

## Mission, Vision, and Values Statement

After thoughtful discussion at a recent strategic planning session, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved a new mission, vision, and values statement for the Cooperative. This statement reflects Todd-Wadena's commitment to best serve our membership in a changing industry.

### MISSION

To be a trusted partner providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy options to our members.

### VISION

To improve the quality of life for our members and embrace beneficial opportunities in a changing industry.

### VALUES

Service • Safety • Fiscal Responsibility  
Integrity • Communicate & Educate  
Commitment to Community



## Operation Round Up Grants Awarded

Giving back to the community we serve is a core cooperative principle. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's (TWEC) *Operation Round Up* program is a great way for the co-op and its members to give back.



TWEC's Community Trust Board recently met and awarded nine Operation Round Up grants to local non-profit organizations, totaling \$10,400. **The next application deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Organization		Amount
CARE Ministry	Back to School Fair	\$1,000
Eagle Bend Friends of the Library	Newborn Baby Packages	\$950
Hewitt Fire Department	Purchase New Turn Out Gear	\$1,500
Jim Cook Cemetery Association	Replace Cemetery Sign	\$600
Sebeka Area Historical Society	Pioneer Log Schoolhouse Renovation	\$1,000
Sebeka Fire and Rescue	Fire Hose Testing & Washing Equipment	\$1,500
Staples Motley Diamond Club Varsity/JV	Safety Nets	\$850
Staples Sportsman's Club	Vault Toilet Project	\$1,500
Verndale Fire Department	Euroamco Ram Fan	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,400</b>

**Back Row:** Louie Ostrowski, Staples Sportsman's Club; Mark Holper, Sportsman's Club; Miles Wiirre (Smiley), Hewitt Fire Department; Bruce Juntunen, Jim Cook Cemetery Association.

**Front Row:** Steve Schmitz, Verndale Fire Department; Gail Honek, CARE Ministry; Carol Wendel, Eagle Bend Friends of the Library; Vicki Paurus, Jim Cook Cemetery Association.



## Mission, Vision, Values

To discuss big picture decisions affecting the Cooperative and plan for what the future may hold, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors holds periodic strategic planning sessions. The directors are joined by Cooperative staff who work together to best prepare the Cooperative for the future.

This past May, TWEC held a strategic planning session in Staples. Among the many topics discussed was the Cooperative's mission, vision, and values statement. With the many changes that Todd-Wadena, and the electric industry as a whole, have seen over the years, it was determined that the statement should be updated to best reflect the Cooperative's role in serving today's members.

As you can see from the graphic on the front page of this newsletter, TWEC's new mission, vision, and values statement is as follows.

**Mission:** To be a trusted partner providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy options to our members.

**Vision:** To improve the quality of life for our members and embrace beneficial opportunities in a changing industry.

**Values:** Service • Safety • Fiscal Responsibility • Integrity  
Communicate & Educate • Commitment to Community

Understanding the 'why' behind our purpose is what makes Todd-Wadena successful. By clearly defining our mission, vision, and values we can use these as a guideline whenever decisions are made.

Why do we choose to focus on our members? Why do we choose to approve a work plan with maintenance upgrades or receiver change outs? Why do we create notification processes, give back to our community, or try new pilot programs? We need to look no further than our mission, vision, and values statement to understand the reasons behind these decisions.

Knowing where the Cooperative is at, and where we are going, is an essential combination for our success. Todd-Wadena's new mission, vision, and values statement guides us in everything we do as we continue in our commitment to best serve our membership in an ever-evolving energy industry.



**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO &  
General Counsel

## Board Minutes

*Highlights from the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, regular board meeting:*

- CEO Dan Carlisle provided an update on Coal Creek Station and shared the projected impact on rates from Great River Energy (GRE) comparing if Coal Creek Station closes or sells.
- Carlisle also reviewed the strategic planning goals, objectives, and takeaways from the strategic planning session in May.
- Work on the new headquarters building is almost complete. The west parking lot will soon be completed; fencing, lighting, and landscaping will then be installed. The east parking lot will also have lighting installed.
- Lois Cronquist, CEO of STAR Energy Services, LLC, was a guest speaker at the board meeting. Cronquist gave an overview of where STAR started, where she hopes to take the company, and how she and her team plan to get there.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the April financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 3 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 2 percent under budget. April's purchased power expense was 6.5 percent over budget. Tier is 0.59 and Equity is 43.74.
- TWEC's 2021-2030 Long Range Financial Forecast was reviewed and approved as presented.
- The board approved a Federal Financing Bank (FFB) loan for \$8 million for a period of 35 years.
- Member Services Manager Allison Uselman announced that TWEC will host a Co-op Strong event with West Central Telephone Association (WCTA) on July 16, 2021, and also host the annual Pancake Breakfast this year on September 18, 2021 at headquarters.
- TWEC's 2022 Annual Meeting date is set for Tuesday, April 19, 2022.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller reported on the large number of new services crews are preparing to install, many of them underground.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE report. April financials are still showing negative comparisons to budget.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel announced that Governor Tim Walz signed the ECO bill, which was a big success for cooperatives in Minnesota.

**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO & General Counsel

## What Does the Board of Directors Do?

Cooperatives are owned and democratically controlled by their members—the people who use their services. For most other business models, the user of the service does not also own or control the business. Cooperatives differ from other types of corporations by the business model they follow.

A core value of the cooperative business model is democratic control. Members elect directors from the membership to serve on the cooperative board. Directors elect the board officers and hire a CEO who handles the day-to-day operations.

The board is responsible for guiding how the co-op's finances and assets are used to fulfill the cooperative's mission. They must do so in such a way that protects the cooperative and the interests of all its members.

They approve the co-op's strategic level plans, budgets, and capital credits. They also retain outside experts such as the attorney and auditor.

Another role board members have is that of an advocate. Directors must represent their members' interests and concerns as they develop policies that guide the cooperative's operation. In this role, directors must be able to explain cooperative issues and board policy decisions to the members, to public officials, and to regulatory bodies.

An important job of the board is to hire the CEO. Typically, the CEO oversees a management team that handles the operation of the cooperative. The CEO and management team are responsible for hiring and managing the co-op's employees, preparing financial reports and operating statements for board review,

### THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



1  
VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



2  
DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



3  
MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



4  
AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE



5  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



6  
COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



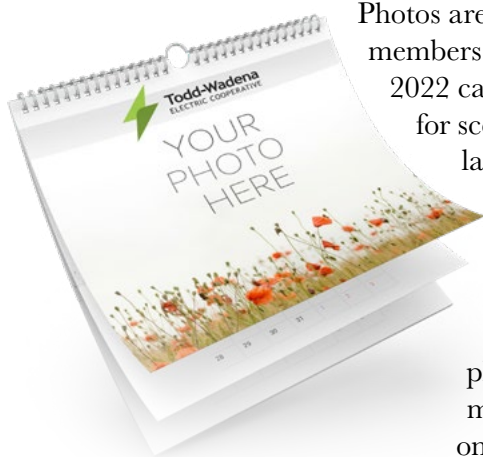
7  
CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

THESE ARE THE WORDS WE LIVE BY.

working with the board to develop a strategic plan for the co-op, and representing the cooperative in the community.

Cooperatives' democratic model gives members a way to participate in the direction of their cooperative. Whether it's voting in an election, or serving on a local board of directors, members have a special ability to set the course for the cooperative they are a part of.

## Now Accepting Photo Submissions for Our 2022 Calendar



Photos are now being accepted from members for the Cooperative's 2022 calendar. We are looking for scenic photos (wildlife or landscape) that represent the four seasons of Minnesota.

From the entries received, we'll select 13 photos — one for each month of the year plus one for the cover. Members

whose photos are included in the calendar will receive a \$20 credit on their TWEC account.\*

*\*Must have an active TWEC account to participate.*

### Contest Rules

1. Submit your digital photos (up to 5 per member) to [mbrservices@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop) by September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Be sure to send the photographer's name, name on the TWEC account, TWEC service address, and phone number with the photo.
2. Photos must depict a Minnesota scene (wildlife or landscape) with a horizontal view. Representations of all four seasons are needed. Color photos are preferred. Extra consideration will be given to photos within the TWEC service area.
3. **IMPORTANT:** Photos must be high quality (300 dpi or higher) for an 8 x 10 inch landscape production.
4. Winning photos may be used in future cooperative publications.

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

# What is a Cooling Degree Day?



In the February 2021 edition of the *Pine to Prairie* newsletter we discussed energy consumption of building heating systems and how degree days are calculated. Now that we are well into summer and home cooling systems are running frequently, we will discuss the energy consumption of building cooling systems and cooling degree days (CDD).

Cooling Degree Days are the number of degrees that a day's average temperature is above 65 degrees. They are commonly used in calculations relating to

energy consumption required to cool buildings. Think of them as heating degree days in reverse: where as heating degree days start adding up when the outside air temperature drops below the base temperature, cooling degree days start adding up when the outside air temperature rises above the base temperature. The base temperature generally used in the U.S. is 65 degrees. So, if the day's average temperature was 80°, it would be a 15 cooling degree day.

## COOLING DEGREE DAYS EXAMPLE:

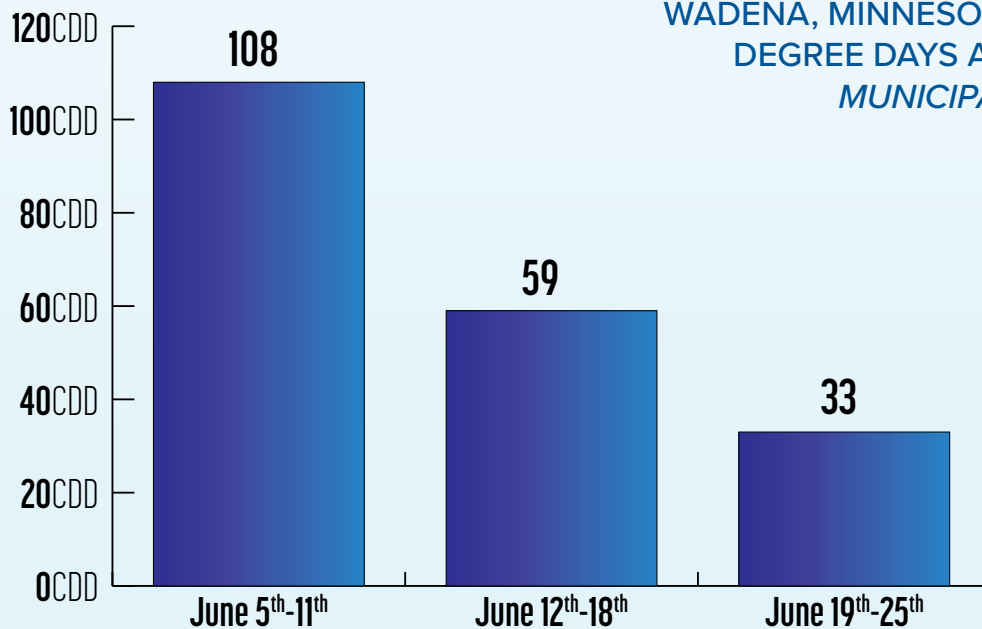
A day with an average temperature of 78 degrees would be considered as a 13 cooling degree day.

$$78^{\circ} \text{ (average daily temp.)} - 65^{\circ} \text{ (base temperature)} = 13 \text{ CDD}$$

Another day with an average temperature of 88 degrees would be considered as a 23 cooling degree day.

$$88^{\circ} \text{ (average daily temp.)} - 65^{\circ} \text{ (base temperature)} = 23 \text{ CDD}$$

Cooling degree days are then quantified and reported for a day, week, month, or year.



WADENA, MINNESOTA WEEKLY COOLING DEGREE DAYS AS REPORTED BY THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT STATION:

Source of info:  
[www.degreedays.net](http://www.degreedays.net)

### IT WAS A HOT MONTH!

It's interesting to note that there were **161** cooling degree days in June 2020, compared to June 2021 which had **271** cooling degree days.



## A/C Tune-up Rebate

Todd-Wadena offers a \$25 rebate for air conditioner and air source heat pump (ASHP) tune-ups! See if you qualify for this opportunity to keep your equipment running at top level!

**Contact a local HVAC contractor and follow these steps to receive a \$25 rebate:**

- 1)** Hire the contractor (members qualify for a tune-up rebate every 2 years).
- 2)** After completing the tune-up, have your contractor fill out the contractor portion of the coupon below.
- 3)** Complete the member portion of the coupon.
- 4)** Return the coupon to Todd-Wadena, along with a copy of the contractor invoice.

### Member Information

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the items for which I am claiming a rebate are qualifying items and are installed at the address listed above and that this address represents a valid Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative account.

Member signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative  
 ATTN: Mary Williams  
 P.O. Box 431  
 Wadena, MN 56482

### Contractor Information (to be filled out by HVAC tech)

Equipment brand: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Model number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate age of unit (years): \_\_\_\_\_  
 SEER rating: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have completed the following on this unit:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean condenser coil           | <input type="checkbox"/> Test all controls                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant level            | <input type="checkbox"/> Check furnace filter                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check coolant pressure         | <input type="checkbox"/> Check belt, if needed                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blow out drain lines           | <input type="checkbox"/> Lube motor, if needed                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visually inspect entire system | <input type="checkbox"/> Educate homeowner on system operation |

Contractor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor company: \_\_\_\_\_

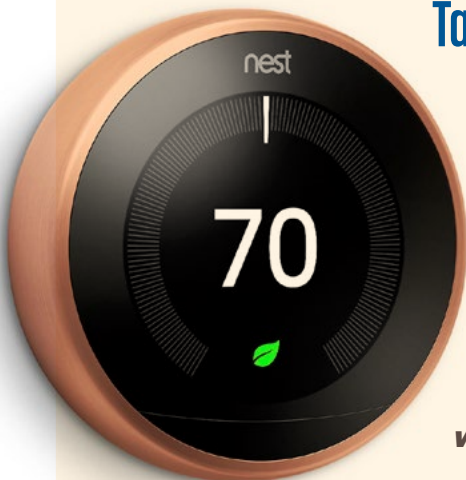
**Return with copy of contractor's invoice.**



### To qualify for the tune-up rebate:

- Tune-up must be completed where electricity is supplied by Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.
- The central air conditioner or ASHP must be in operating condition, over three years of age, and have not had a tune-up in the last two years.

- Rebate submittal must follow the guidelines as listed.
- Program is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Call TWEC to verify rebate status.
- Program is for tune-ups only; it does not cover the cost for repairs of the air conditioner or heat pump.



## Take Advantage of Our Smart Thermostat Rebates!

Receive a \$25 rebate for installing a wi-fi thermostat in your house. Visit [www.energywisemnstore.com](http://www.energywisemnstore.com) to purchase your wi-fi thermostat. Members can view all available rebates on our website at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop).

Brands that offer wi-fi thermostats:

- ✓ Honeywell
- ✓ Nest (pictured)
- ✓ ecobee
- ✓ LUX
- ✓ Emerson

**NEW!**

## Outage Notifications Now Available via Text Messages

Members can now sign up to receive outage notifications via text messages. When you are signed up, you will be notified of outages and power restoration that concern your Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative account.

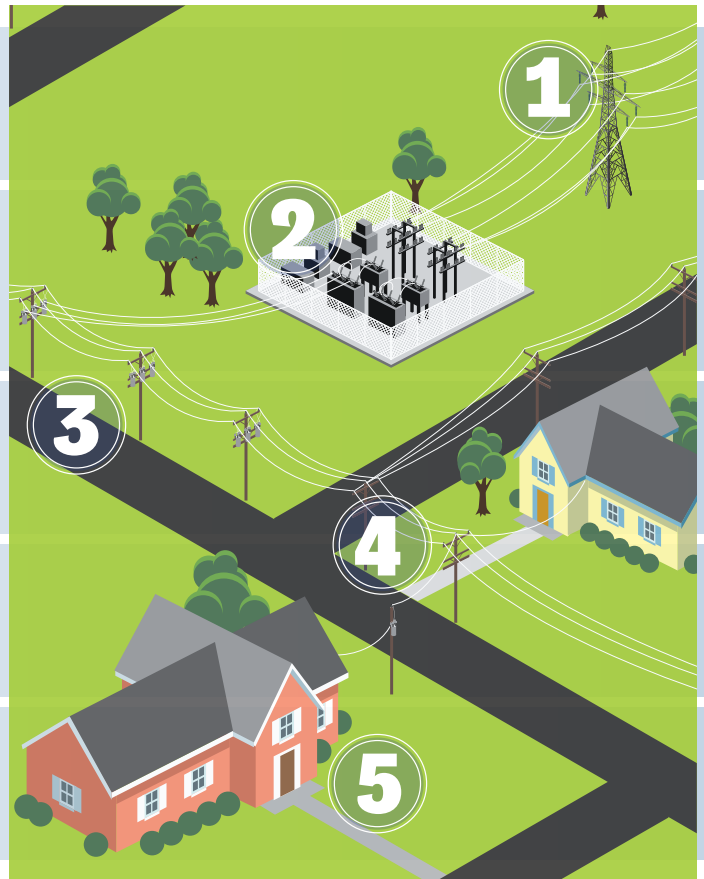
To sign up, visit [www.toddwadena.coop/outages](http://www.toddwadena.coop/outages) and click on the *Sign Up for Outage Notifications* button. You will then be asked for your account number. Select either *Residential* or *Business* and fill in the requested information. You will now receive notifications of any outages that affect your account, as well as power restoration notices.



## Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what is going on if you find yourself in the dark:

- 1** High-voltage transmission lines supply power to transmission substations and rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.
- 2** Distribution substations can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When an outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines to the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist further down the line.
- 3** If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to the supply lines (also known as tap lines) that eventually bring power to individual homes.
- 4** If local outages persist, supply lines are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.
- 5** If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.



**Members with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), arc fault, or a combination arc fault/ground fault breakers have experienced their breakers tripping during outages or restoration. Please be sure to check your panel after an outage as those may have tripped.**

**Note:** we have received notice from the call center that handles our after-hours calls, letting us know they are working to resolve the recent wait times being longer than normal. We apologize for any inconvenience to members as they work through this. Our goal is to always ensure our members receive the best service!

**2020 Capital Credit Allocation** SEE YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE CO-OP!

Look for your 2020 capital credit allocation in this month's bills. Capital credit earnings are the members' share of the net margins of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative.

- TWEC reinvests that money in the cooperative for operating capital, necessary reserves, storm damages, construction, and many other general expenses.
- In the long-term, those credits are stored, representing your investment in the co-op, and are eventually paid back to members.
- The decision to refund capital credits rests solely on your board of directors, is dependent on the financial conditions of the cooperative, and is subject to Rural Utility Services (RUS) and other lending institutions' regulations.

Please notify us with any changes to your address and contact information so you can continue to receive your refunds.

**Unclaimed Capital Credits for Over Seven Years**

*Unclaimed capital credits go to the 2022 scholarship fund if not claimed. Please contact the office if your name is on this list.*

Machine Action	Rosie D Drong	Dan O Lupkes	Vincent J Savarese
James O Ahlgren	Violet Dukowitz Estate	Irene L Madison	Loren R Sawatzky
Jean M Anderson	Joyce L Lembke Estate	Robert J Mahling	Sharon A Scholl
Paul M Anderson	Rodderick J Neumann Estate	Eldon R Maly	Susie A Schwalbaugh
Geneia L Beavers	Robert B Ferguson	Dale W Manley	Steven J Scott
Mark D Bjorke	Dorothy Fisher	Terry L McCall	Walter S Seelye
Donald M Bratsch	Cecil J Fisher	Eric L Mickelson	Bruce A Shepersky
Daniel A Brekke	Charlie R Fleck	Angela M Mills	Steven R Sibert
James K Bridger	Thomas H Foley	Regina B Mittelstadt	David R Sielaff
Richard W Broisma	Lucille L Forar	Ambrose H Mohr	Leonard A Smith
Caroline M Brown	William L France	Sherry J Molina	Lanae M Streck
Vernon P Buermann	Gary P Gerhardt	Jon I Morrow	Christina A Suhl
Russell Cameron	Merlin D Giesen	Jan M Moses	Shannon S Suhl
James Casarez	Georgine K Gilmour	Country Manor Motel	David J Swank
Thomas R Chase	Laurie J Gmyrek	Randall K Myrum	Joseph P Thelen
Scott P Christensen	Leonard E Herr	Rosina E Nelson	Curtis E Thom
Cal P Christian	Meek Truck Line Inc	Roger N Nelson	Constance G Thompson
Edward M Chromey	Eagle Pattern & Model Inc	Mark a Olson	Melvin R Thornberg
William C Connolly	RLS Inc	Erik S Olson	Thomas Traynor
Mari C Costner	Lauren J Iverson	Catherine M Peters	Clifford S Treinen
William E Darland	Raymond A Jarvis	Randy J Peterson	Jan M Watson
Robert M Davis	Sharon R Jenkins	Rhonda K Peterson	Susan K Weilage
Todd A Dechaine	Scott C Johnson	Susan M Rautio	Kristine Wikman
David G Decker	Jo Ann E Kopp	O T Repair	Brian A Williams
Larry D Delfosse	Jane Kurtti	L G Reynolds	Betty L Wilson
L W DeNittis	Jerry F Larson	Pearl M Ricker	Rita F Wilson-Conovr
Caroline A Digiovanni	Delbert A Laughlin	Nancy L Roberts	Brent J Winter-Holm
Donnel Draayer	Stephen C Leritz	Janeane M Rockwell	Robin L Wise
Rebecca Draayer	Randy L Lewis	Jeremy D Roth	Trinity C Withuhn
Kenneth P Dragon	Gordon M Lind	Robert H Sabourin	
Donald J Dreher		Manuel R Sakkinen	



At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, we place a high value on safety—for both our employees and our members. We were recently awarded the *Award of Honor* by the *Minnesota Safety Council* for our excellence in workplace safety and health. Pictured (standing on the right) is Todd Miller, *Operations Manager* and Dan Carlisle, *President & CEO* with the award.

# Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for  
members and friends of



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

**Office Hours:** 7:00am - 3:30pm  
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 &  
General Counsel

## **LOCAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS**

**Todd County:**

Troy Bak (320) 760-1017

**Wadena County:**

Adam Sorensen (320) 304-3927

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

## **Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative**

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

Printed on recycled paper.

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**  
DPC

## **READER'S CONTEST**

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 [mbrservices@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop) with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address. Entries must be received by July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Dalton Murdock of Verndale was the winner of our June Reader's Contest.**

1. During the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, there were a total of \_\_\_\_\_ cooling degree days.
2. Look for your 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ credit allocation in this month's bills.
3. Members can now sign up to receive \_\_\_\_\_ notifications via text messages.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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