

OCTOBER 2022

CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



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

CONTACT US

Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 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
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Tree Trimming & Street Lights

651-463-6287

Dakotaelectric.com

customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

CAREERS — Be a Part of Our Energy

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers
HResources@dakotaelectric.com
651-463-6301

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

*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.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

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

DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp | *Vice Chair*
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*
Terry Donnelly

DISTRICT 3

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

DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*
Judy H. Kimmes
Stacy Miller | *MREA Director*

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

The Member Advantage

Cooperatives (co-ops) are a vital contributor to the American economy and way of life. Nationally observed every October since 1964, Co-op Month is a chance to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions made by those who work in or benefit from co-ops.

What is an electric co-op?

Electric co-ops have a history and business model that sets them apart from other utility providers. In the United States, they began operating over 85 years ago when residents of rural areas struggled to get access to electric power. There wasn't enough financial incentive for the existing privately-owned power companies to run lines across long distances to areas with comparatively few customers.

So, with the help of federal loans, those rural residents joined together to form their own not-for-profit electric cooperatives to generate, transmit and deliver electricity to the areas in which they lived and worked.

What it means to be a member of an electric co-op

Being part of an electric cooperative means you are a member-owner instead of a customer. This means your co-op board of directors is democratically elected, by you, and they actively participate in setting policies and making decisions on your behalf. Where private, investor-owned companies operate to generate earnings and answer to shareholders, the cooperative model focuses on the best interests of its members.

The value of being a Dakota Electric member

The co-op business model is unique and rooted in our local communities. Co-ops help us build a more participatory, sustainable and resilient economy.

Dakota Electric operates for the benefit of its members by providing a variety of member services and reliable electricity at a reasonable cost. Dakota Electric also returns savings to its members through capital credits.

Programs & Rebates

We offer programs and rebates designed to help our members use less energy and reduce monthly bills. To learn more visit www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/programs-rebates or call 651-463-6243 to speak to one of our Energy Experts®.

Member Involvement

All Dakota Electric members are invited to attend and ask questions at the cooperative's annual meeting, typically held in the month of April. Annual meetings provide members with information about the cooperative's growth, financial health, board election and programs available to members.

Community Outreach

Dakota Electric aims to do more than simply deliver electricity. As a locally-owned business, we care about the communities we serve. Whether it is through volunteering or sponsorships, we are passionate about helping our communities thrive.

CO-OP CAREERS

Help Power the Future

Those that work in the energy industry power life at home and the places we learn, play and work. These people, whether they work outside or in an office, are essential to keeping the lights on.

The electric power industry is responsible for more than 7 million American jobs in communities large and small. As the world focuses on improving and diversifying energy production, job opportunities are expanding.

While our lineworkers remain our public face, it takes many more departments to run an electric distribution cooperative like Dakota Electric. Our employees consist of communicators; accountants; business account representatives (who work with our commercial and industrial members); billing clerks; public and community relations professionals (who cultivate relationships with local, state and national opinion leaders and keep them updated on issues important to us and the communities we serve); information technology professionals; mechanics; warehouse staff; and powerline design technicians and engineers (who plot where new power lines will be built).

We grow our local labor force through workforce development strategies, which benefit Dakota Electric as well as the broader community and local economy. From supporting STEM education, to offering specialized training, Dakota Electric is creating long-term solutions and driving employment for a skilled and diverse future workforce. We recognize that the more viewpoints and life experiences people bring to the job and work teams, the stronger we will be.

Dakota Electric strongly believes that hiring and caring for veterans and military spouses strengthens our cooperative and our communities. Veterans are uniquely suited for a second career in the energy industry and make up almost 10% of the energy industry workforce. Many of the skills developed in the military are easily transferable to successful careers in the energy industry, making servicemen and women highly sought-after candidates for employment.

The electric power industry is evolving and unique and offers job opportunities for a variety of individuals, whether they are students ready to work right after school, those interested in apprenticeships and those pursuing a college degree or technical certificate.

Explore careers in energy and learn about job openings at www.dakotaelectric.com/careers, or find national opportunities at www.touchstoneenergy.jobs.

Source: www.electric.coop/new-report-finds-u-s-electric-power-industry-supports-7-million-american-jobs#:~:text=Specifically%2C%20the%20report%20finds%20that,induced%20effects%20of%20these%20jobs



DAKOTA ELECTRIC



1930^s

36

President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) providing a way to electrify rural homes.

37

Dakota County Electric Cooperative was founded by a group of farmers with the help of the REA.

38

The first lights were turned on. (Photo 1)

39

The first annual meeting was held at Farmington high school.



1940^s

40

Kilowatthour Booster, the first monthly newsletter was created.

41

The co-op now had 1,100 members.

44

German prisoners of war kept at the prison camp in Faribault were used to build lines at the new Byllesby substation. (Photo 2)

47

The co-op now had 12 full-time employees.

49

The last unserved farms within the service area were connected to the co-op's lines.



1950^s

50

The co-op had 2,286 members and 15 full-time employees.

56

Burnsville substation was built, becoming the sixth substation.

59

A company was hired to perform tree trimming near power lines for the first time.



1960^s

61

The co-op purchased its first bucket truck. (Photo 3)

62

The member newsletter, *Circuits*, was created.

64

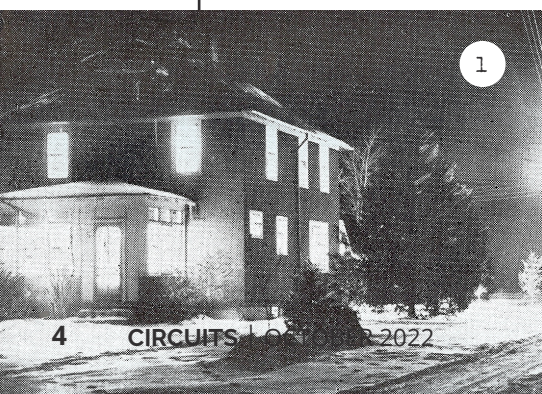
The board approved the first payout of capital credits to members and the member services department was created.

68

First year the co-op sent a student to the NRECA Youth Tour in D.C.

69

The co-op changed its name to Dakota Electric Association.



OUR CO-OP HISTORY



1970^s

70

The co-op had 12,712 members and 73 full-time employees.

76

The co-op leased its first mainframe computer system.

78

The co-op moved to its current headquarters location. *(Photo 4)*



1980^s

80

Members voted to have the co-op regulated by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the co-op has been regulated since.

83

The co-op purchased its first personal computer.

87

The co-op was now serving 50,000 members.

88

The co-op began its Cycled Air Conditioning® program and purchased the geographical information system (GIS) that digitized maps.



1990-2000^s

95

The co-op created the Helping Neighbors® trust to help struggling families pay their electric bills.

98

A destructive wind and rain storm left roughly 75% of members without power and caused significant damage. *(Photo 5)*

02

The co-op participated in its first GreenTouch event.

07

The co-op added its first hybrid vehicle to its fleet.

08

The co-op was now serving 100,000 members.



2010-Now

10

The first bilingual member services representative was hired.

17

The co-op embarked on an advanced meter project. *(Photo 6)*

21

A large storm hit leaving roughly 34,000 members without power.

22

The co-op now has 112,000+ members and 189 employees.



4



5



6

FARM ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, we want to remind farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- 1 Plan Ahead**
Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- 2 10 Feet Away**
Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times.
- 3 Use a Spotter**
When doing field work, use a spotter and deploy flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment.
- 4 Be Aware**
When loading and transporting larger tractors with higher antennas, be aware of increased height.
- 5 Call Your Co-op**
Never attempt to move a power line to clear a path. If they have sagged over time, call Dakota Electric to repair it.
- 6 Lower Extensions**
Keep equipment extensions at their lowest level when moving them. Wind, uneven ground and other conditions could cause you to lose control of your equipment.
- 7 Hire Electricians**
Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- 8 Be Alert**
Be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines.
- 9 Stay Put**
If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact Dakota Electric immediately and do not exit the equipment until the power line is de-energized.

REMEMBER
Always Call
Before You Dig!



Apply for the 2022 Touchstone Energy Community Award

Dakota Electric is now accepting applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes nonprofit groups and community organizations that have shown a strong commitment to the community.

Applicants are evaluated on project scope, use of resources and the impact or value to the community. Three winners will receive \$500 with one having a chance for another \$2,000 in the statewide competition. To receive judging criteria, and an application for the award, go to www.dakotaelectric.com/community/touchstone-energy-community-award.

The deadline for applications is November 1.



Safe at Home

Address confidentiality program

Safe at Home helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other crimes, and anyone who fears for their safety, by establishing a confidential mailing address and providing a mail forwarding service.

While Dakota Electric needs members' actual addresses to establish and maintain electric service, we use Safe at Home addresses for communicating with members and take special steps to protect Safe at Home participants' addresses.

If you participate in Safe at Home, alert Dakota Electric and provide your Safe at Home mailing address.

To learn more, contact the office of the Minnesota Secretary of State by calling 1-866-723-3035 or visit www.sos.state.mn.us/safe-at-home.

Increased Load Control to Continue into Winter Months

Due in large part to higher than expected power costs, our power supplier, Great River Energy, anticipates increased load control to continue into the winter months.

Participating in load management provides savings for you and also provides wholesale power savings (\$17-18 million/year) for Dakota Electric. This helps us keep costs down, allowing us to provide the lowest rates possible. Thank you to all our members who participate in our load management programs.

Follow us on social media to receive daily load control times.

Connexus Energy Transitions to Customer of Great River Energy

Great River Energy's member-owner cooperatives approved the agreements required for Connexus Energy, which provides electricity to large parts of the Northern Twin Cities Metro Area, to transition from a member-owner to a customer of Great River Energy.

Great River Energy will continue to supply wholesale energy to Connexus Energy, and the new agreements, effective Jan. 1, 2023, will establish a contractual framework for Connexus Energy to secure more of its own power supply resources.

After an evaluation, Dakota Electric has decided that continuing to be a member of Great River Energy is in our best interest. This arrangement will not affect your service. For more information, visit Great River Energy's newsroom on their website.

Update Your Contact Information

Keeping your contact information current with Dakota Electric allows us to notify you of outages, ensures delivery of capital credit refund checks and keeps you up-to-date on other important member communications. Your phone number also allows you to report an outage, since the system matches your address to your phone number.

You can update your contact information by calling 651-463-6212 or by visiting www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/update-account-information.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Oct. 27, 8:30 a.m.

Find board meeting agendas and
approved meeting minutes at
www.dakotaelectric.com/monthly-board-meetings.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY

Upgrade to an electric thermal storage (ETS) water heater to receive a rebate of up to \$500 and a lifetime of energy savings.



**PROMOTION
AVAILABLE**
Nov. 1 - Dec. 31

Inside CIRCUITS

