



## May Storms Cause Widespread Outages

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative crews worked tirelessly to restore power to our members affected by the damaging storms that swept through our region this May.

On **May 12<sup>th</sup>**, a storm knocked out power for approximately 4,000 members. Thirty-two poles were broken throughout our service territory. We had incidents of barn roofs blowing through our electric lines and completely wiping them out. Multiple trees fell on our lines; but thankfully, the cooperative's proactive vegetation management program prevented a much worse situation. After a storm of this severity, several weeks of clean up and pole straightening are necessary before everything is back to normal.

We are thankful for our linemen who worked day and night from the

evening of the storm on Thursday until all power was restored Saturday night around 10 p.m.

Just a couple weeks later, on **May 30<sup>th</sup>**, another storm caused extensive damage to our system. The damage was widespread, but specifically impacted the Eagle Bend area. Todd-Wadena had 20 poles down with this storm, including lots of tree damage. On Monday the 30<sup>th</sup>, the cooperative started with 2,100 members out of power. Thankfully, crews had everyone back up and running by midnight Tuesday.

Todd-Wadena would like to express its appreciation to the

*Itasca-Mantrap, Beltrami, Legacy, and Roseau cooperatives for sending lineworkers to help us with our power restoration efforts.*

When storms hit, be assured our entire team at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is working hard to restore power as quickly as possible. We appreciate our members and the community for their patience during the recent storms. Restaurants helped feed employees and members brought in gift cards to say "thank you." It is amazing how people pull together when we face challenging situations. *We are thankful for the opportunity to serve you!*



# Dedicated Employees

The May storms that hit not only Todd-Wadena's service territory, but many of our neighbors as well, brought unprecedented outages. As our team of employees worked hard to restore power as quickly and safely as possible, we were encouraged by the support we received from cooperative members. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our cooperative employees for their hard work and dedication day in and day out.

The storm with the largest impact on our system was the widespread storm that swept through our region on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Todd-Wadena's lineworkers reported for duty late Thursday evening and worked diligently until the power was restored on Saturday night.

The linemen worked through the wind and rain to get the system back up and running. They pulled trucks out of the mud, cut trees off the line, dug through buildings entangled in our lines, fixed cross arms, and so much more. Through all this, they restored power to you, our members, with no incidences. Safety is our top priority – ensuring all of our employees go home to their families. They are truly heroes out in the field.



While all of this was happening, our member and energy services, operations, and finance departments were busy back at headquarters behind the scenes. There were employees frantically working with vendors and ordering supplies to ensure we had enough materials to complete all of the work needed in the field. There were employees working with members on how to get

water to their cows. There were employees instructing people how to keep their homes and freezers safe during the outage. There were employees preparing and delivering food to the linemen out in the field. There were employees working in the outage control center pinging meters and helping our operations manager work through the outages. We also had our meter technicians out in the field restoring fuses and fixing downed meters.

I can't thank the crews from *Beltrami*, *Legacy*, *Roseau*, and *Itasca-Mantrap* enough for coming to our aid in after these storms. Their lineworkers jumped right into the mix to assist our crews. They displayed the same great attitude and dedication as our own employees.

When widespread outages occur, power restoration requires a coordinated team effort. I could not be more proud of how Todd-Wadena employees pulled together and got power back on for our members as quickly and safely as possible.



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

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President/CEO & General Counsel

## Board Minutes

**Highlights from the April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular board meeting:**

- CEO Dan Carlisle reviewed two bylaw amendments proposed by Cobank. A decision was made to vote against the capitalization bylaw amendment and vote for the governance bylaw amendment.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) financial report. March resulted in strong margins, with year-to-date margins ahead of budget. The sale of Coal Creek Station is still on course to close on May 2, 2022. GRE will then transition to its 2022 Budget.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the March financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 11.5 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 11 percent over budget. March's purchased power expense was 26 percent over budget. Tier is 0 and Equity is 41.90.
- Graba-Meech also updated the board on Energy Assistance (EA). Cold Weather Rule will expire April 30<sup>th</sup>; however, EA did add an additional \$3,000 for eligible individuals to apply for. TWEC's Finance Department continues to work diligently to assist members with finding funds to cover their electric bills.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Uselman gave a quick recap of the Annual Meeting held on April 19, 2022. There were 255 people in attendance. TWEC's voting percentage continues to increase, with a 19.29% participation rate for 2022.
- Operations Manager Todd Miller updated the board on the progress at the Leaf River Substation. He also noted how Federated Insurance visited TWEC for its annual review. The cooperative continues to hold the 0-0-0 OSHA rating.
- Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. He highlighted a few take-aways from the strategic planning session held in April. STAR will host its Annual Meeting this August, in conjunction with the Energy Issues Summit in the Twin Cities.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel shared a legislative update and discussed a few relevant court cases.

## 2022 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2022 scholarship recipients! Each of these students will receive \$1,000 to be used towards the 2022-2023 school year!

### Power Up Adult Scholarships

**Jenny Hoppe**, Sebeka  
*Texas A & M University  
Corpus Christi • Master of  
Business Administration*



**Elliott Sandberg**, Staples  
*Northland Community &  
Technical College • AS/Aviation  
Maintenance Technology*

### Graduating High School Senior Scholarships

**Julia Besonen**, Menahga  
*North Dakota State University  
Landscape Architecture*



**Kole Weishalla**, Bertha-Hewitt  
*Central Lakes College/Bemidji State  
Sports Management*

**Torrey Carlson**, Sebeka  
*North Dakota State University  
Construction Management*



**Landan Adams**, Bertha-Hewitt  
*Mesabi Community College  
Eveleth Campus • Carpentry*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Co-op Strong



# CO-OP STRONG



## THURSDAY JULY 21

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at  
**Sunnybrook Park**  
940 Sunnybrook Road  
Wadena, MN 56482

**STOP BY AND SEE US FOR A GREAT LUNCH AND MEMBER GIVE-AWAY!**

TODD-WADENA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST-CENTRAL

SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE

2022 MEMBER APPRECIATION

# Pancake Supper

AND EV RIDE & DRIVE

Join us for...  
Pancake Supper  
EV Ride & Drive  
Electrical Safety Demos  
Kids Activities & More!



Date	Tuesday, August 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2022
Time	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Location	TWEC Headquarters



SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE

## OFFER ENDS JULY 31ST!

### WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling** and **supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Cold Climate Ducted Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

*Promo rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

Ducted Air Source Heat Pumps	Regular Rebate
14.5 SEER	\$480
15 SEER	\$580
16 SEER	\$630

*Regular rebate paperwork must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

*Rebates only apply to new systems purchased and QI installed. Visit [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop) to find a QI installer in your area.*

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump (minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0)	Regular Rebate <sup>2</sup>	Promo Rebate <sup>1</sup>
Delivered fuels *	\$300	\$450
Electric heat **	\$500	\$750

*Minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0*

<sup>1</sup>*Promo rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

<sup>2</sup>*Regular rebate paperwork must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

*\* Member's main heat source is fuel oil, propane, or natural gas.*

*\*\* Member's main heat source is electric.*

*Rebates only apply to new systems purchased and installed during rebate timeframe.*

*ASHP must be Energy Star rated. Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles, and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

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



## Thank You to All Our Dairy Farmers!

June is **Dairy Month** and we want to take this opportunity to thank our dairy farmers, from the largest operations to the smallest. We want to honor our dairy farmers who work hard 365 days a year to provide us with safe, nutritious dairy products.

Start the summer with nutrient-rich dairy foods! Dairy products such as milk contain *nine essential nutrients*. So let's celebrate dairy, not just in June, but all year long!



# THE POWER TO START SAVING



Save 30% on this 7-outlet advanced power strip, which stops your electronics from using energy when you're not using them. Shop now through June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Energy Wise MN Marketplace.

[www.energywisemnstore.com](http://www.energywisemnstore.com)

## Power Strips Versus Surge Protectors *By Tom Tate*

As the proliferation of electronics impacts our daily lives, we realize there simply are not enough outlets in our homes. This is particularly true for older homes. As a result, we end up with a number of “outlet expanders,” more commonly known as *power strips*.

Power strips are generic and fulfill a very simple function. The quality is often reflected in the price.

Keeping this in mind, let's look at factors to consider when purchasing a **power strip** or a **surge protector**, the power strip's more talented cousin.

Important tip: Make sure you know the amperage rating of the outlet into which you are connecting the strip and other equipment. A residential circuit can overload if you are not careful.

### **Key factors when purchasing a power strip:**

- ✔ Look for power strips with a built-in circuit breaker. If you connect too many electronics, the strip will kick out the circuit breaker rather than causing the breaker in your electric panel to trip.
- ✔ Get a smart strip. These are becoming more common and less expensive. With smart strips, one outlet serves as a master, receiving power all the time. The other outlets do not receive power until the master device is turned on. This is ideal for home entertainment setups.
- ✔ If you are connecting expensive electronics, you may want to consider getting a surge protector instead.

### **Key factors when buying a surge protector:**

- ✔ Don't go cheap here. A poorly built surge protector can be worse than none at all for two reasons: first, they use cheap, small surge fighting components; second, these components can fail, yet the strip still provides power without any indication that its protective side is gone.
- ✔ Go for a significant joule rating. This is a measure of how much energy it can withstand.
- ✔ You may want cable and internet connection protection for your entertainment and computing needs as surges can enter via any wired connection.
- ✔ Indicator light that shows if protection has burned out.

Power strips and surge protectors are worth the investment when you follow these simple suggestions. Don't get “burned” by purchasing cheap, inefficient strips and protectors. *Pun intended.*

## Have a Generator or Solar/Wind System?

**For your safety and for the safety of our crews, please let us know!**

When properly installed and operated, generators offer a safe, convenient means of powering equipment when electricity is unavailable. Similarly, solar/wind systems can be safe when properly installed. However, when improperly installed, they can be dangerous to you, your neighbors, and the cooperative's line personnel.

An improperly installed system can create a "back feed." Back feeding is very dangerous. Electricity flows back through your electrical panel and meter into the cooperative's electrical system. Back feeding can occur when a generator is connected

to your home wiring system without disconnecting from the cooperative's power.

We work with all our members to ensure that generators and solar/wind systems are properly hooked up. We also are in the process of adding safety stickers with a "G" to indicate that there could be generation occurring. This is why it is important for you to make sure we know when you have some sort of generation installed.

How can you prevent back feeding? The simple answer is to always keep generated power and the

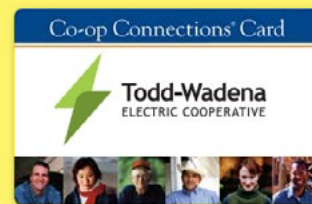


cooperative's power isolated from each other, as well as letting us know so that together we can keep our lineworkers safe!



Shop local this summer with your Co-op Connections Card!

Are you using your Co-op Connections Card to get all the savings and benefits we've reserved for our members? This program is yet another way we're looking out for our members.



### BROWERVILLE

**Konetzko's Meat Market // 516 Main St. S.**  
\$2 off \$20 purchase of meat sticks OR \$2 off 1 lb. purchase of beef jerky. *One discount per visit. Offers cannot be combined. Not valid with any other offers.*

**Pro Ag Farmer's Co-op // 501 Railroad Ave.**  
10% off pet food and bird seed.

### LONG PRAIRIE

**Thorson's Farm Market // Highway 71**  
10% off any purchase.

### STAPLES

**Ace Hardware // 210 2nd Ave. NE**  
10% off any item \$30 or less.

**Japke Decorating, Carpet & Gifts // 877 2nd Ave. NW**  
10% off one item per visit on clothes or gifts.

**Old 10 Apparel // 508 2nd Ave. NE**  
20% off any one regular priced in-stock item (excludes letter jackets).

**True Value // 205 Warner Rd. NE**  
10% off any item \$50 or less.

### WADENA

**1776 Clothing Company // 102 Jefferson St. S.**  
10% off total purchase of regular priced items.

**The Gores Company // 508 S. Jefferson**  
Free market analysis.

**Hometown Crafts // 111 S. Jefferson**  
10% off regular priced merchandise. *Not valid with other coupons.*

**Lyle's Shoes // 118 Jefferson St.**  
10% off regular priced in-stock item.

**Over the Rainbow Floral and Gifts // 123 1st St. SW**  
10% off one regular priced gift shop gift item (does not include flowers or wire services). *Not valid with any other coupons or specials.*

**Wadena Eye Clinic // 222 1st St. SE**  
15% off all regular priced glasses. *Not valid with insurance or other discount programs.*

**Whitetail Run Golf Course // 13379 Leaf River Rd.**  
Get two 18 hole green fees with 18 hole cart for \$65. *No other discounts apply.*

## Heroes Recognized for Lifesaving Efforts



Sheriff Mike Carr, Jr., (right) presented Life Saving Awards to both Mike Petersen of Sebekia Fire & Rescue (left) and Jamie Line of the Verndale Fire Department.

Article and photo by Jenny Hoppe for *Review Messenger*

The dictionary definition of **hero** (/hirō/) is “a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.”

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, two local firefighters and first responders from the Sebekia and Verndale fire departments, two EMS personnel from *Tri-County Health Care*, and four Life Link helicopter crew members helped save a local young boy’s life. Their actions were honored in a ceremony held at the Sebekia Fire Hall on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, organized by *Hennepin Healthcare* Outreach Liaison Officer George Esbensen.

Mike Petersen and Jamie Line were also recognized by the Wadena County Sheriff’s Office, which presented them each with a **Life Saving Award**. The award was presented by Sheriff Mike Carr, Jr., for their exercise of sound judgement, courage, professionalism, and tactical skill during a critical incident.

Sheriff Carr thanked the two firemen for responding to an emergency to which neither firefighter was paged. In fact, Petersen came across the accident scene in his personal vehicle and radioed the accident into the Dispatch Center, which then sent out an *Active 911* message that alerted all Wadena County police, fire, and EMS crews. Line realized that he was near the accident and quickly responded to help.

“In all my years of service, the *Active 911* app is one of the biggest game changers for our county,” said Carr. “It allows emergency personnel to know exactly where they are needed, along with a map and directions to get there. In this case, it helped save a life!”

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**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Our Mission, Vision, and Values

### Mission Statement //

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

### Vision Statement //

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

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

**Note: Some of you may have had your May issue of *Pine to Prairie* delivered to your address with someone else’s name on it. Everyone should have received a corrected copy later in the month.**

**This occurred due to an error with the processing of our mailing file at the printing company. The error had nothing to do with the addresses we have on file and does not affect billing or future communication to you from TWEC.**

**We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We have been working with our printing company to get to the bottom of the error and ensure this doesn’t happen again.**

**Thank you for your patience and understanding.**

# Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for  
members and friends of



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **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/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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DPC

## June Reader's Contest

1. In 2022, our Pancake and EV Ride & Drive event will be a \_\_\_\_\_, not breakfast.
2. How many poles were down in the May 12<sup>th</sup> storm?
3. If you are connecting expensive electronics, you may want to consider getting a \_\_\_\_\_.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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 June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**William Sandoff was the winner of our May Reader's Contest.**

