

NOVEMBER 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*
Stacy Miller | *MREA Director*

GIVING THANKS



Here at Dakota Electric, we are thankful for our members and our employees who serve them. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity, community is at the root of who we are as an electric cooperative. We are purposeful in partnering with local charitable causes, and work closely with our schools to provide safety demonstrations and award scholarships.

You empower Dakota Electric through your membership and through your participation in and support of our community efforts. When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems and provide suggestions, you help us improve operations that allow us to better serve you and our communities at large.

We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.



Gary J.

Principal Business Architect/
Analyst
1 year at Dakota Electric

THANKFUL FOR

Working for a smaller company where the employees feel like family and everyone genuinely cares about the work they do. I've never heard so many employees say how much they love working for a company until I started at Dakota Electric.

PUMPKIN CHIFFON PIE

Filling ingredients:

1 envelope unflavored gelatin
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground ginger
1/4 tsp. ground cloves

Filling ingredients continued:

3/4 cup milk
1 cup pumpkin
2 slightly beaten egg yolks
2 egg whites
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup whipping cream

Crust ingredients:

1-1/4 cup finely crushed
gingersnaps or graham cracker
crumbs
1/4 cup sugar
6 tbsp. melted butter

Directions:

Combine first 7 ingredients in a saucepan. Stir in milk, egg yolks, and pumpkin. Cook on medium heat while stirring until it boils and gelatin melts. Remove from heat and chill until partially set. Beat the egg whites with an electric mixer until soft peaks form. Gradually add 1/4 cup sugar and keep beating until stiff peaks form. Mix well into the pumpkin mixture with a spoon. Whip whipping cream and fold it into the pumpkin mixture. Spoon mixture into a 9 inch gingersnap or graham cracker crust. Chill until firm and serve with whipped cream. For crust, combine graham or gingersnap crumbs, sugar and melted butter. Press firmly into 9 inch pie plate. Bake at 375 degrees for 6-8 minutes or until edges are brown. Let cool before filling.

Employees Favorite Recipes



Cindi H.

Utility Services Scheduler
29 years at Dakota Electric

THANKFUL FOR

All of the friendships I've gained throughout the years at Dakota Electric. We have a wonderful group of people working here.

BLACK FOREST DESSERT

Brownie layer ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp. Vanilla
1/2 tsp. Salt
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1-1/3 cup flour

Topping ingredients:

1 - 8 oz pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/3 cup sugar
1 cup sour cream
1 - 8 oz container Cool Whip
1 tsp. vanilla
1 can cherry pie filling

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream the butter and sugar together, add the eggs and vanilla, mix well. Add salt, cocoa powder and flour — mix well, don't over mix. Pour into a greased 9x13 inch pan. Bake for 22-25 minutes until done and let cool completely.

Add the sugar, cream cheese, sour cream and vanilla together, mix well. Fold in the Cool Whip until combined and spread on cooled brownies. Top with cherry pie filling and refrigerate for three hours.



Jeff S.

Project Manager/Designer
31 years at Dakota Electric

THANKFUL FOR

My coworkers and the family atmosphere Dakota Electric provides. We all work together to provide the highest quality service to our members.

SLOW-COOKER GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

2 - 16 oz pkg. frozen green beans
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can cream of mushroom soup
2/3 cup milk
1/2 cup grated parmesan
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. onion powder
1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
1/2 tsp. worchestershire sauce
6 oz french fried onions

Directions:

Combine beans, soups, milk, cheese, seasonings and half the french fried onions. Cook on low in crockpot for 5-6 hours. Top with remaining french fried onions before serving. Leave the lid off the crockpot to keep the onions crispy.



Carrie L.

Sr. Benefits & Wellness Admin
3 years at Dakota Electric

THANKFUL FOR

The friendships I've made, the talented people I get to work with and the work-life balance Dakota Electric provides.

GARLIC & SAGE MASH POTATOES (SERVES 8-10)

Ingredients:

2 lbs. Idaho potatoes (peeled)
1 stick, unsalted butter (melted)
6 garlic cloves (minced)
3 tbsp. fresh sage (chopped)
1/3 cup heavy cream
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper

Directions:

Place peeled potatoes in a stock pot covered in cold water; refrigerate overnight. Boil potatoes for 30-35 minutes (or until tender); drain potatoes from water. Using a whisk or paddle attachment, stir potatoes into a large high-speed mixing bowl (Kitchen-Aid mixer works best). In a separate sauce pan, melt butter on low heat. Add minced garlic, salt, pepper and stir in heavy cream; add to potatoes. Slowly mix cream mixture and potatoes together, adding chopped sage one tablespoon at a time. Keep warm until ready to serve.

CYBERSECURITY

Maintaining Cyber, Physical Security are High Co-op Priorities

Dakota Electric strives to protect the grid and safeguard our members' assets and data against cyberattacks. Co-ops work together and share cybersecurity information with each other, with industry partners and the federal government. Co-ops are seeking better access to government intelligence about threats so that they can respond quickly to protect members' power and data.

As a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Dakota Electric remains committed to following NRECA's standards and recommended best practices for securing its information resources in the face of ongoing cyber threats and security risks. Sharing information and knowledge, along with ongoing training and awareness, is core to Dakota Electric's security program.

DAKOTA ELECTRIC GOES TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Representatives from Dakota Electric recently traveled to Washington D.C. as part of a delegation from the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), which is the statewide organization that supports the interests of rural cooperatives. They presented to Minnesota's Congressional delegation on topics and issues important to rural cooperatives in Minnesota. This was Dakota Electric's first time being part of this delegation since the COVID-19 pandemic.



ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR WINTER

After a hot summer, it's exciting to welcome cooler weather as we transition into winter, but if you're not careful, higher energy consumption can sneak in too. Fall is the ideal time to switch the energy saving tools and habits used throughout your home to make sure you're set up for savings when your next energy bill arrives. Below are some ways you can save on your energy bills this season.



LET THE SUN HEAT UP YOUR ROOMS

Use curtains or blinds to your advantage. During the day, opening the curtains to let in sunlight from south-facing windows will help warm the room without using any extra energy. In the afternoon, close curtains/blinds to hold in heat and keep the chill out.



SEAL CRACKS, LEAKS AND DRAFTS

Check your windows and doors for gaps and open areas that could let heat out or cold in and use weatherstripping or caulking to seal them. Additionally, you should check entries to unfinished spaces and chimneys for gaps.



REPROGRAM YOUR THERMOSTAT

As we move into cooler weather, find a temperature you like and leave it there for day-to-day use. If you're going to be away for a while, set it lower. A programmable or smart thermostat is a great way to stay on track as you can set it and forget it.



REVERSE CEILING FANS

When you set the direction of the fan to turn clockwise, it pushes warm air that has risen to the ceiling back down into the room. It also helps to redistribute air so the air coming out of the vents reaches all parts of the room rather than having warmer and cooler pockets of air in different areas.



REPLACE YOUR INDOOR AIR FILTER

When dust and dirt build up on HVAC filters, it makes the entire system work harder than it needs to, which uses more energy. Set a reminder to change your filters monthly or sign up for a subscription to keep your system working at an optimal level.



THE ROLE OF YOUR BOARD



Dakota Electric's board of directors are member-elected to represent the interests of all members. They provide governance through strategic planning, risk assessment, financial due diligence and policy development that guide the cooperative's direction and business operations.



Attend monthly cooperative board meetings and assigned committee meetings as needed. Attend regional and/or national meetings, conferences and events as delegates on behalf of Dakota Electric, or to stay current with the most relevant industry related news.



Enroll in training and education to stay up-to-date on key issues and trends in the industry in preparation to be able to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.



2023 BOARD ELECTION INFORMATION

Interested Director Candidates

In adherence with Dakota Electric's bylaws and policies, an annual election is held where any eligible member may seek election to the board of directors in the district which they reside.

Members interested in seeking election for a director seat should visit www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election for more information and to submit an application. Members may only apply to seek election for one board seat.

Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. All candidates **must** be available to interview on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. These interviews may take place in the afternoon or evening.

Seats up for election

| DISTRICT | SEAT | TERM | INCUMBENT |
|----------|------|--------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 3-year | John DeYoe |
| 2 | 1 | 3-year | Bill Middlecamp |
| 3 | 1 | 3-year | Margaret Schreiner |
| 4 | 1 | 3-year | Paul Bakken |
| 4 | 2 | 1-year | Vacant |

Seeking Nominating Committee Volunteers

Dakota Electric is requesting member volunteers to help be a part of our annual election process by serving on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee serves as an integral part of our annual election process by interviewing director candidate applicants and helping to determine those qualified to be placed on the election ballot for 2023.

Members interested in serving should visit www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election for more information and to submit their request. All requests to serve must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. All volunteers **must** be available to interview board candidates on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. These interviews may take place in the afternoon or evening.

Committee appointments are selected at random to ensure two assignments and one alternate to represent each district. All members will be notified of the outcome in early January 2023. Those who serve on the Nominating Committee will receive a stipend for their time.

For election related questions please contact Melissa Cherney at mcherney@dakotaelectric.com or 651-463-6252.

Install An Electric Water Heater

For a limited time only, you can upgrade to an electric thermal storage (ETS) water heater to receive a **rebate of up to \$500** and a lifetime of energy savings. This offer is only available Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2022 and you must be enrolled in the ETS water heater program to qualify for the rebate.

ETS water heaters draw electricity at night when it's less expensive, saving you money on your water heating costs. Even better, they're lightweight, easy to install and backed by a lifetime warranty.

Members receive the lowest price available for electricity used by the water heater. For detailed information, contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email energyservices@dakotaelectric.com.

Install Electric Heating

There are many benefits to installing electric thermal storage (ETS) heating in your home. If you are considering electric heat for those hard-to-heat areas, purchase an ETS heating system and receive **\$100/kW enhanced rebate** when you enroll in one of Dakota Electric's off-peak programs. This offer is only available Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2022.

Sales Tax Exemption for Residential Electric Heat

A tax exemption is available for the months of November through April if you heat your home primarily with electricity. To determine eligibility, see the Minnesota Department of Revenue Sales Tax Fact Sheet 157 at www.revenue.state.mn.us.

If you have questions regarding your eligibility for sales tax exemptions, please contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue at 651-296-6181 or toll free at 1-800-657-3777, or by email at salesuse@state.mn.us.



**DOWNLOAD THE SALES TAX
EXEMPTION FORM AT:**
www.dakotaelectric.com >
Programs & Rebates

Power Supply Update

Dakota Electric continually monitors its cost of doing business, including wholesale power costs, which represent roughly 75% of member bills. Over the last number of years, natural gas has become increasingly more important to the price of electricity. As a result of geopolitical concerns and strong global demand, natural gas prices have nearly doubled compared to this time last year.

These higher natural gas prices have made it substantially more expensive for electric utilities to purchase or produce power. The U.S. consumer-price index for electricity in August climbed 15.8% over the same month a year ago, the largest 12-month increase since 1981, according to a report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As a not-for-profit electric co-op, Dakota Electric works hard to maintain our costs and provide affordable electricity, but these large increases in the cost of fuel to generate power will most likely result in a cost increase for members. This increase will be included through the annual Resource and Tax Adjustment (RTA). More information about the RTA will be available in the February 2023 edition of *Circuits*.

Sympathies

Long-time board member Judy Kimmes passed away on Oct. 1 after a battle with cancer. She was elected to the board in 1997 and lived in rural Hampton, where she and her husband, Gene, farmed for more than 55 years.

One of her greatest passions was serving on the Board of Directors for Dakota Electric Association, and she also served for a time on the board of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association. Judy, along with her encouraging words and love for rural electric cooperatives, will be missed.





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m.
- **Office Closed**
Nov. 24-25

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



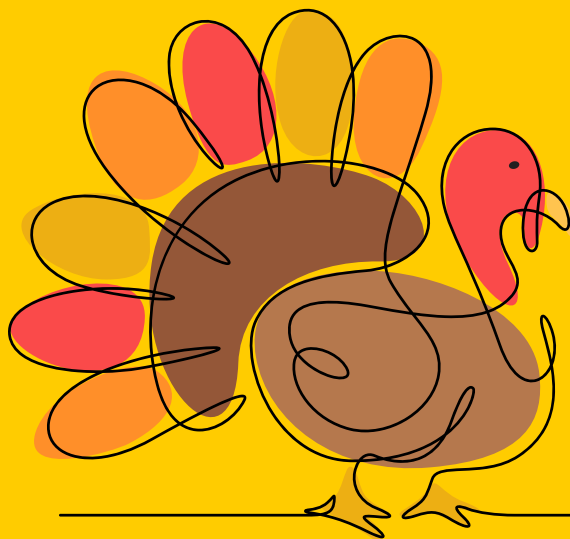
PRSR STD
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DAKOTA ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION

CONNECT WITH US!



Happy Thanksgiving

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday!



Inside CIRCUITS

