gasoline is getting easier to make every year. Between operational cost savings and the fact you can have a personal, at-home charging station, owning an EV means no more trips to the gas station and rare trips to the mechanic. As you get closer to making that choice, here is a list of items to keep in mind when searching for the right EV for you.

1. Not all EVs are created equal.

There are three types of EVs: hybrid electric (HEV), plug-in hybrid (PHEV) and battery electric (BEV). HEVs have a gas-powered internal combustion engine along with an electric motor but do not plug in for charging. A PHEV has two fuel sources: electric and gasoline. Once the electric charge runs out, the vehicle seamlessly switches energy sources. On average, they can travel between 10 and 50 miles on electricity before needing to be plugged in, while their gas tanks extend total range to between 300 and 600 miles. Lastly, BEVs run exclusively on electricity from the grid and do not produce any exhaust from the burning of fuel.

2. You'll save money up front and over time.

You'll realize a variety of savings through federal and state tax incentives, reduced maintenance costs, and low time-of-use and off-peak rates from Dakota Electric. Dakota Electric even provides a rebate for installing a Level 1 or Level 2 charger on one of its EV ChargeWise programs.

3. Ranges have improved.

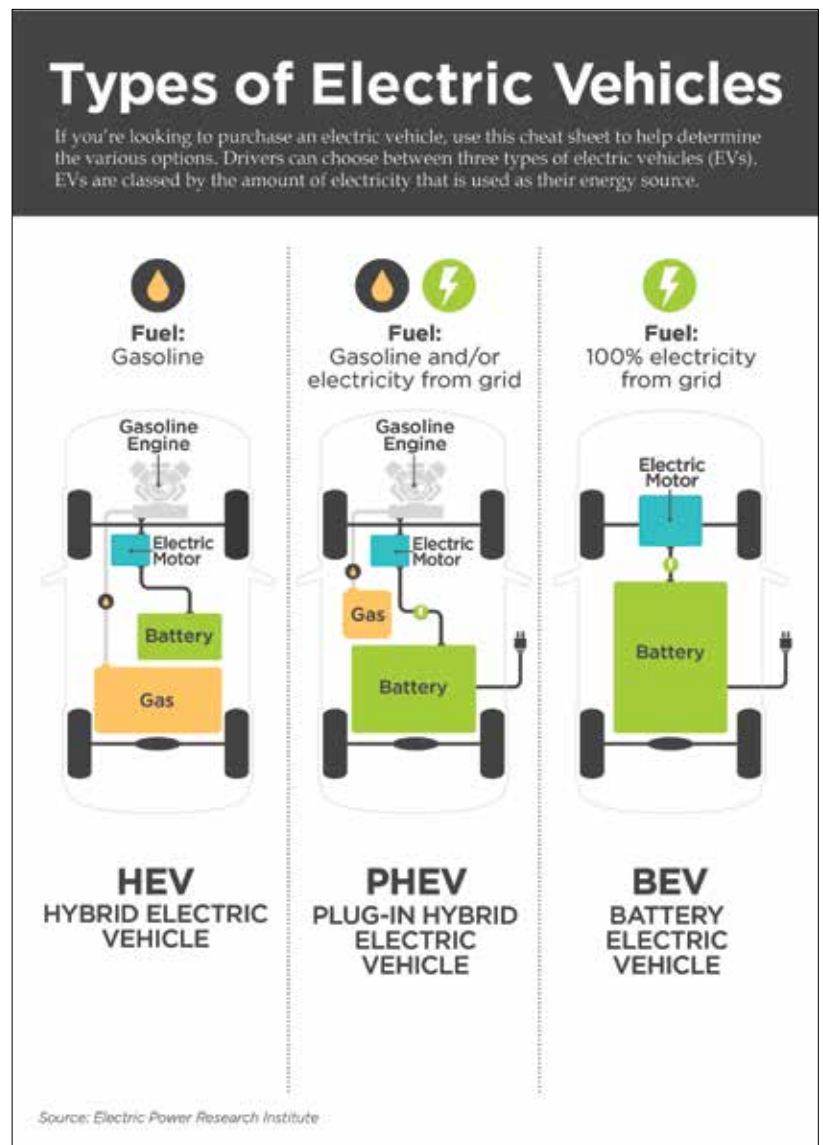
Range anxiety is real, but with BEVs now typically equipped with ranges of more than 100 miles – plus Tesla, Chevy and Nissan all having cracked the 200-mile range – you're not likely to be left stranded. Future models are even promising ranges of around 300 miles. Typical U.S. drivers travel less than 60 miles on weekdays, so owners of most 2017 model EVs could go multiple days without recharging.

4. Public charging stations are easy to access.

There are three types of charging stations with varying charging times. Level 1 chargers, on average, fully charge in about eight hours; Level 2 chargers take anywhere from two to six hours; and DC fast chargers can fully charge an EV in about 30 minutes. There are nearly 270 public charging stations across Minnesota, most of them Level 2, but about 30 fast chargers as well. Infrastructure continues to build out into non-metro parts of the state, including an all-new electric corridor that makes it easy to travel to Minnesota's North Shore and back with an EV.

5. EV 'fuel' is getting greener.

Electric motors are already 80 to 95 percent efficient, so they use significantly less energy than vehicles with a traditional drive train. And the fuel used in those EVs is being generated by a growing number of renewable energy resources. Utilities, including Dakota Electric, are incorporating more wind and solar energy in their portfolios to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And Dakota Electric members can rest assured their EV is fueled solely by wind energy by enrolling in Dakota Electric's Revolt program. Find out more by visiting mnrevolt.com.



Be prepared for power outages

Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 9-13

Spring can usher in more than April showers. Now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in and tornadoes can touch down. In recognition of Severe Weather Awareness Week, Dakota Electric reminds members to be prepared for storms and power outages by planning ahead, preparing an emergency kit and updating the phone number(s) associated with your account.

BE PREPARED



Make sure we have your current phone number(s) listed on your account. Having accurate phone number(s) on file means instant pinpoint location when you report your outage. To update, call 651-463-6212 or visit dakotaelectric.com and click on Update Your Account. Also, it never hurts to have an emergency kit prepared for longer outages. The kit can include non-perishable food items, manual can opener, bottled water, first aid kit, battery-powered weather radio and a flashlight with extra batteries.

BE INFORMED



Dakota Electric makes it easy to report your power outage — on our website, on the Dakota Electric outage app, or by calling our 24-hour outage and emergency number at 651-463-6201. Stay informed by checking the outage map on our website, downloading the outage app and receiving alerts on restoration status, and following us on Facebook and Twitter. Visit dakotaelectric.com > Power Outages.

BE SAFE



Standby generators can supply electricity to your home or business during a power outage, but only if they are properly installed and maintained. To ensure proper installation and electrical code compliance, contact a qualified electrician. Always remember to stay away from downed power lines and/or trees and branches that are caught in a power line. A downed power line may still be an energized line. If you see a downed power line, keep yourself and others away and call Dakota Electric immediately at 651-463-6201.

BE PATIENT



We understand power outages are an inconvenience to our members. Our number one goal is keeping the lights on, but power outages can still happen — especially when Mother Nature can be very unpredictable. Outage restoration times will vary depending on cause. Please know our crews will work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power to your home or business, and we appreciate everyone's patience.

Lineworker Appreciation Day

April 9, 2018



Remember to #ThankALineworker



MINNESOTA ZOO

FARM BABIES
MAR 23-APR 30

CUTE
HAPPENS
DAILY.
MNZOO.ORG



Sponsored By:



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dakota Electric has implemented a new member information system to serve you even better. When calling, please be aware that wait times may be longer than normal. In addition, you may notice some slight changes to your bill. We appreciate your patience. Thank you!

Billing Summary										
Account Number:	13000000	Previous Balance:	35.99	Actual:	35.99					
Statement Date:	06/28/2016	Payments Received:	35.99	Balance:	0.00					
Due Date:	07/23/2016	Total Service:	44.61	Total Amount Due:	44.61					
Service Address:	123 Any St	Read Clock Hours:	0000							
Premise ID:	00000									
Payment must be received by 07/28/2016 to avoid late charges.										
ESTIMATE										
Billing Consumption	Meter	Register	Present Read	Read Date	Previous Read	Read Date	Days	Multiplier	Consumption	
Energy	244 1000	1040200040	ESTIMATE	17755	06/29/16	17511	05/11/16	25	1	244 1000
Charge Description										
Fixed Charge			Charge Rate	Charge Amount						
Energy			244 1000	0.12000					13.12	
Production & Tax Adjustment			244 1000	0.00000					0.00	
Total Monthly Electric Charges									13.12	
Taxes										
Dakota County Transit Tax									0.00	
State Sales Tax									2.00	
Total Taxes									2.00	
Total New Charges									44.61	
ACCOUNT INFORMATION & DELIVERY COST FOR YOUR RATE CLASS										
COMPRESSION	0.00	DELIVERY SERVICE	0.00	AVG DAILY RATE	0.00	ELECTRIC CHARGES	0.00			
COMPRESSION	0.00	DELIVERY SERVICE	0.00	AVG DAILY RATE	0.00	ELECTRIC CHARGES	0.00			
COMPRESSION	0.00	DELIVERY SERVICE	0.00	AVG DAILY RATE	0.00	ELECTRIC CHARGES	0.00			
PLEASE SEE INSTRUCTIONS										
<div> <p>Account Number: 13000000 Due Date: 07/23/2016 Total Amount Due: \$ 44.61</p> </div> <div> <p>Don't know Dakota Electric's member information? Visit the Minnesota Zoo and search for "Dakota Electric" or call 1-800-451-2345 for more information.</p> </div>										
<div> <p>4300 220th Street West Farmington, MN 55024-6583</p> </div> <div> <p>NAME: ADDRESS 1 CITY, ST ZIP CODE</p> </div>										
<div> <p>072316 13000000 0 000461 6</p> </div>										

The billing consumption area is new to provide a more comprehensive view of the consumption.

The remittance coupon has been moved to the bottom of the bill so there is always a straight edge for payment processing.

Please Note: The formatting of your account number has also changed.



Circuits Quick Clips

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule ends April 15

The State of Minnesota set up the Cold Weather Rule to protect residential, heat-affected customers — who make and keep a payment plan — from disconnection of service between October 15 and April 15.

Most Cold Weather Rule payment plans last until April 15 unless you make other arrangements with Dakota Electric. Your service could be shut off if you have a past due balance on April 15 and do not make and keep a new payment plan.

Member service representatives are ready to work with you to avoid disconnection. Contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6212 **before April 15**.

Volunteers needed for annual GreenTouch event

Dakota Electric seeks volunteers to work at Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan during the Minnesota Touchstone Energy® GreenTouch event. Dakota Electric members will do natural resource restoration work, such as hauling brush and removing invasive plants, throughout the morning.

Saturday, May 5 | Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Camp Sacajawea
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. | 5121 McAndrews Rd., Apple Valley

After a morning of work and a free lunch, stay and enjoy hiking, kayaking or canoeing at Dakota County's largest park. All ages, organizations and scout groups looking for a service project are welcome, but space is limited.

To register

Call Joe Miller at 651-463-6178 or email publicrelations@dakotaelectric.com by April 27. A limited number of opportunities are available.



FREE Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic coming to Farmington

In partnership with Great River Energy, Dakota Electric's wholesale power provider, the Minnesota Twins Play Ball! Minnesota Youth Clinic is once again coming to Dakota Electric's area. The clinic is designed to teach basic fundamentals including hitting, fielding and throwing for boys and girls ages 6-13, while also providing participants with positive messages about staying in school and away from drugs and alcohol.

Saturday, May 19

10-11:30 a.m. (ages 6-9)

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (ages 10-13)

Tiger 1 Baseball Field - Dodge Middle School

Hwy. 50 and Akin Rd. | Farmington

- No registration is required to participate. Just show up on the day of the clinic and be ready to learn and have fun.
- The Twins will provide most of the equipment; however, youth participants are asked to bring their own baseball or softball gloves.



Board of Directors

District 1

John (Jack) DeYoe

David Jones, Treasurer

Gerald F. Pittman, Vice Chair

District 2

Janet L. Lekson, MREA Director

Jim Sheldon, Chair

Clay Van De Bogart, Great River
Energy Director

District 3

Kenneth H. Danner

William F. Holton

Margaret D. Schreiner, Great River
Energy Director

District 4

Paul Bakken

Judy H. Kimmes

Paul A. Trapp, Secretary



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Greg Miller, President & CEO

Tanya Wolfs, Editor



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www.dakotaelectric.com

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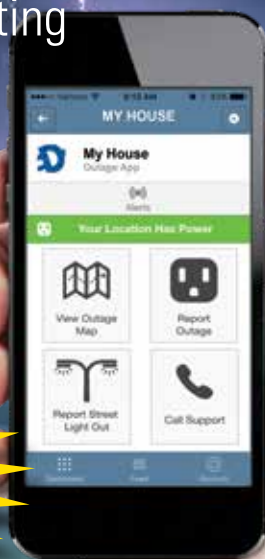
DOWNLOAD OUR OUTAGE APP

For quick and easy outage reporting

Once you have installed the app, you must
request a code by visiting dakotaelectric.com
and clicking on **Power Outages > Outage App**.
The code is specific to your account and is
required to personalize the app to your residence.

WIN A TV!

Members who download and register Dakota
Electric's outage app by April 30 will be
entered into a drawing to win a
43" Sharp 4K UHD Roku TV!



Contact Us

Member service & drive-up window

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday - Friday

651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409

Minnesota Relay Service 711

Lobby 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

4300 220th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024

24-hour outage & emergency service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

Underground cable locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or 651-454-0002 or
1-800-252-1166

Tree trimming & street lights 651-463-6287

Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer

www.dakotaelectric.com

customerservice@dakotaelectric.com



Program information and offers in this newsletter
are subject to change without notice.

