



## 2022 Annual Meeting a Success

With over 255 members and guests in attendance, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative celebrated the 2022 Annual Meeting at Wadena's Maslowski Wellness and Research Center on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

In his chairman's message, Miles Kuschel spoke to the members about the changes that have happened over the past two years in which the Annual Meeting was held virtually. The cooperative is currently building a new Leaf River Substation, is well into the receiver changeout, rebranded with a new logo, revamped the website, and built a new headquarters to better serve our growing cooperative—all without raising rates. Kuschel also spoke about electric vehicles and the ease of maintenance.



energy efficient appliances that were installed. Carlisle discussed the sale of Coal Creek Station to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC out of Bismarck, ND. Members were able to attend the deep dive session held prior to the business meeting on the changing energy resource mix with Carlisle and Jon Brekke, Great River Energy's VP/Chief Power Supply Officer. Attendees learned more about the sale and the change in our energy mix.

Dan Carlisle, TWEC President/CEO recognized scholarship winners from 2021, and the newly selected recipients for 2022. Carlisle also reported on the cooperative's stable financial status, 2021 rebates given back to members, and kWh savings from

Ten gas gift card door prizes were given away, along with four cash prizes. Following the meeting, members and guests were treated to a delicious beef tips in gravy and ham dinner catered by the Clarissa Ballroom.



In the board of director elections, Nominating Committee Chair, Wally Weise announced that incumbents *Marie Katterhagen* and *Mike Thorson* were re-elected for a three-year term. An organizational meeting of the board was held immediately following the Annual Meeting, resulting in the following officers re-elected: Miles Kuschel as Chair, Tom Brichacek as Vice Chair, Marie Katterhagen as Secretary, and Dale Adams was selected as Treasurer.



## Economic Development

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) is helping to grow local communities that provide jobs, tax revenues, and healthy businesses – all vital to a thriving community. To support this objective, we offer two economic development loan programs. The loans are intended to create employment opportunities, improve infrastructure, and/or improve the quality of life in rural areas. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, business ventures, government units, community facilities, non-profit entities, and tribal authorities.



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

### Revolving Economic Development Loan

- The Revolving Economic Development Loan is provided by TWEC and considered on a project-by-project basis.
- All financing packages should be consistent with lender requirements.
- The minimum amount that can be loaned for any one project is \$10,000. The maximum amount of any loan is determined by the loan committee on a project-by-project basis.
- Interest rates are based on current interest rate market.

### Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG)

The REDLG program is a USDA zero-interest loan for those who apply through a Rural Utilities Service borrower, such as TWEC.

- TWEC is required to match a percentage of the loan.
- The USDA reviews and awards applicants quarterly.
- Loan funding is up to 80% of the project cost, up to \$2,000,000.
- Grant funding is available up to \$300,000. This requires a percentage match from TWEC.
- No minimum loan amount required.

The Cooperative also offers an **Improve-It Loan** to our members.

This program helps members finance small-scale home improvement projects at a low interest rate. Many different projects qualify for the Improve-It Loan. Loans may be approved for air conditioning, dual heat installations, electric fireplaces, lighting upgrades, generators, heat pump installations, insulation, major electric appliances, personal computers, private sewer systems, service upgrades, thermal doors and windows, and wells. Loan amounts range from \$500 to \$15,000. Interest rates vary quarterly, depending upon the current market.

At Todd-Wadena, our top priority remains providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy options to our members where they are – whether that is the irrigation service, a commercial factory, or residential homes. But we are doing so much more. True to cooperative principle #6 (*Concern for Community*), we also work for the sustainable development of our communities. When our communities thrive, we all do.

## Board Minutes

**Highlights from the March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, regular board meeting:**

- CEO Dan Carlisle shared highlights from multiple meetings he attended in March. Meetings included the GRE Board meeting, Northern Managers Group (NMG), MREA Annual Meeting, GRE 5% Option Committee Meeting, MREA Service Territory Committee Meeting, and the Member Managers Group (MMG).
- Carlisle, as legal counsel, gave an annual fiduciary duty update report to the board.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) financial report. February had the second highest load GRE has experienced. This resulted in the margins for the month coming in ahead of budget.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the February financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 5 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 4.5 percent over budget. February's purchased power expense was 26 percent over budget. Tier is 0 and Equity is 42.42.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Uselman shared the 2021 Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) final numbers. The Cooperative paid out over \$80,500 in member rebates and collectively had almost 880,000 in kWh savings.
- Matt Laughlin, with Brady Martz, joined the meeting to present the Auditor's Report. The board accepted the 2021 Audit Report.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel discussed the property tax on cooperative distribution infrastructure and load control receiver issues. He also shared a few highlights from the MREA Annual Meeting he attended in March.

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

## No Empty Shelf: How We Ensure Availability of Needed Materials

Since the pandemic, it is not unusual to be in a business and see an empty shelf. The “empty shelf” has also carried over to the important materials cooperatives use to maintain electrical lines, build new services, and upgrade services.

At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, there is no empty shelf. Our management team, Operations Department, and Member & Energy Services Department are actively planning and communicating to ensure our members’ electrical needs are met, even while material lead times are 100% greater than last year.

There is not just one situation affecting the global supply chain, but many:

### Logistics and Freight

- Ocean freight congestion
- Trucking and small parcel freight:
  - » Shortages of truck drivers
  - » Increased operating costs

### Raw Materials

- Russia-Ukraine conflict
- Growing demand for EVs and other markets
- Natural disasters
- COVID-19 lockdowns in China
- Chinese and Russian sanctions

### Labor Challenges and Inflation

- Manufacturer space constraints
- 11 million job openings in the United States (*as of the last business day of February*)
- Wage pressures

Each of the departments at Todd-Wadena are working together to secure storm stock and other work plan needs. Last month, material needs for the *2023 Work Plan* were ordered and await the 52-week lead time. It is not even the transformers and cable material items having longer lead times; items as small as our daily hardware have a lead time of over 20 weeks. We are thankful for the strong relationships we’ve built with the vendors and manufacturers we work with, especially during this challenging time.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative’s team of employees is here for our members. ***If you are thinking about a new home, commercial developments, or upgrading electrical equipment – don’t wait to contact us.*** Please inform us of your plans as soon as possible so we can continue the no empty shelf!



**If you are planning a new home, a commercial development, or are upgrading electrical equipment, don’t wait to contact us! Call at (218) 631-3120.**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (*meaning you can easily see your joists*), you should add more. If you can’t see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.



# 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.

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

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.

## Let SmartHub Make Your Life Easier

### Make and Manage Payments

SmartHub allows you to make a payment or schedule a future payment on your account by credit card or bank account.

### Track Your Energy Usage

SmartHub gives you the ability to view your electrical energy usage on a monthly, daily, or hourly interval. You can compare electrical usage, charges, and temperature differences of any two months, side-by-side, to note seasonal or behavioral changes in usage. By using energy markers, you can track your household energy use over dates where changes occurred, such as implementation of a programmable thermostat or when you have guests stay in your home. This is a great tool to help explain energy usage on your bill and assist you in making informed decisions about energy use.

### Enroll in AutoPay

Enroll in automatic bill pay using a bank account or credit card.

### Track Your Payment History

The payment history screen is a quick reference for viewing the amount paid, when it was paid, and by what method.

### Go Paperless

There is no need to save old billing statements. You can now view the actual bill images on your screen.

### Manage Your Notifications

Do you want to know when your bill is available to be paid, if Todd-Wadena received your payment, or if your bill is past due? These are just some of the notifications available to members who want to be notified by email or text message.



# 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**.

### 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.

Member Information	Contractor Information (to be filled out by HVAC tech)
Member name: _____	Equipment brand: _____
Account number: _____	Model number: _____
Address: _____	Serial number: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	Approximate age of unit (years): _____
Contact phone number: _____	SEER rating: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that I have completed the following on this unit:
<input type="checkbox"/> I have attached a copy of the contractor's invoice with rebate coupon.	<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
Member signature: _____	Contractor signature: _____
<b>Mail to:</b> Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative ATTN: Mary Williams P.O. Box 431 Wadena, MN 56482	Contractor company: _____



# Battery Powered Yard Tool Rebates

**Lawn Mower/Snow Blower**

**\$100** (Pre-tax purchase price of \$200-\$500)  
**\$200** (Pre-tax purchase price of \$501+)

**Lawn Care Equipment**

Edger, Trimmer, Chainsaw, Pole Saw, or Leaf Blower

**\$50** (Pre-tax purchase price of \$100-\$200)  
**\$100** (Pre-tax purchase price of \$201+)

Visit [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop) to view *\*participating retailers list*.

\* Yard tools must be purchased at a **participating local retailer** to be eligible for a rebate.  
 \*\* Rebate is not to exceed 50% of purchase price. Purchased tools must be battery powered.  
 \*\*\* Limit of two rebates per member per year.



**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

2022 MEMBER APPRECIATION

**Pancake Supper**

AND EV RIDE & DRIVE

Join us for...  
Pancake Supper  
EV Ride & Drive  
Electrical Safety Demos  
Kids activities & more!



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

SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE

### Operation Round Up Deadline

Make sure your organization applies for an Operation Round Up grant by the **deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup>**! For more details and a fillable application, visit our website at [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop).



### Load Control Hour Change

Summer load control hours for ETS storage heat and ETS water heating will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Load control hours will be from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

### 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.



## Youth Tour to Washington D.C. Participant Selected

**Name:** Ally Pavek  
**School:** Junior at Wadena-Deer Creek  
**Parents:** Tim Pavek and Dana Cantleberry

### Why are you excited for this trip?

I am excited to be able to meet new people from all over the country who have similar interests as me. Being able to meet people, make new friends, and tour Washington D.C. is really exciting and an opportunity that I will only experience once. I am also looking forward to touring Capitol Hill and meeting some of our elected officials, even having the opportunity to talk with them.

### What are you most excited to do?

I am very excited to tour all of Washington DC's national monuments and museums, but am most excited to tour Capitol Hill. Having the opportunity to see our nation's capital, and even meet elected officials, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



**Background:** The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Minnesota Rural Electric Association are sending cooperative-sponsored students to the nation's capital city this June for a week of leadership and educational training, historical perspectives, tours of city sites, and experiences in the heart of the federal government.



## What can \$1 of electricity get?

You can drive an electric vehicle for **93 miles for \$1** on TWEC's storage rate.

## Unclaimed Capital Credits

We're searching for these members. Sometimes, members move away and we can no longer reach them. If you know any of these members, please contact the Cooperative's office.

Gerald & Brenda Albaugh, *Appleton WI*  
 Elizabeth & Siro Amerson, *Fergus Falls MN*  
 Dave Bishop, *Wadena MN*  
 Larry Buberl, *Stillwater MN*  
 Gerard Ceulemans, *Amery WI*  
 Kenneth Cole, *Staples MN*  
 Country Roads Club, *Wadena MN*  
 Marilyn Finley, *Menahga MN*  
 Joann Fluegge, *Motley MN*  
 Valerie Fontaine, *Staples MN*  
 Rebecca Garey, *Wadena MN*  
 Elicia & Mike Gaudette, *Bluffton MN*  
 Juliana Geiser, *Wadena MN*  
 Christine Goble, *St Cloud MN*  
 Darrell Goble, *St Cloud MN*  
 Craig & Kim Gode, *Staples MN*  
 Dennis Graphenteen, *Sebeka MN*  
 Michael Gustafson, *Greeley CO*  
 Owen Hall, *Bemidji MN*

Charles Hanson, *Browerville MN*  
 Clift Henderson, *New York Mills MN*  
 Dan & Julie Hinz, *Bloomfield IA*  
 Marvin Holmquist, *Long Prairie MN*  
 Gerald Johnson, *Johnson City TN*  
 Irene Johnson, *Aldrich MN*  
 John Johnston, *Browerville MN*  
 Donna Kotval, *Long Prairie MN*  
 Nancee Kremers, *Waite Park MN*  
 Tracey Larsen, *Motley MN*  
 Nicole Lenk, *Wadena MN*  
 Kenneth & Molly Lohse, *Los Ranchos NM*  
 Melvin Mast, *Browerville MN*  
 Alan McHone, *Valdez AK*  
 Cassandra McLain, *Staples MN*  
 Kris Mertens, *Motley MN*  
 Carroll Miller, *Staples MN*  
 Pamela Mueller, *Janesville MN*  
 Donna Mumm, *Amery WI*

Option One Mortgage, *Minneapolis MN*  
 Linda Packila, *Des Moines IA*  
 Judann Parrish, *Staples MN*  
 Jerry Pope, *Seminole OK*  
 Debra Pride, *Wadena MN*  
 Kellie Romano, *Las Vegas NV*  
 Anna Severson, *Madison WI*  
 Diane Schilling, *Detroit Lakes MN*  
 Barbara Siegel, *Staples MN*  
 Leann Stearns, *Sentinel Butte ND*  
 Thomas Suhl, *Wadena MN*  
 Dawnelle Vanvickle, *Staples MN*  
 Thomas & Bonita Wagner, *Frazee MN*  
 Deb Weidt, *Sebeka MN*  
 Randy Wilson, *Detroit Lakes MN*  
 Russell Williams, *Wadena MN*  
 William & Tracy Woodruff, *St. Paul MN*  
 Jacob Yali, *St Paul MN*  
 Lawrence & Billy Jo Young, *Council Bluffs IA*

# 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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Monday - Friday

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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

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**PAID**  
DPC

## New 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

1. Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using \_\_\_\_\_ less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.
2. Co-op Strong luncheon will be held at \_\_\_\_\_ brook Park in Wadena on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
3. You can drive an electric vehicle for \_\_\_\_\_ miles for \$1 on TWEC's EV storage rate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your TWEC Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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 May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Lorri Underwood of Menahga was the winner of our April Reader's Contest.**