



2026 Annual Meeting Recap

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative held its Annual Meeting on April 16, 2026, with 238 members and guests in attendance. Before the business meeting, about 70 members participated in the *Transmission Trail*, learning about Operation Round Up, Great River Energy, electrical safety, capital credits, and more. Trail participants were entered to win six \$25 energy credits. Winners included: *Mark Holper, Dianne Noska, Gary Donner, Steve & Becky Pierson, Tom Rausch, and Kelvin Maninga*. Members also enjoyed Bingo with Dairy Queen gift cards and co-op swag as prizes.

The business meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. with an invocation from Pastor Nate Loer. After a short recess for the meal, catered by Clarissa Ballroom, CEO Dan Carlisle shared updates from a recent Great River Energy meeting, followed by department highlight videos.

Operations Update DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **109** new services, **66** upgrades, **204** poles replaced
- **6 miles** of overhead line rebuilt; **1.5 miles** converted to underground for MnDOT's Hwy. 10 project
- **12 miles** of new underground line installed
- **383** outages recorded in 2025, mostly due to weather and wildlife
- TWEC received a MN State Grid Resilience Grant to install electronic reclosers in Todd County substations

Corporate Services & IT DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Abby Harrison shared cybersecurity reminders, including using strong passwords and using Multi-Factor Authentication. She also noted that beginning June 1st, TWEC will no longer handle members' credit card or banking information directly; AutoPay enrollment must be completed through SmartHub.

(Annual Meeting Recap is continued on page 5)





Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO &
General Counsel

Connected by Power, United by Purpose Thank You for Making Your Voice Heard

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our entire team, I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended and participated in our Annual

Meeting. Your presence, and more importantly, your participation, reflects the strength of what makes the cooperative model so unique.

One of the most important aspects of our Annual Meeting is the democratic process. As a member-owner of the cooperative, your vote matters. Electing your Board of Directors is not just a formality, it is how you directly shape the leadership, direction, and priorities of your cooperative. Each vote represents your voice, your values, and your expectations for how we serve you and our communities.

We are especially proud to share that our members continue to demonstrate an exceptional level of engagement. In fact, our cooperative consistently sees one of the highest voting participation percentages among cooperatives in the state. That is something to be proud of. It speaks to a membership that is informed, involved, and committed to the future of their cooperative.

This same principle extends beyond the cooperative. Decisions made at the state and federal levels have a direct impact on energy policy, reliability, affordability, and the

future of electric cooperatives. From power supply and infrastructure investment to environmental regulations and rural development, elected officials play a key role in shaping the energy landscape we all depend on.

That's why staying engaged doesn't stop at our Annual Meeting.

We encourage all members to take an active role in the broader democratic process, especially when it comes to voting for legislators who influence energy policy. Understanding where candidates stand on key energy issues is critical, and making an informed decision at the ballot box helps ensure your voice is heard where it matters most.

To support that, we will be hosting a *Meet the Candidates* event this August. This will be a great opportunity to hear directly from those seeking to represent you, ask questions, and learn how they approach the issues that impact your cooperative and your community. We strongly encourage you to attend, listen, engage, and continue being an active participant in the democratic process.

At the end of the day, your cooperative is built on participation, whether it's attending meetings, voting for your board, or engaging in the decisions that shape our future. Thank you for being involved, for making your voice heard, and for helping us stay connected by power and united by purpose.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

TWEC Board Minutes: Highlights from the March 27th, 2026, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle provided an update from the recent Member Managers Group meeting. The group was given an overview of Great River Energy's 2026 Integrated Resource Plan which addresses capacity concerns by utilizing natural gas and storage options and using wind resources to satisfy energy needs.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave a quick update on GRE financials, noting that February ended favorable to budget.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the February financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 7 percent under budget. Energy revenue was \$143,000 under budget. February's purchased power expense was 12 percent under budget. TIER is 1.57 and Equity is 40.78.
- Jon Brekke, with Great River Energy, joined the meeting to speak about the proposed contract extension and rate redesign.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson went over the 2026 residential rebates and details for the annual meeting.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher met with GRE to review the transmission reliability at each TWEC substation. This information is used to develop work plans and replacement needs.
- The board approved the 2025 audit report as presented.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a legislative update and gave a recap of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) Annual Meeting.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

REP. WEINER AT THE 2024 MEET THE CANDIDATE EVENT

THIS AUGUST! LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF PINE TO PRAIRIE.



Safety in the Electrical Industry

By Marie Katterhagen, Director

Safety is the foundation of everything we do in the electrical industry, and it is no different at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative. Safety is not simply the absence of accidents; it is the active presence of awareness, preparation, and a shared commitment to doing things the right way every time.

Delivering electricity is a complex and highly coordinated process, but safety itself doesn't need to be complicated. It starts with a strong culture, one that is supported at every level of the cooperative and reinforced through daily actions.

At TWEC, the Board of Directors and management team place a high priority on safety by investing in infrastructure, training, and systems that reduce risk. Our safety committee includes employees from across the organization, along with Board representation, ensuring safety remains a constant focus throughout the cooperative.

We establish clear safety goals, track progress, and hold ourselves accountable. TWEC also partners with *STAR Energy Services*, an organization we are proud to be part owners of, to leverage their safety expertise and ensure we meet and exceed current industry standards. Throughout the year, safety inspections and observations are conducted by STAR staff and TWEC employees, along with

participation in the *Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP)*. This ongoing program helps reinforce strong safety practices and keeps safety top-of-mind in everything we do.

Safety doesn't stop at the co-op, it extends to our members and communities as well. You play an important role in helping keep everyone safe by:

- ✦ Reporting downed power lines and always assuming they are energized
- ✦ Calling 811 before digging to locate underground utilities
- ✦ Keeping at least 10 feet of clearance between equipment and power lines
- ✦ Staying inside your vehicle if it comes into contact with a power pole or line; if fire forces you to exit, jump clear with both feet together and jump away with feet together
- ✦ Respecting pad-mounted transformers (the green boxes) and keeping a safe distance

Creating a culture of safety requires vigilance from all of us, whether in the field or at home. By respecting the power of electricity and reporting potential hazards, you help us maintain a reliable and secure electric system.

As a Board, we are proud of TWEC's safety program, but even more proud of our employees who demonstrate a positive, safety-first mindset every day to protect one another and the communities we serve. Thank you for being our partner in safety.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE HOT PROMO REBATES WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING, ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Limited Time!!!
Promotion Runs
May 1st-July 31st,
2026

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

Ducted Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤5-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$750	\$1,000
≤5-ton, ≥ 2026 CEE Tier 1	\$1,000	\$1,500

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤1-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$150	\$250
≤1-ton, ≥ 2026 CEE Tier 1	\$250	\$350
>1-ton, ≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥7.5 HSPF2	\$750	\$1,000
>1-ton, ≥ 2026 CEE Tier 1	\$1,000	\$1,200

Important: Ducted Air Source Heat Pump must be installed by a quality installer to qualify for TWEC rebate. A list of QI installers can be found at www.toddwadena.coop.

Important: Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price.

*Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. **Promotion runs May 1st-July 31st, 2026.***



OwnYourPower:

A New Way to Take Charge of Your Energy Use

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is excited to introduce a new pilot program designed to give members more control, more comfort, and a new way to participate in managing energy use: *OwnYourPower*.

This pilot takes a fresh approach to how we think about load control. Instead of simply turning equipment off during times of high demand, *OwnYourPower* studies how small, strategic adjustments can shape energy use, helping reduce peak demand while keeping your home comfortable. The goal is simple: better understand what impacts demand, while giving members an easy way to be part of the solution.

Take Charge and Get Rewarded

Members who enroll in *OwnYourPower* can earn incentives while helping support the reliability of the electric system. Participants receive:

- ◆ A one-time **\$25 enrollment incentive**
- ◆ An **\$8 monthly credit** during the cooling season for staying active in the program

It's a simple way to put your smart technology to work, earning rewards while making a difference.

How It Works

During periods of high energy demand, the cooperative may make brief, automatic adjustments to your smart thermostat through Wi-Fi. These adjustments are small, just a few degrees, and are designed to reduce strain on the grid without disrupting your comfort.

Your air conditioner or air source heat pump continues to run and circulate air as normal. The only difference is a slightly higher temperature setpoint for a short time. Most members won't even notice the change, but the impact across many homes can be significant.

How It's Different

OwnYourPower is different from traditional load control programs in a few key ways.

In a typical cooling load management program, your system may be temporarily turned off during a control event in exchange for a reduced electric rate. With *OwnYourPower*, your system keeps running; we simply make small adjustments to your thermostat setting.

This approach is often called *load shaping*, and it allows us to better understand how gradual changes in energy use can reduce peak demand without the need for full shutoffs. It's a more flexible, technology-driven way to manage energy, one that reflects how many members are already using smart devices in their homes.

Who Can Participate

To be eligible for the pilot program, members must:

- ◆ Have a **Wi-Fi enabled smart thermostat** that is approved for the program
- ◆ **Not be currently enrolled** in a cooling load management program

As a pilot, *OwnYourPower* will help us learn what works best for our membership and our system. Participation and results will guide how programs like this may evolve in the future.

Electric demand continues to change, and so do the tools available to manage it. Programs like *OwnYourPower* allow us to explore new solutions that balance reliability, affordability, and member comfort.

By participating, you're not just earning incentives, you're helping shape the future of energy management at your cooperative.

If you're ready to take charge of your energy use and be part of something new, *OwnYourPower* is a great place to start.

To learn more and sign up, visit toddwadana.coop/ownyourpower or scan the QR code below!



Program is subject to change at any time.

Annual Meeting Recap (Continued from page 1)

Finance Report DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2025 net margins: **\$2,399,156**
- Revenue **up 10%**; kWh sales **up 3%**
- Cost of service **up 10%**; wholesale power cost **up 14%**
- Year-end equity: **41.97%**
- Department accomplishments included: implementing Positive Pay, closing a CoBank financing package, updating WAPA contracts, and expanding HR capabilities

Member & Energy Services DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **166** members completed the annual survey; satisfaction averaged 4.6/5
- **4** new member-owned solar systems interconnected (54 total)
- Helped facilitate a **\$1 million** USDA zero-interest loan for *Enterprise CP* of Long Prairie
- **564** service transfers completed
- Supported **15** organizations with over \$20,000 in *Operation Round Up* grants; **4,200** members enrolled
- Co-op events: Co-op Strong, Annual Meeting, Pancake Supper, Holiday Open House, and member movie event



MEMBERS REGISTERING BEFORE THE MEETING

Five of the six 2026 scholarship recipients attended the meeting, and members viewed a Youth Tour recap from Iva Hinson of Staples.

Board Chair Report

Board Chair Miles Kuschel discussed legislative efforts related to Minnesota’s nuclear energy moratorium, GRE approved 4.5% wholesale rate increase for 2026, and Minnesota co-ops (including TWEC) sent 60 lineworkers to assist with storm recovery in Virginia.

Nominating Committee Chair Wally Wiese announced 2026 director election results: *Dale Adams, 974 votes; Steven C. Peterson, 553 votes; Kristine Spadgenske, 964 votes; Gene Kern, 1,071 votes.* Adams, Spadgenske, and Kern were re-elected for three-year terms ending in 2029.

Members received their heavy duty paring knife attendance gift as they left the meeting. Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative extends its thanks to all members who attended and participated in the 2026 Annual Meeting. Your continued involvement is the cornerstone of our success—and a true reflection of what it means to be member-powered.



MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN TRANSMISSION TRAIL

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.

Myth OR Fact

Electrical Safety Edition

MYTH or FACT...

A common household outlet only operates with 120 volts of electricity, so I'll be safe if I'm shocked.

MYTH — even 120 volts can cause serious injury, cardiac arrest, or death. Voltage doesn't tell the whole story; the current that passes through your body is what makes electric shock dangerous.

Using a space heater with an extension cord is unsafe because it can overload the cord.

FACT — space heaters draw a lot of power, and extension cords can overheat, melt, or start a fire. Space heaters should always be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

A downed power line that isn't sparking is safe to approach.

MYTH — always assume it's energized.

You should stay inside your vehicle if it hits a utility pole unless there's a fire.

FACT — staying inside keeps you safe from step potential and energized ground. Only exit using the "bunny hop" if the vehicle is on fire.

Electricity can travel through the ground around a downed line.

FACT — the energy from a downed line can spread outward through the ground in all directions, creating a dangerous zone. Staying far away and calling the utility immediately is the safest response.

Using an extension cord permanently is a safe substitute for additional outlets.

MYTH — extension cords are meant for temporary use only. Long term use can lead to overheating, damage, and increased fire risk. If you need more outlets, a licensed electrician should install them.

You can't get shocked by touching an appliance with wet hands if it's turned off.

MYTH — moisture increases risk even when devices appear off.

Only licensed electricians should open or work inside an electrical panel.

FACT — electrical panels contain high voltage components, and improper handling can lead to severe shock, arc flash, or fire. Only trained, licensed professionals should ever work inside them.

Trees touching power lines can become energized.

FACT — when a tree contacts a power line, electricity can travel through the trunk and branches, making the entire tree—and the ground around it—dangerous. Always stay clear and report it to the utility.

GFCI outlets help protect you from electrical shock in wet areas.

FACT — Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets are designed to shut off power in milliseconds if they detect a dangerous change in current, offering crucial protection in bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements, and outdoor areas.

It's safe to use a damaged or frayed power cord as long as the device still works.

MYTH — a damaged cord can shock you, spark, or start a fire even if the device appears to function.

A generator should never be operated inside a garage, even with the door open.

FACT — generators produce deadly carbon monoxide, and fumes can build up quickly in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. They must always be used outdoors, far from doors, windows, and vents.

You should keep at least three feet of clearance around electrical panels.

FACT — keeping a minimum three foot clearance ensures safe access for emergencies, maintenance, and inspections, and it's required by electrical codes.

2026 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2026 **adult** and **high school** scholarship recipients! Each will receive \$1,000 to be used towards the 2026-2027 school year!



Road Construction Is Rough. Autopay Is Smooth.

MnDOT's Highway 10 project is underway, and access to our office may shift throughout the summer (*though members will always have a way to reach the building*). While the roads are under construction, your bill doesn't have to be—**enroll in ACH AutoPay** for a smooth, stress-free payment option.

-  No detours—skip the construction zone
-  No missed payments—automatic every month
-  No confusion—set it once and relax
-  Receive a one-time \$10 bill credit*

**New residential ACH AutoPay enrollment only. Promotion runs May 8-Sep 8, 2026. All new residential enrollees will receive a one-time \$10 energy credit and be entered in to win an additional prize via monthly drawings during June—September!*



Scott Petersen, Jr. • *University of North Dakota-Electrical Engineering*



Tucker Korpi • *M-State- Electrical Line Worker Associate of Applied Science*



Noah Larson, Staples-Motley High School • *Son of Cameron & Trisha Larson* • Plans to attend Northern State University for Pre Occupational Therapy



Blake Haverkamp, Wadena-Deer Creek High School • *Son of Joel & Stacy Haverkamp* • Plans to attend M-State for Electrical Technology



Lucas Deyle, MN Virtual Academy High School • *Son of Nathan & Nikki Deyle* • Plans to attend Alexandria Technical College for Machine Tooling



Avery Freie, Browerville High School • *Daughter of Doug & Bobbi Freie* • Plans to attend North Dakota State University for Marketing

Can You Help Us Locate These Former Members?

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is trying to locate these former co-op members to reunite them with their unclaimed capital credits. Their capital credit checks were returned last year — *address unknown*.

These former co-op members have either moved or passed away and we no longer have their current address or estate address. If you know anyone on this list, please have them call our office and provide us with a new address.

- Weidt, Deb • Sebek, MN
- Tate, Blaine or Jill • Avo, MO
- Rabenhorst, Daniel • Osakis, MN
- Kaluza, Al • Waconia, MN
- Grenier, Lauri • Wadena, MN
- Forar, Steve • New York Mills, MN
- Comeau, Stacy • Verndale, MN
- Decker, Judith • Bertha, MN
- Nextel Corp, Sprint • Columbus, OH

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of



Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

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(800) 321-8932

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Email: todd-wad@toddwadena.coop

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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:

Bob Kent (612) 528-5326

Wadena County:

Brandon Disselbrett (218) 580-8614

District 10 (Todd & Wadena Counties):

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
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

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Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on May 25th for Memorial Day.

Summer Office Hours

Our summer office hours will be **7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, Monday through Friday, starting **Memorial Day** and going through **Labor Day**.

May 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 with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address. Entries must be received by **June 25th**.

1. Members who have a _____ smart thermostat can enroll in the load shaping program, OwnYourPower.
2. Call _____ before digging to located underground utilities.
3. _____ scholarships were awarded in 2026.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Vicki Paskewitz of Browerville was the March Reader's Contest winner.