



2024 Youth Tour Recap

By Heidi Zimmerman

Now that I'm back home after nearly a week in our nation's capital, I get the expected and inevitable questions. I have the same universal answer for each of these questions: I would go back a million times over, and in a heartbeat.

This trip was full of many first-time experiences for myself. It was my first time flying, first time on the eastern edge of the country, first time on a Segway, and like many students, the first time on a big trip with complete strangers from various areas of Minnesota. You see, the whole idea that I wasn't going to know anyone is what had me a bit worried; would I get along with my roommate? Turns out, we seemed to be the same exact person but in two different bodies. We became extremely close right away and spent many nights staying up past lights out, purely talking as if we'd known each other forever.

(Youth Tour continued on page 3)

2024 MEMBER APPRECIATION

Pancake Supper



Date	Tuesday, August 20th
Time	4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location	TWEC Headquarters
Food	Pancakes & Sausage

All members are invited to our annual member appreciation *Pancake Supper* on Tuesday, August 20th from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative headquarters! The Sebeka Lions will be serving up pancakes and sausage. We will have a 40-foot obstacle course bounce house for the kids, other kids activities, and table top electrical safety demonstrations.



MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENT

Tuesday,	Social Hour: 6:30 p.m.	Lions Community Center
September 10th	Forum Begins: 7 p.m.	109 1st Ave. SE, Verndale

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EVENT IN DAN CARLISLE'S CEO COLUMN ON PAGE 2



Join Us for "Meet the Candidates" Night!

I am excited to invite you to an important and engaging event that embodies the very principles upon which our cooperative is built. Our upcoming *Meet the Candidates* night is designed to bring together all eligible voters in our community for an evening of connection, information, and democratic engagement.

- ◆ **Date:** September 10th
- ◆ **Location:** Verndale Lions Community Center
- ◆ **Social Hour:** 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Candidate Forum:** 7 p.m.

About the Event

Meet the Candidates night will provide a unique opportunity for you to hear directly from the candidates running for various offices. The candidates for the following offices have been invited to attend: Minnesota House Districts 5A, 5B, 9B, 10A, and 12B; State Senate, and U.S. Districts 7 and 8.

Each candidate will be given a few minutes to explain his or her reasons for running for office and outline his or her legislative priorities. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session where attendees are invited to submit their questions.

While our cooperative's primary interest revolves around energy issues, all matters of legislation will be open for discussion. This event is an excellent chance to gain insight into where each candidate stands on a variety of issues that affect our community.

Why Attend?

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) recognizes democratic member control, educating members, and concern for community as core cooperative principles. These principles drive our commitment to ensuring our membership, and all eligible voters, are well-informed about the views and positions of candidates prior to an election.

We strongly encourage TWEC members to attend, as well as all eligible voters in the area. This forum is an invaluable opportunity to engage with the candidates, ask questions that matter to you, and hear firsthand how their policies and priorities could shape our future.

Get Involved

Your participation is crucial in fostering an informed and engaged community. By attending this event, you are contributing to a stronger, more democratic process where the voices of our community members are heard and respected.

I look forward to seeing you at *Meet the Candidates* night and working together to ensure a bright and informed future for our cooperative and our community.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

TWEC Board Minutes

Highlights from the June 28th, 2024, regular board meeting:

- CEO Dan Carlisle reviewed the top 25 accounts in May for usage and revenue. The board and management team discussed the potential reasons overall sales were down.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. GRE is running approximately 3.8% under budget for both demand and energy. Weather forecasts are predicting it will warm up for the remainder of the summer; GRE is hoping to recover some of the cooling loads.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the May financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 12 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 7 percent under budget. May's purchased power expense was 14 percent under budget. Tier is 1.32 and Equity is 40.15.
- Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson highlighted a few items from the most recent Member, Energy Services, and Communication conference and her recent training to become a certified key account executive.
- Operations Manager Tyler Fisher reported how the department has went live with Real Time inventory utilizing RESCO connect. The team hopes this new application will create efficiency and cost savings in several different ways.
- STAR Energy provided a First-Aid/CPR refresher course for employees. All employees receive this training annually to keep their certifications valid.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel provided a legislative update, noting how the Omnibus bill that passed will allow utilities to build along major highways.
- Sandy Mumm was appointed to the Community Trust Board.
- Representative Krista Knudsen joined the meeting to discuss topics affecting members in TWEC's service territory.



2024 Youth Tour Recap (Continued from page 1)



The first day started out at the hotel in Minneapolis where we met our fellow student representatives and ultimately, our roommates. From the orientation meeting we made our way to the airport and Washington, D.C. for a fairly simple evening. The following days in the capital were jam packed with tours and activities.

Let me take a moment here to shout out whoever organized our itinerary because they sure made it beyond phenomenal. Now obviously there was much more to see, which is the case regardless of where you go, but I'd say we made it to almost every major monument/memorial and any other popular tourist attraction in D.C.

Of the entirety of my trip, I have to say the people were my favorite part. Every person I encountered had a meaningful impact on how my experience played out. Aside from the people, I don't even know what else I could've enjoyed more. Somehow, it's been nearly a month or two that I've been home and I'm still trying to wrap my head around all of it. **Simply put, I absolutely loved it.** The Youth Tour trip is truly that of a lifetime.

Heidi is the daughter of Dean and Bonnie Zimmerman. She will be a senior at Staples-Motley High School this fall. The NRECA Youth Tour is highly recommended by participants. Each year, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative sponsors one local youth to attend this week-long, all-expenses-paid trip. Applications will be available in late December for the 2025 Youth Tour.



THE MINNESOTA GROUP IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



HELP PROTECT
YOUR CO-OP
COMMUNITY!



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!



Help Keep Energy Reliable & Affordable in Minnesota

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is just one of 50 electric cooperatives that serves rural energy consumers in Minnesota. We have partnered with other Minnesota cooperatives through our statewide organization, MREA, and our national organization, NRECA, to ensure we have a voice at the table each legislative session. We want to make sure cooperative voices are heard when it comes to energy policy in Minnesota.

Help us advocate for reliable and affordable energy for all of Minnesota's energy consumers by signing up for **Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP)**. This network of electric cooperative member-consumers is working to ensure the needs of rural America are reflected in state and national policy decisions.

Learn more and sign up at voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota

Sign Up for Load Control Notifications

Members who participate in any of our **voluntary load management programs** can receive a notification of control events. It's as easy as 1-2-3 to enroll in notifications!



We offer text/email notifications for the following load management programs:

- Air conditioning
- Gen-set (C&I)
- Peak alert (C&I)
- Dual heat
- Irrigation

1 SmartHub Instructions: Sign in (or sign up) at toddwadana.smarthub.coop. If you have previously added a contact for notifications, you may proceed directly to **Step 3** to enable load control notifications.

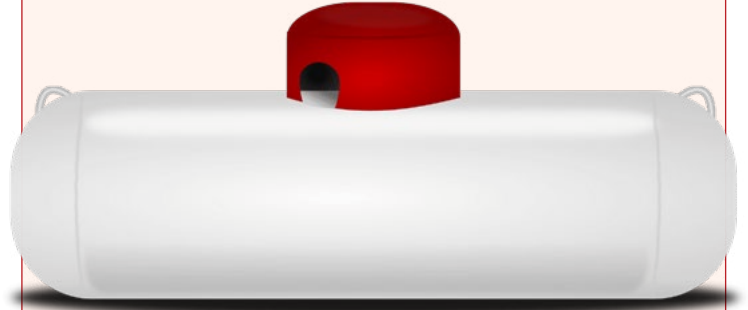
2 Add Contacts: Under the settings menu, click *Contact Methods*. Add an email contact and/or a phone contact. Follow directions and enter verification code where appropriate.

3 Set Up Notifications: Under the settings menu, click *Manage Notifications*. Select *Reports*, select the contact(s) you wish to receive load control notifications next to the appropriate alert type(s), and then click *Save*.

Method	Contact	Status	Action
Voice Calls		Enrolled - Voice Calls	[Edit] [Delete]
Text Messages		Enrolled - Text Messages	[Edit] [Delete]
Emails		Enrolled - Emails	[Edit] [Delete]
Emails		Enrolled - Emails	[Edit] [Delete]

Alert Type	Description	Text Message	Email
Air Conditioning Control		Text Message: Multiple	Email: Multiple
Dual Heat Control		Text Message: Multiple	Email: Multiple
Gen-Set (Generators)		Text Message	Email
Irrigation Control Notice		Text Message	Email
Peak Alert Control		Text Message: Multiple	Email: Multiple

Dual Fuel Members: Check Your Back-up System Fuel Supply



Members of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) who are on the dual fuel load management program are encouraged to make sure they have **adequate supplies of their secondary fuel source for winter**.

It may seem early to be thinking about winter, but in addition to checking off an item on your to-do list, you can **save** by taking advantage of lower *summer fill* fuel prices.

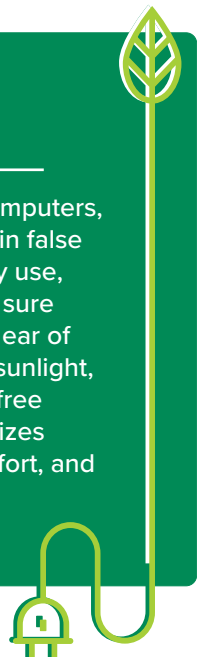
As a reminder, the primary heating systems of participants can be controlled up to 12 hours per day and up to 400 hours per heating season. Control occurs on days of high electrical demand, high wholesale energy prices, and/or system emergencies.

Both morning and evening control is expected throughout the cold weather months. If you have any questions, please contact TWEC's office.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers, or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use, and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight, and drafts. Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort, and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: www.energy.gov



MOVING? SELLING? BUYING?



Here's what you need to know about *transferring electric service.*

Seller Responsibility

- ✓ The selling member will need to contact TWEC by calling or coming into the office.
- ✓ The account must be listed in your name to request a transfer of service.
- ✓ The seller will need to provide date of closing and buyer's name, if available. We may also ask for realtor information, if applicable. TWEC member service reps will verify this information matches the information received from the buyer.
- ✓ If the buyer hasn't already contacted us, TWEC will attempt to contact them to discuss the transfer process.
- ✓ If a deposit is on the seller's account, it will be applied to the seller's final bill. Any remaining credit will be transferred to an active account under the same membership or returned in the form of a check.
- ✓ The seller's final bill will reflect the pro-rated dates of service.

Buyer Responsibility

- ✓ The buyer will need to contact TWEC by calling or coming into the office.
- ✓ The buyer will need to fill out a membership application.
- ✓ A soft credit check will be performed and a deposit may be required depending on the results of the credit check (a soft credit check does not affect your credit score).
- ✓ A deposit may be required.
- ✓ If a deposit is needed, it will be credited to the member's account after 12 consecutive months of on-time payments or upon termination of service.
- ✓ The confirmation of the closing date is required and it must match the date the seller has provided.

Working From Home OUTAGE TIPS

- Keep your laptop, phone, and power bank **fully charged**.
- **Save your work** regularly on a cloud storage platform.
- Know **how to connect** to your phone's mobile hotspot.
- Complete **offline tasks** like writing, reading, or planning.
- **Relocate** to a local cafe or library if their Wi-Fi is working.

Operation Round Up Deadline

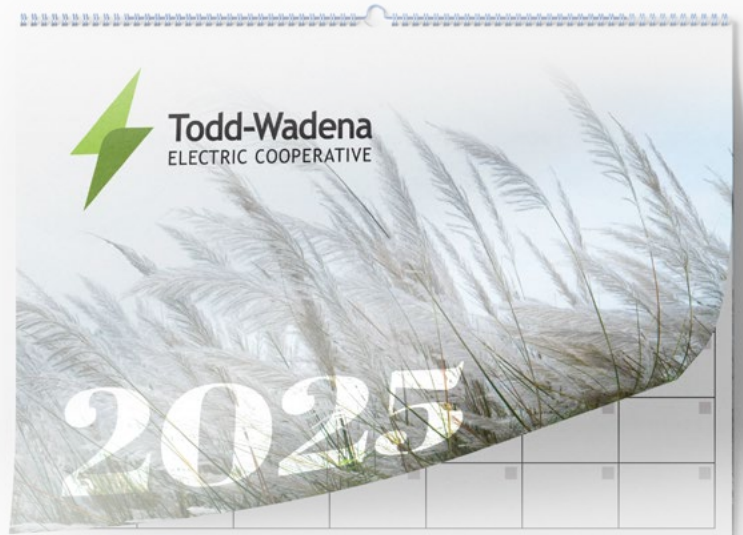
As a reminder, the deadline for organizations to submit an Operation Round Up grant application is approaching soon. Applications must be received by **September 15th, 2024**



7th Annual Co-op Strong Recap

The 7th annual Co-op Strong was a hit! Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative and West Central Telephone Association served nearly 600 meals to-go at Pine Grove Park in Staples on Wednesday, July 24th. Lunch included pulled pork sandwiches, chips, cookies, and water in a reusable lunch tote.

We could not have asked for a more beautiful day! Thank you to all of our members who came out to Pine Grove Park for lunch!



Our 2025 Calendar Needs Your Help

We need your photo submissions for the cooperative's 2025 calendar! Please submit your digital photos (up to 5 per membership) at www.toddwadena.coop/2025-calendar by September 15th, 2024. Be sure to send the photographer's name, TWEC service address, and phone number with the photo.

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*).

Guidelines for Contest

- Only active Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative members may enter the contest.
- Photos must be scenically capturing the beauty of Minnesota's four seasons.
- Photos must not include people.
- One membership (household) may submit up to 5 photos. If there are multiple photographers per household, please fill out a form for each photographer.
- Only landscape (*horizontal*) orientation photos will be accepted. Vertical photos will not be accepted.
- Photos need to be sized for printing: 12 inches wide by 9 inches high. 300 dpi minimum quality.

Reminder: Put Safety First this Harvest Season!

Harvest season is approaching rapidly. We want you to stay safe and stay alive! Be aware of your surroundings and look up for overhead power lines. Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest. A large percentage of these accidents happen near grain bins when grain augers are being moved and come in contact with overhead power lines, creating a direct path to ground for electricity.

Keep safety in mind when moving tractors with loaders, augers, and vehicles with tall antennas. It's best to use a spotter to ensure contact is not made with a line when moving large equipment or tall loads. Keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.

What to do if a vehicle comes in contact with power lines:

- ✓ In most cases, it is best to remain inside the cab or vehicle and call your local electrical utility or 911. If the line is energized, stepping out of the vehicle and contacting the ground can create a path to the ground for electricity—resulting in deadly consequences.
- ✓ Warn others who may try to help you to **STAY BACK** until the electric utility arrives and disconnects power to the line.
- ✓ If the vehicle or equipment you are in starts on fire, the proper action would be to jump out with both feet together, and as far from the vehicle or equipment as possible. Continue to hop, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the vehicle or equipment and the ground at the same time.
- ✓ Once away from the area, prevent others from going near it until the electric utility gives permission to do so.

- ◆ Use care when operating large machinery near power lines (use a spotter).
- ◆ If you are operating with new equipment, be aware of the difference in clearances.
- ◆ Remember to call 8-1-1 before starting any underground digging projects.
- ◆ Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
- ◆ Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
- ◆ Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- ◆ If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.
- ◆ Please contact us if you have questions or concerns regarding clearances in the field or near bin sites.



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. (summer)
Monday - Friday

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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  

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www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

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Office Hours Change after Labor Day

TWEC's office hours will return to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday, starting Tuesday, September 3rd.

The office will be closed September 2nd for Labor Day.

August 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 August 25th.

Randy Robb of Motley was the winner of our July Reader's Contest.

1. Stop by for pancakes at Todd-Wadena on Tuesday, August _____ for the annual member appreciation pancake supper
2. Submit your digital _____ for the 2025 calendar contest.
3. Always keep equipment at least _____ feet away (from all directions) from power lines.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

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