

JANUARY 2020

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

**Gone
ROGUE**

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

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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

Dakotaelectric.com
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota Electric® are registered service marks of the cooperative.

All programs and rebates are subject to change without notice. Funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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



Looking ahead

What to expect in 2020

It is a new year, and that means new resolutions. Whether you are looking to make informed energy decisions or you want to stay current on co-op news, check out the latest edition of *Circuits*.

Smart meter update

Last fall, we successfully installed 5,000 smart meters in and around Farmington, Lakeville and rural Hampton. These meters serve as the pilot program for our smart meter project and will help us test the new system before we upgrade the remaining 120,000 meters. We will begin installing the remaining meters later this year and expect it to take approximately 24 months to complete.

You will receive a mailed postcard notification prior to the installation of your new meter. Additionally, our meter installers will leave behind a door hanger informing you of the change. Find more information: www.dakotaelectric.com > [Advanced Meter Upgrade](#).

Solar projects

We added an additional 3MW of solar at the end of last year. Our fourth solar project, located south of Farmington, will be energized in January and consist of 10,368 panels on 15 acres of land. This is in addition to our commitment, through our power supplier, to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030.

Rate increase update

We submitted a general rate case petition to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) on Sept. 19, 2019, requesting an overall annual revenue increase of about \$8.7 million or 4.3%. The effect on each member's bill will vary depending on customer class and energy use.

An interim increase of 3.0% went into effect on energy used in November and will remain in effect until the MPUC determines final rates. A decision is expected later this year. Find more information: www.dakotaelectric.com > [Billing & Payment](#) > [Rate Increase](#).

As your cooperative, we know the impact increasing electric costs have on your household. That is why we work to be as transparent and helpful as possible. Our Energy Experts® are here to answer your questions about home energy savings and provide more information about our energy-efficiency programs and rebates. Contact us: 651-463-6243 or energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com.

As always, feel free to drop us a note and let us know what you think. We value your ideas and feedback. Thank you for being a member.

Wishing you a successful New Year!

— **Greg Miller**

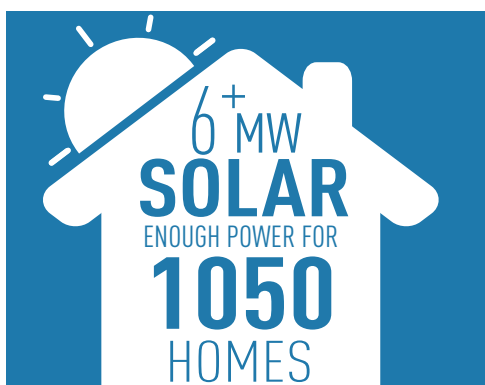
Dakota Electric Association President & CEO

2019 IN REVIEW

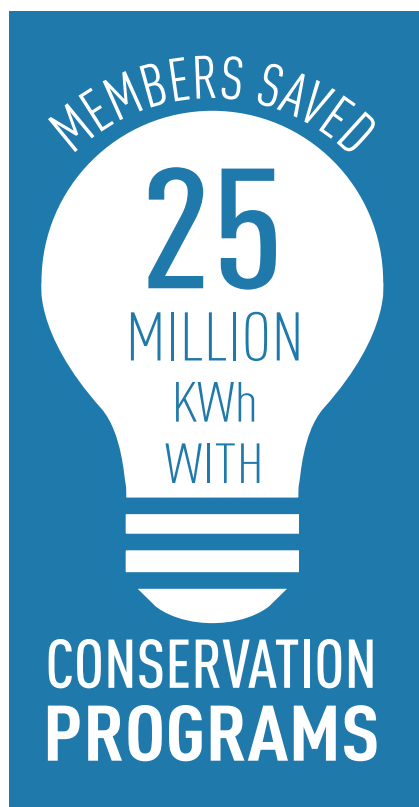


Dakota Electric's board members accept the Cooperative Purpose award at the NRECA annual Meeting in April 2019. Representing Dakota Electric's board from left to right: Jack DeYoe, Margaret Schreiner, David Jones and Janet Lekson.

**THANK
YOU FOR
BEING A
MEMBER**



Last April, Dakota Electric helped aid in the restoration of power when snow, ice, rain, thunderstorms and high winds destroyed parts of two neighboring co-ops. Pictured (L-R): Shane Klotz, Jordan Saunders, Pat Emond, Jake Majeski and Luke Waxon.



PawPADS founder and executive director, Linda Ball, and Tory, one of PawPADS service dogs and official ambassador. PawPADS was the 2018 recipient of the Touchstone Energy Community Award and a \$500 donation from Dakota Electric.





GONE ROGUE

Rogue Robotics wins Touchstone Energy Community Award

Farmington High School's robotics team made national headlines last April when they modified an electric toy vehicle into a wheelchair for 2-year-old Cillian Jackson. The following month, the team presented their second customized wheelchair to a Burnsville boy, Rocco Zachow-Rodriguez, on the White House lawn. Featured by more than 100 different media sources, Rogue Robotics inspired the country with their concern for community.

This concern for community is why Rogue Robotics was chosen as Dakota Electric's 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award winner. The award recognizes the efforts of nonprofit groups, community organizations and businesses who have shown a strong commitment to their community.

Rogue Robotics also started the first Minnesota chapter of GoBabyGo in 2019. Started at the University of Delaware, GoBabyGo involves modifying

electric toy vehicles into mobility devices for handicapped youth. The team is currently finishing their third GoBabyGo electric wheelchair, which will go to the son of one of their teachers.

"I believe he is 9 years old," said high school senior Nicole Cash, the team's PR representative. Building the vehicle for an older child means the chair needed to be larger, presenting the team with a whole new set of challenges.

"The mechanics were completely different this time around," said Cash.

But this is not stopping the team. In fact, their goal is to provide mobility for as many handicapped youths as possible.

"Our hope is to provide others with the opportunity to use the resources we created," said Cash. "That's why we built a modification guide and placed it on our GoBabyGo webpage — so others can benefit."

When asked why she applied for the 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award, Cash said it was because she sees the impact the high school robotics team has on the community.

“GoBabyGo has changed our perspective on winning and the importance of STEM in our daily lives. We’re not just a team anymore,” said Cash, “it really feels like we’re part of a community organization. A family.” The team’s coach, Spencer Elvebak, could not agree more.

“Whatever project they are working on — mentoring youth, building robots, community outreach or fundraising — they come together as a family and dive into the task at hand,” said Elvebak. “I’m so proud of the energy they bring to everything they work on.”

The team has 35 active members in its current season — a big leap from the three students who founded the group in 2009. In fact, the group has grown so large that sub teams were formed to allow students with different skillsets to partake.

The team operates through FIRST®, a not-for-profit STEM engagement program for students around the world. Each year, the team builds a 125-pound robot to compete at the organization’s statewide robotics competition.

“Competing in the FIRST Robotics Competition is very expensive,” said Elvebak. “Each year we spend about \$4,000 in parts to build the robot from scratch and another \$9,000 in registration fees to compete. Factor in hotels and busses for the students, and community outreach projects like the GoBabyGo vehicles, and our cost to operate goes up quite a bit.”

“Through the power of creativity and teamwork, these students are changing lives and impacting others in a positive way,” said Dakota Electric CEO, Greg Miller.

Rogue Robotics received \$500 from Dakota Electric and will go on to compete with other Touchstone Energy Award winners from across the state for a cash prize of \$1,000. Military Family Support Group (Burnsville), BrainPower in a Backpack (Burnsville) and Caring Hearts in Action (Farmington) were all runners up and received \$500 each.



Farmington High School Senior Nicole Cash is Rogue Robotics' PR representative. Cash applied for the 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award.



Heather Orser watches closely as Rogue Robotics team member, Ella Kreger, solders electrical components for the team's third customized wheelchair.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GREAT WORK ROGUE ROBOTICS IS DOING IN OUR COMMUNITIES VISIT THEIR WEBSITE: TEAM2987.COM

YOUTH TOUR 2020



“Thank you Dakota Electric for your support of this trip, which opened doors that I never knew existed.

Nils Peterson, Eagan High School
2019 Youth Tour participant

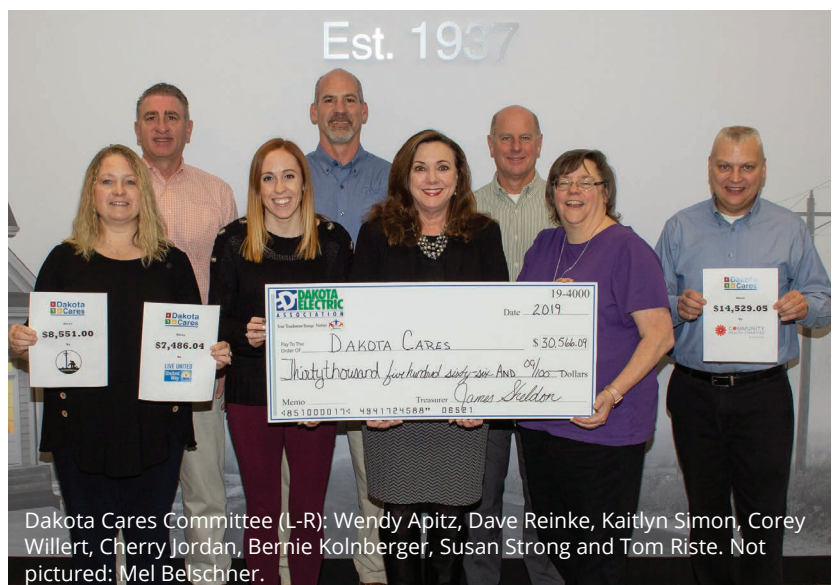
Dakota Electric will send five local high school juniors or seniors on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 20-25 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Tour.

Sponsored by the nation's electric cooperatives since 1958, the NRECA Youth Tour is designed to build leadership skills while educating young people about the cooperative business model and American history and government.

Students can apply online at: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > **COMMUNITY** > **EDUCATION PROGRAMS** or request an application from their guidance counselor. The application deadline is February 21. Students must be available for an in-person interview on March 10 or 12. Applicant's household must be a member of Dakota Electric.

DAKOTA CARES

Last year, Dakota Electric and its employees held a variety of fund-raising events and a pledge drive to raise **\$30,566** for three charities: **United Way (\$7,486)**, **Community Health Charities (\$14,529)** and **the Fallen Linemen Organization (\$8,551)**. Activities included a fun shoot, silent auctions, fajita feed and a pork chop feed.



Dakota Cares Committee (L-R): Wendy Apitz, Dave Reinke, Kaitlyn Simon, Corey Willert, Cherry Jordan, Bernie Kolnberger, Susan Strong and Tom Riste. Not pictured: Mel Belschner.

How much energy are you really using?

Now that the holidays are behind us, you may be curious to know how much energy your new appliances and electronics are using. And there is a simple way to find out.



Dakota Electric provides 27 Kill A Watt™ meters through Dakota County's library system. Members may check out a meter to measure power consumption of appliances and electronics to determine the actual cost of power consumed.

Simply follow the instructions and plug the meter into a regular 120-volt outlet and plug an appliance into the meter. The unit will project the cost of continued use of an appliance in time periods of hour, day, week, month and year.

For more energy-saving ideas visit our website or contact our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email, energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com.

Rate case update

Dakota Electric submitted a general rate case petition to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on Sept. 19, 2019, requesting an overall annual revenue increase of about \$8.7 million or 4.3%.

On Nov. 25, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) James LaFave, with the Office of Administrative Hearings, held a prehearing conference that established procedural guidelines for the rate case, including a schedule for testimony, public hearings and the evidentiary hearing.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Office of the Attorney General continue to review Dakota Electric's general rate case filing. The results of their review and initial recommendations were filed in mid-December. As of press time, those recommendations were not yet available.

To learn more about the rate case email rates@dakotaelectric.com or call 651-463-6212.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM >
[BILLING & PAYMENT > RATE INFORMATION](#)



Your electricity brochure

The most recent information on how the electric generation, transmission and distribution systems work, plus the sources, costs and emissions of fuels used in meeting the needs of Dakota Electric's members, is available by visiting our website. You may also request a copy of the brochure be mailed to you by calling 651-463-6212.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > [MEMBER SERVICES > MEMBER RESOURCES > GENERATING YOUR ELECTRICITY](#)

Programs and rebates



We offer a variety of energy-efficiency and renewable-energy programs and rebates to give you more choices, flexibility and control over your energy. For questions, contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email, energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com.



FIND REBATES ONLINE: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > [PROGRAMS & REBATES > FOR YOUR HOME](#)



4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Jan. 30 8:30 a.m.
- **Office Closed**
Jan. 1
- **Youth Tour Application
Deadline**
Feb. 21

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ASSOCIATION

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Dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

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what's inside!

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2020

Thank you for your business in 2019.
We look forward to serving you in 2020!

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