

AUGUST 2019

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

MINNESOTA

2019
YOUTH TOUR
EXPERIENCE
INSIDE!

**DAKOTA[®]
ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION**
Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

2-4

COMMUNITY

Youth Tour 2019

5

SAVE ENERGY

Tips & offers – beat the heat while saving money

6

DID YOU KNOW?

Summer events – sign up today

7

CO-OP CORNER

Heat pump testimonial

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 651-454-002 or
1-800-252-1166

Tree Trimming & Street Lights

651-463-6287

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer*

dakotaelectric.com
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

Dakota Electric Association

BOARD of Directors

DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe
David Jones
Gerald F. Pittman | *Chair*

DISTRICT 2

Janet L. Lekson | *MREA Director*
Jim Sheldon | *Treasurer*
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*

DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner
William F. Holton | *Secretary*
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Vice Chair*
Judy H. Kimmes
Stacy Miller



Be a next generation champion

Youth community engagement: a recipe for success

Electric cooperatives throughout the country have sent high school students to Washington, D.C., on an annual basis since the late 1950s. The week-long tour of our nation's capital began with 34 students, and a hope to play a pivotal role in the lives of tomorrow's leaders.

In June 2019, more than 1,800 students from 47 states attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Tour. Designed to build leadership skills, Youth Tour educates our local youth on the cooperative business model, American history and government. Students visit monuments and museums, go sightseeing and tour federal agencies. They also meet their states' elected officials.

Seeing American history up-close and learning how it impacts their lives, pushes our future leaders to be more actively involved in their communities. Some Youth Tour alumni have gone on to design airplanes, lead companies and serve in the highest ranks of our government, including the U.S. Senate.

As a community-focused organization run by an elected board of directors, Dakota Electric was built by, and belongs to, the communities we serve. Youth Tour allows us to share that knowledge with the next generation.

Dakota Electric is aware that the energy industry is rapidly changing and our local youth are our future. Investing time in these students is our responsibility as they will soon be leaders in their own communities.

Dakota Electric has sent students to Youth Tour for 51 years. This year, five local youth represented the association, reflecting a diversity of dreams and aspirations. Congratulations!

Where are they now?

We are interested in reaching out to members that attended Youth Tour in the past. If you, or someone you know, participated in a previous Youth Tour, please email pjohnson@dakotaelectric.com or call/text 612-978-4612. We look forward to hearing from you!



HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND WHO WOULD BE PERFECT FOR YOUTH TOUR 2020? APPLICATIONS OPEN AFTER JAN. 1. WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN CIRCUITS OR GO TO WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > COMMUNITY > EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Peggy P. Johnson

— PEGGY JOHNSON

Dakota Electric Association, Community Relations Director



#YouthTour2019

Dakota Electric's community relations and economic development assistant, Wendy Apitz, discusses her experience as a chaperone for Minnesota's delegation to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June.

What was it like to chaperone Youth Tour?

Youth Tour provided me with a deeper appreciation of our nation's history. Not only was I pleasantly surprised by the heart of these students, it was fascinating to watch them go from 37 strangers to best friends in 24 hours. I enjoyed learning about American history, government and cooperatives alongside them.

What surprised you about our local youth?

These students are passionate about pursuing vastly different career paths after high school. Whether it's higher education, technical college or the military, they all recognize the significance of the democratic process and its role in their lives. They were knowledgeable and asked questions to elected officials on policies that concerned the whole of the American public. Youth Tour allowed them a real-life opportunity to see how democracy and politics play out at the local, state and national levels.

Why should students apply to Youth Tour?

Many of these students have only read about U.S. history in textbooks or watched it in movies. As they grow into tomorrow's leaders, it is crucial they see how the democratic process works first-hand and realize the impact they can have on their own communities. Additionally, the knowledge, entertainment and fun that is packed into a short activity-filled week is why some call Youth Tour "a trip of a lifetime." I would argue, however, it is not a trip of a lifetime because it's not long enough. But it is worth it!



DAVIN BLIX
Burnsville H.S.
Grade 11

WENDY APITZ
Dakota Electric Assn.

SANJANA MOLLETI
Eastview H.S.
Grade 12

SARAH ZIPF
Eastview H.S.
Grade 11

EMMA VELDHUIS
Eagan H.S.
Grade 11

NILS PETERSON
Eagan H.S.
Grade 12

Five local high school students and Dakota Electric's community relations and economic development assistant, Wendy Apitz, stand near the U.S. Capitol. Their activity-filled week took place June 15-20.



KALLIE VAN DE VENTER
Todd-Wadena Electric

GAYLE KAROL
MREA

MIKEL BOETTCHER
Itasca-Mantrap Electric

WENDY APITZ
Dakota Electric Assn.

LYNNE WIITALA
Arrowhead Electric

Minnesota's Youth Tour chaperones pose for a quick photo before flying out with the students to Washington. Chaperones are chosen from various electric cooperatives around the state.



“I believe this is a one-of-a-kind experience that you won't get any other way. We flew out of Minnesota at the beginning of the week with 35 strangers, and by the time we were returned home, those strangers were close friends.”

-Emma Veldhuis



“This trip was the perfect way to appreciate my country while identifying paths to make it even better. I had an amazing time and am super grateful for the opportunity.”

-Sanjana Molleti



YOUTH TOUR 2019



“I learned a lot about co-ops, because before going on this trip I had no idea what they were. It's interesting seeing how crucial they are to a large part of society, but not many people know what they are.”

- Sarah Zipf

“Learning about electric cooperatives and lobbying on Capitol Hill opened up a possible career path which I knew very little about prior to the Youth Tour. Thank you Dakota Electric for your support of this trip, which opened doors that I never knew existed.”

-Nils Peterson



“As a future member of the U.S. military, I appreciated the chance to reflect and appreciate those brave men and women that died for me and this country.”

-Davin Blix



Summer saving tips

Change habits to save money

What can you do?

- Install and set a programmable thermostat – it could save up to 10% on heating and cooling costs a year.
- Use a fan – set ceiling fans to blow downward during the summer to circulate air rather than lowering the thermostat.
- Per manufacturer recommendation, replace disposable air filters or clean permanent filters at least once a month.
- Close curtains, window shades or blinds early in the day to block direct sunlight.
- Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of the home.
- On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven, or grill outside.
- Keep hot air from leaking into your home – insulate attic and walls, and seal cracks and openings.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Insulate and seal ducts – air loss through ducts accounts for about 30% of a cooling-system's energy consumption.
- Run washers and dryers later in the evening. It will add less heat and humidity to the home. Energy can cost less outside of peak hours.



Source: www.energy.gov

Programs and Rebates



Save money this summer by receiving electricity at nearly **half the regular cost** by participating in Dakota Electric's Energy Wise® load management programs and rebates!

HEATING AND COOLING

Cycled Air Conditioning:

-\$13 **monthly bill credit** in June, July and August, or a reduced price on the electricity your central air conditioner uses.

Low, off-peak electric rate:

-Receive a reduced price on the electricity used by your qualifying heating or cooling system.

Rebates:

-\$25 **rebate** for tuneup of your air-source heat pump or central air conditioner.

-\$1,250-\$2,000 **promotional rebate extended through Aug. 31** for the quality installation of an air-source heat pump SEER 14.5-16+.

-\$400 **per ton rebate** for the quality installation of a ground-source heat pump.

-\$280-\$330 **rebate** for the quality installation of a central air conditioner SEER 15-16+.

HOT TUBS AND SWIMMING POOLS

Interruptible program:

-Receive a reduced price on the electricity used by your swimming pool or hot tub.

Rebates:

-\$200 for an ENERGY STAR® rated pool pump variable speed motor.

-\$400 for an air-source heat pump pool heater.



TO ENROLL, CONTACT THE ENERGY EXPERTS® AT 651-463-6243 OR GO TO WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > MEMBER SERVICES > PROGRAMS & REBATES > FOR YOUR HOME > ENERGY WISE® LOAD MANAGEMENT OR REBATES.



Cut it out and hang it up somewhere!



DID YOU KNOW?

SPECIAL BONUS: VISIT OUR
NEWEST 2 MW SOLAR SITE!

WIND TOURS

Sign up now! Sept. 5 & 6

Dakota Electric's popular wind tours offer an up-close look at an operating wind farm.

Dates: Thursday, Sept. 5, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

McNeilus Wind Farm, located in Dodge Center, Minn., includes 41 turbines. Members will have the opportunity to go inside the base of a turbine and talk to an engineer.

Pleasant Valley Station, near Sargeant, Minn., is a natural gas peaking plant that generates electricity during times of high electrical demand.



REGISTER ONLINE

[HTTPS://2019DEAWINDTOUR.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://2019DEAWINDTOUR.EVENTBRITE.COM)
SELECT THE TOUR DATE YOU PLAN TO ATTEND
AND CLICK REGISTER.

The cost is \$10 per person and includes transportation and lunch. Children must be at least 12 years old and accompanied by an adult. Tours fill on a first-come, first-served basis.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Visit us at the Dakota County Fair

August 5 -11, 2019
Red Commercial Building

Stop by Dakota Electric's booth to talk to one of our Energy Experts® for information on:

- energy-saving tips & programs
- rebates
- special promotions



MORE FAIR DETAILS:
WWW.DAKOTACOUNTYFAIR.ORG



HEAT PUMPS?

Why Jeff Neuman says he's a true believer

REBATE
PROMOTION
EXTENDED TO
AUG. 31, 2019
See page 5 for
details!



Dakota Electric member, Jeff Neuman, enjoys the efficient heating and cooling provided by his air-source heat pump.

When Jeff and Rachelle Neuman built their home near Hastings last fall, they knew they were going to install an air-source heat pump.

In 2010, the couple was paying approximately \$400 a month each summer for their electric bill. Their central air conditioner was undersized for their house in town.

"The home was a model and the air conditioning unit was not properly sized," said Jeff. "We needed a way to figure out how to dial back our electricity use and save money."

After speaking with Dakota Electric's energy and member services manager, Dave Reinke, Jeff and Rachelle learned about air-source heat pumps and how they could receive a low, off-peak electric rate by installing one.

"When we replaced our old air conditioning unit with an air-source heat pump, we received a half-price electric rate on our cooling costs through Dakota Electric's Energy Wise® load management program," said Jeff. "The heating is an added benefit."

When it came time for Jeff and Rachelle to build their dream home in 2018, the choice to install an air-source heat pump was easy. "Switching to a heat pump in our old home cut our bill in half," said Jeff. "Now we're saving more money at our new house by using Dakota Electric's many load management programs."

"I'm glad I contacted Dakota Electric. Dave Reinke really helped us out."

Air-source heat pumps move heat rather than convert it from fuel. In the summer, heat is extracted from indoor air and transferred outside. In winter, heat is extracted from outside and moved inside to heat buildings, all while being twice as efficient as a traditional forced-air system. Air-source heat pumps can be added to an existing furnace in place of a new air conditioner.

If you are building a new home or plan to replace your existing central air conditioner, contact Dakota Electric for information about low, off-peak electric rates, plus available rebates and a list of local heat pump installers.



Jeff Neuman, and Dakota Electric's energy and member service manager, Dave Reinke, review the savings from Jeff's recent electric bill.



TO ENROLL, CONTACT THE ENERGY EXPERTS® AT 651-463-6243 OR GO TO WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > MEMBER SERVICES > PROGRAMS & REBATES > FOR YOUR HOME > ENERGY WISE® LOAD MANAGEMENT OR REBATES.



4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
August 29, 8:30 a.m.
- **Dakota County Fair**
August 5-11

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



DakotaElectric



@DakotaElec



DakotaElectric



Dakota Electric Association

DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM

Purchase renewable energy — no equipment, no hassle

We know you want to support wind and solar development in our region.

By participating in Dakota Electric's Wellspring Renewable Energy® program, you can support renewable energy and its future without having to build or buy anything.

While the electricity delivered to your home includes increasing amounts of renewable energy, our Wellspring Renewable Energy program gives you the option to help us do even more for the environment.

How it works:

- Renewable energy is purchased in 100-kilowatt-hour blocks.
- For each 100-kilowatt-hour block you purchase, there is an additional charge of \$0.20 on your electric bill for wind energy or \$2 for solar energy.

OPTION 1 Purchase the same amount
of 100-kWh blocks each month

OPTION 2 The number of blocks you
purchase each month will fluctuate based
on the amount of energy you use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > RENEWABLE ENERGY >
WELLSPRING RENEWABLE ENERGY®

August 2019
inside
CIRCUITS
For Dakota Electric Members

**YOUTH
TOUR
EDITION**

