

# Pine to Prairie News



## Building Goals for TWEC

As we continue to look into the possibility of a new headquarters building for Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, we are first and foremost concerned with how to best serve our membership. This means taking time to assess both the current and future needs of our cooperative.

Just as TWEC's Board of Directors has a responsibility to maintain and enhance the co-op's electrical distribution system, the Board is also responsible for maintaining and enhancing the facilities that serve the membership. Both are crucial to the long-term success of Todd-Wadena.

To further pursue the possibility of a new headquarters building, Todd-Wadena is working with *Contegrity Group* — a construction management company based out of Little Falls, Minnesota. Architects will develop designs and specifications based on input received from TWEC. A building committee, comprised of TWEC board members, CEO Dan Carlisle, and co-op employees, will then review building plans and offer feedback to help determine the most efficient design.

Once Todd-Wadena has the blueprint and specifications fully prepared, the Cooperative

will send out for bids. The goal is to utilize as many local contractors as possible. If the bids received are within our budget range, the Board will then move forward with construction on a new headquarters building.

If we move forward with a building project, one of the primary goals will be to offer members new opportunities to be involved with the Cooperative. We would have hands-on displays to learn about energy efficiency, rebates, and overall ways to interact with the Cooperative. Another goal is making sure we can conduct business in the most efficient way possible. A small conference room is being included in the design to provide a private and comfortable setting where members can meet with us. Equally important is providing a safer and more productive environment for employees and members.

As we take these important steps over the next few months, we will keep our members informed throughout the process. We appreciate your support as we plan today for the future of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.



### Board of Directors

- Miles Kuschel
- Tom Brichacek
- Dale Adams
- Marie Katterhagen
- Gene Kern
- Kristine Spadgenske
- Mike Thorson

### Employees

- Josh Byman
- Dan Carlisle
- Brady Erickson
- Melissa Evans
- Tyler Fisher
- Lisa Graba-Meech
- Jon Grenier
- Greg Jacobson
- Scott Kangas
- Jamie Line
- Al Malone
- Todd Miller
- Jason Ohrmundt
- Jason Orlando
- Kristen Paurus
- Lori Redetzke
- Lisa Reed
- Abby Rogge
- Heidi Smith
- David Snyder
- Lori Tumberg
- Allison Uselman
- Kallie Van De Venter
- Trent Walter
- Luke Wilhelmi
- Peggy Wilhelmi
- Mary Williams



# Four-Year Work Plans

Here at Todd-Wadena, our crews work year-round to provide members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. To accomplish the wide range of projects we face in any given year, we operate on four-year work plans.

These work plans, designed in large part by our electrical engineers, help us determine what needs to get accomplished each year. Tasks such as replacing undersized transformers, identifying and replacing old poles, and building new lines are all planned out in advance. This allows us to make sure we have necessary items such as the correct amount and type of poles in inventory, cement pads poured and ready to use, and the proper hardware required by Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for each pole assembly.

According to the 2016 Load Forecast and historical patterns, TWEC anticipated extending service to 373 new residential consumer locations during 2017-2020. The service extension cost for the 2017-2020 period was estimated at \$492,000. During this same four-year period, we anticipated 480 service capacity increases, with an estimated cost of \$800,000.

The four-year plan we are currently operating under also outlines recommended distribution line projects. This work plan calls for the building and replacement of 45.31 miles of line due to growth on the system, adding back feed capability between substations, and replacing old lines that have reached the end of their useful life. Also planned is 1.10 miles of new tie lines to address growth on TWEC's distribution system.

The Blueberry Substation was also included in the construction work plan period, replacing Todd-Wadena's former Menahga Substation. This new substation improved electrical service reliability in the Menahga area. Todd-Wadena co-located the Blueberry Substation with Great River Energy's new transmission substation.

In addition to these projects, our crews stay busy with line patrol, vegetation management, and a variety of other responsibilities around our system. We appreciate the hard work they put in to make sure our members have reliable power. Please respect our crews and help keep them safe by pulling over and giving them adequate working space.

Happy New Year!

**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO



### Highlights from the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle reported to the board on several meetings that took place during the month of November, including the most recent Member Managers Group meeting with Great River Energy (GRE). He also met with David Saggau, CEO of Great River Energy.
- Carlisle formed a new security committee. As part of the Cyber/IT division, the committee is looking at participating in the RC3 Cyber Security Assessment. This will be at zero cost to the Cooperative and will be grouped under GRE's license.
- Board members were presented with updated headquarters building drawings compiled by the building committee, staff, BHH Partners, and Contegrity. Discussion continued as questions and concerns were addressed.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the financial report for October. The kWh sales in October were 3 percent over budget, with year-to-date sales 2 percent over budget. Monthly revenue was 3 percent over budget, with year-to-date revenue 1.6 percent over budget. TIER is 2.49 and Equity is 46.90.
- The board approved the Union agreement. A thorough review of wages for industry and position standards was conducted. The signed contract will be for a three-year term.
- Senior management presented TWEC's 2020 Budget. The board will be asked to act on the 2020 Budget and approve 2020 membership dues at the December board meeting.
- Member Services Manager Allison Uselman shared department updates with the board, including a quick update on generator tests, HomeServe, IFP status, meter interference for members, and the new satisfaction surveys.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller also provided department updates and reviewed how vegetation management will end for the year.
- Board Member Tom Brichacek was the guest director at November's GRE board meeting. He went over a few highlights from his visit, including but not limited to: corporate services, inventory values, neighboring industry rate changes, and strategic initiatives.
- Board Member Mike Thorson also shared a few highlights from the meeting. He expanded on the strategic initiatives and the order of creating the initiatives; the GRE Board of Directors will now have first input.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel gave a few political updates related to the industry. There is a 100 percent clean economy act in Congress that would require the U.S. to become carbon neutral by 2050.



## Apply Now for our **NEW** 2020 Scholarships

### TWO SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

#### Graduating High School Senior Scholarship

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will award up to six \$1,000 scholarships to 2020 graduating high school seniors for their first year (freshman) as a college student. Scholarships are made available with unclaimed capital credits.



#### Power Up Non-Traditional Scholarship for Adults

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will award up to two \$1,000 *Power Up Non-Traditional Scholarships* to adult students who are headed to college for the first time, returning to complete an interrupted education, or looking to return to college to improve their career opportunities.



**Apply now!** Applications are available at TWEC's office in Wadena, [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop), and local high schools. Application and attachments should be submitted to: *Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482* and must be postmarked on or by **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

#### Where Do Funds for the Scholarships Come From?

After a period of seven years, Minnesota law allows cooperatives to use **unclaimed capital credits for charitable or educational purposes**. Each year, Todd-Wadena is able to use the unclaimed capital credits to offer student scholarships in our service area. This year, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is offering up to six \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors, and up to two \$1,000 scholarships to non-traditional, adult students.

## How to Become a Director

The grassroots participation in nominating and electing directors is one of the most important powers that you, the member-owners of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, have to guide the decisions of your cooperative.

This year, the three-year terms of Gene Kern, Dale Adams, and Kristine Spadgenske will expire at the Annual Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Election ballots will be mailed to all members in March 2020. There will again be an option to vote electronically this year. Members may also vote at the TWEC Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

If you are interested in becoming a nominee for a director position, please note the following:

You must:

- Be a member in good standing of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.
- Be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership.
- Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which is either directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative, selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the cooperative, or possess a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.
- Not be an employee or have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years.
- Not be a close relative of an employee.
- Have not been convicted of a felony within the last three (3) years.
- Agree to regularly attend all board, regular and special, members' meetings.

## 2020 Nominating Committee to Meet in January

The 2020 Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to make selections for director elections at the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 TWEC Annual Meeting. Any member interested in becoming a director candidate may contact the cooperative office by either calling TWEC at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 or by sending a mailed notice to

*Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482.*



# 2020 Member Service Programs

## Off-Peak Water Heating

Program	Member Cost	Rebate	Details
<b>Peak Shaved Water Heating</b> <i>New construction/gas switching</i>	\$330* for 85 gallon Marathon \$420* for 105 gallon Marathon	N/A	\$8/month credit after 36 months. New program enrollment only.
<b>Peak Shaved Water Heating</b> <i>Existing electric to controlled electric</i>	\$330* for 85 gallon Marathon \$420* for 105 gallon Marathon	N/A	\$8/month credit after 60 months. New program enrollment only.
<b>Peak Shaved Water Heating</b> <i>Non-Marathon</i>	Member's	\$400 cash rebate	Must equal at least 85 gallons. \$8/month credit after 36 months for new construction or gas switching. \$8/month credit after 60 months for existing electric to controlled electric.
<b>Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heater Program</b>	\$330* for 85 gallon Marathon \$420* for 105 gallon Marathon	N/A	Must enroll in the ETS Water Heater Storage program. New program enrollment only.
<b>Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Water Heater Program</b> <i>Non-Marathon</i>	Member's	\$400 cash rebate	Must equal at least 85 gallons.
<b>Existing Controlled Replacement</b>	Member's	\$100/heater	Must provide receipt. Total gallons must equal at least 85 gallons.

## Appliances

Program	Member Cost	Rebate	Details
<b>Freezer/Refrigerator</b> (with recycling)	Member's	\$75	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>Clothes Dryer</b>	Member's	\$25	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>Dehumidifier</b>	Member's	\$25	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>Ductless ASHP</b>	Member's	\$300 (if delivered fuel is primary heating source) \$500 (if electric is primary heating source)	Must be Energy Star rated
<b>A/C tune up</b>	Member's	\$25	Documentation by contractor
<b>EC motor</b>	Member's	\$50	Invoice & specs from installer
<b>Wi-Fi Thermostat</b>	Member's	\$25	Must be Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat

\*Rebates subject to product availability and price adjustments. Call for latest pricing.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Off-Peak Space Heating

Program	Member Cost	Rebate	Details
Slab Heat/Dual Heat	Member's	\$35/kW	Up to 10 kW/\$350
Plenum Heater (New DH only)	Member's	\$500	Must install at least 10 kW
Quality Installed Air Source Heat Pump (QI contractor required for rebate)	Member's	\$480	SEER 14.5
		\$580	SEER 15
		\$630	SEER 16
Ground Source Heat Pump	Member's	\$400/ton	Must be Energy Star rated
Storage Heat	Member's	\$50/kW	Up to 10 kW/\$500

## Electric Vehicles

Program	Member Cost	Rebate	Details
Charge Wise	Member's	\$500	Rebate is to be used towards installation of electric vehicle charger. Must enroll in an electric vehicle rate.

## Bulbs


Program	Member Cost	Rebate	Details
LED Bulbs	Member's	\$2/bulb	Proof of Energy Star rating. Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price.
LED Yard Light Rebate	Member's	\$30/fixture	Proof of Energy Star rating (min. 50 watt LED)

## Yard Tools (from participating retailers)

Program	Member Cost	Rebate
Battery Powered Lawn Mower	Member's	\$100 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$200-\$400) \$300 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$401 and up)
Lawn Care Equipment (battery powered) Edger, Trimmers, Chainsaw, Pole Saw, or Leaf Blower	Member's	\$25 (Pre-tax purchase price less than \$100) \$50 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$101-\$200) \$100 (Pre-tax purchase price of \$201 and up) Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price.

\*Rebates subject to product availability and price adjustments. Call for latest pricing.

**ENERGY WISE** 




**FOR SALE: \$14,500**

**2013 INTERNATIONAL DURASTAR 4300**

164,957 mi • 230 hp • Diesel • Under 26,000 lbs GVW

**Inquiries: Maney International in Alexandria, MN**  
(320) 762-8126 or (888) 290-7810

*Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will pay tax and licensing.*



# Explore Your Energy Usage With SmartHub

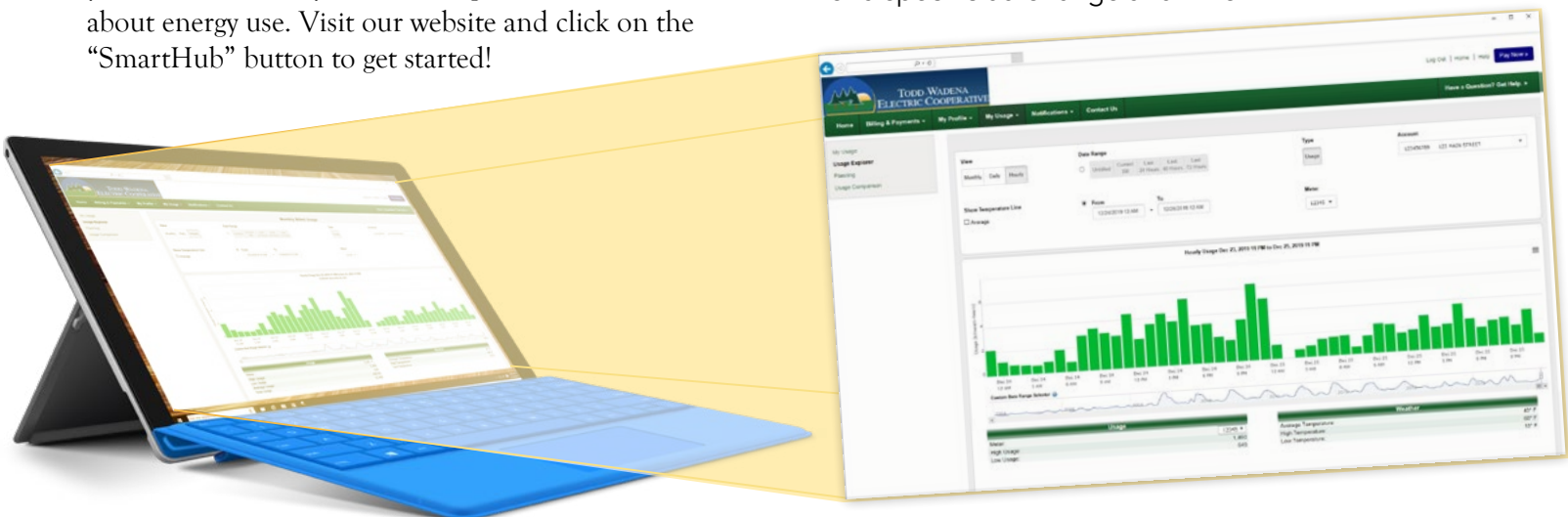
Did you know that you have the ability to investigate your kWh usage? SmartHub, a free online tool and mobile app available to all Todd-Wadena members, gives you the ability to view your electrical energy usage at monthly, daily, or hourly intervals for any date range.

You can also overlay an average temperature line over your usage to compare spikes to temperature fluctuations.

This is a great tool to help explain energy usage on your bill and assist you in making informed decisions about energy use. Visit our website and click on the “SmartHub” button to get started!

## Where to Find Your Energy Usage

1. Log into SmartHub
2. Under the *My Usage* tab, click on Usage Explorer
3. View monthly, daily, or hourly usage and choose a pre-defined date range (*unbilled, current bill, last 24 hours, last 48 hours, last 72 hours*), or a specific date range and time.



## HomeServe®

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is partnering with HomeServe to offer *optional* home coverages for our members. **Watch your mailbox for more information!** We value our members and are committed to providing you with safe and reliable electricity.

Many homeowners aren't aware that the exterior electrical lines and certain components on their property are their responsibility, including weatherhead, insulator, riser, meter base, and service entrance conductor. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative will still be responsible for maintaining all line up to the meter.

If a breakdown to these items occurs, it is up to the member to find an electrician and pay the repair costs. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative has selected **HomeServe** to offer *optional Exterior Electrical Line Coverage* for our members. Watch your mailbox for more information coming soon.

Exterior Electrical Line Coverage for Todd-Wadena Cooperative Members



// Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 //

## 2020 Annual Meeting

Make plans to bring the whole family to TWEC's 2020 Annual Meeting at the Maslowski Wellness & Research Center on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The kids can enjoy free swimming before and during the business meeting. A meal will follow the business meeting.

Maslowski Wellness & Research Center  
17 5<sup>th</sup> St. Southwest, Wadena, MN



## Don't Forget to Apply for Operation Round Up



The next deadline to submit an Operation Round Up grant application is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All local, nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. The Trust Board will meet shortly thereafter to review the applications and determine grant awards.

More information and application forms are available at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop) under the "Our Community" tab or receive a form by stopping in our office or calling us for a copy at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary, member-driven fundraising program for local community projects. Since the program's inception in 2002, Todd-Wadena members have raised and donated more than \$523,000 for nearly 700 local community service projects!

Each year, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative holds a contest to select one local sophomore or junior high school student to attend the NRECA Youth Tour. This trip to Washington, D.C. is an all-expenses paid trip to see our nation's capital, during **June 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. The winner will travel with approximately 40 other Minnesota teens, and join 1,500 students from across the nation during the Youth Tour. Participants will learn about cooperatives, visit with legislators at the Capitol, see the national monuments, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

The contest is open to sophomores and juniors whose parents/guardians are Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members. Students must submit an application including a one-page typed essay explaining why they wish to attend the 2020 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. **Applications must be received by February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Students with the top applications and essays will be invited back for an interview. An interview committee determines the winner, basing the decision on written and verbal responses during the brief interviews, which will be held in early March.

**Application Deadline: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

# Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for  
members and friends of



TODD-WADENA  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

[www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)

**Office Hours:** 8:00am - 4:30pm  
Monday - Friday

**Telephone:** (218) 631-3120 or  
(800) 321-8932

**Email:** [todd-wad@toddwadena.coop](mailto:todd-wad@toddwadena.coop)

**Address:** 550 Ash Avenue NE  
P.O. Box 431  
Wadena, MN 56482

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Miles Kuschel, Chair  
Tom Brichacek, Vice Chair  
Marie Katterhagen, Secretary  
Dale Adams, Treasurer  
Michael Thorson, Director  
Gene Kern, Director  
Kristine Spadgenske, Director

Daniel Carlisle, President/CEO

## **LOCAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS**

Todd County:

Victor Clasemann (320) 732-6385

Wadena County:

Gary Zacharias (218) 631-1392

District 5 (*Todd County*):

Mark Hunter (320) 616-5574

District 6 (*Wadena County*):

Sheldon Monson (218) 689-3260



### **If your electric power goes out:**

First, make sure the problem is not on your side. (*Members may be billed for service calls if the problem is caused by their own equipment.*) Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and by the meter pole. (*Call us for help, if necessary.*)

Second, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. Then call Todd-Wadena to report the problem. Give your name and account number. Then report any tree branches, twisted wires, broken poles, and whether or not your neighbors are also out of power.

### **Before digging call:**

Gopher State One-Call  
811 or (800) 252-1166

Find us on  

[www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative](http://www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative)  
[www.instagram.com/twec.coop](http://www.instagram.com/twec.coop)

## Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**  
DPC

**Our office will be closed on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**

## January Reader's Contest

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2020.

For your chance to be entered in a drawing to win a **\$10 credit** on your bill, correctly answer the questions and include with your TWEC bill. Mail to TWEC, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482. Or email the answers to [kvandeventer@toddwadena.coop](mailto:kvandeventer@toddwadena.coop) with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address.

1. The 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ contest is open to sophomores and juniors whose parents/guardians are Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members.
2. SmartHub gives you the ability to view your electrical energy \_\_\_\_\_ at monthly, daily, or hourly intervals.
3. Save the date for the 2020 Annual Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Maslowski Wellness & Research Center in Wadena.

Name:

Your TWEC Service Address:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**Melba Simmons of Wadena is the  
December Reader's Contest winner.**