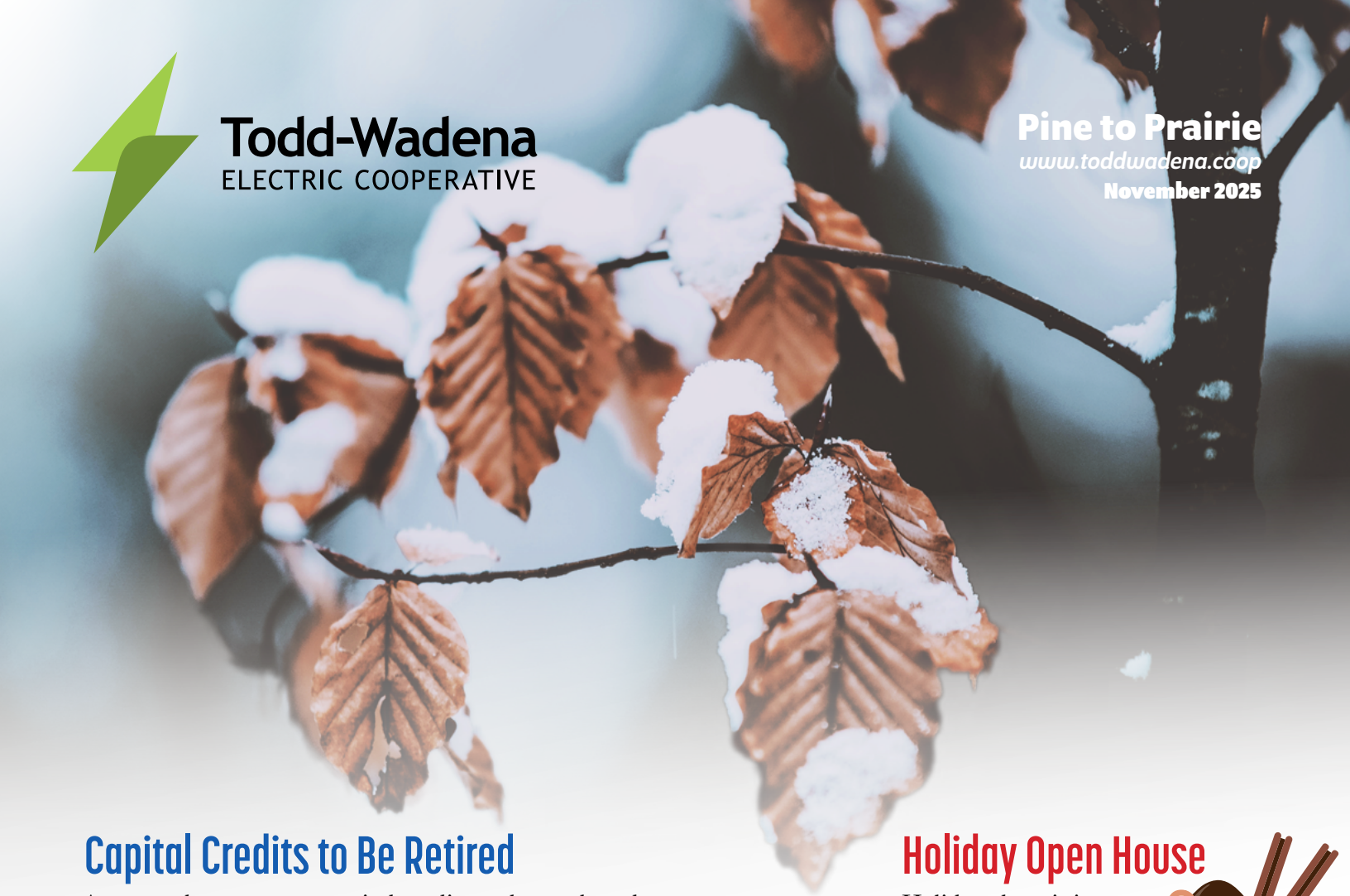
Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
www.toddwadena.coop
November 2025



Capital Credits to Be Retired

As a member, you earn capital credits each year based on your patronage. This means if you purchase more electricity in a year, your allocation of capital credits is more for that year. Your Board of Directors makes a decision annually on whether to retire, or pay out, old capital credits based on the financial health of the cooperative and provisions of the by-laws.

In 2025, the Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) Board of Directors approved a capital credit retirement that totals $625,500. TWEC is retiring $535,000 to members active in 2009; and Great River Energy, our wholesale energy provider, is retiring $90,500 of capital credits that will be refunded to TWEC members who had patronage in 2003.

Active members: your capital credits will be applied to your account as an energy credit on your December bill. *Note: Learn more about how capital credits work on page 4.*

Holiday Open House

Holiday cheer is just a stop away! Swing through our lobby to grab a cookie, sip something warm, and pick up your 2026 photo calendar. It's our way of saying thanks and spreading joy!

When: Friday, December 19th • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: The Lobby at TWEC Headquarters

Rudolph's Reindeer Roundup

Starting in December, join Rudolph's Reindeer Roundup! Rudolph's gone exploring across our website, and we need your help to track him down! He's hiding on three different pages; each time you spot him, you'll have a chance to enter to win a holiday prize. *Here's how it works:*

- Search TWEC's website and **keep your eyes peeled** for Rudolph.
- When you find him, **click on his image** to open the entry form.
- Submit your **name and TWEC service address** to be entered into the drawing.
- **Find all three** Rudolphs to triple your chances of winning!

Let the hunt begin—and may your holiday spirit guide you to victory!

Gratitude in Action

As the season of gratitude arrives, I want to take a moment to reflect on what makes Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative truly special—you, our members. Your trust, involvement, and willingness to engage with us are what turn this cooperative from a utility into a community.

This year, we've been especially grateful for the voices of our members. Through your participation in our recent member survey, you've shared valuable feedback that helps guide our decisions and improve the way we serve you. Every comment, suggestion, and idea reminds us that listening is one of the most powerful ways to show gratitude. If you haven't had the chance to share your thoughts yet, there's still time to take the survey. Your feedback truly helps us do our best.

Gratitude at Todd-Wadena doesn't stop at words—it inspires action. Through programs like *Operation Round Up*, your generosity directly supports local families, students, and organizations. Every time you round up your bill, you're helping an organization in need and strengthening the place we all call home.

That same spirit extends to our work in local economic development. We're proud to partner with community leaders, businesses, and organizations to help our region grow and thrive. When our local economy is strong, our entire cooperative benefits.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

We're also looking forward to two special community efforts this holiday season—our *Meals for Members* program and participating in Wadena's *Empty Stocking* drive. These initiatives bring comfort, warmth, and care to local families during the winter months. More information will be shared soon on how you can get involved and help spread kindness in our communities.

We are proud to be part of a cooperative family that gives so freely, not just during the holidays, but all year long. Whether it's a member volunteering time, a crew restoring power in the early hours, or a small act of kindness between neighbors, these moments reflect what makes our cooperative and our community strong.

I want to thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and support. You remind us every day that the strength of our cooperative comes from the people it serves.

From all of us at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, we wish you a safe, warm, and joy-filled Thanksgiving season.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

SCAN TO GO TO ONLINE SURVEY

HAPPY Thanksgiving

TWEC Board Minutes

Highlights from the September 25, 2025, regular board meeting:

- *Iva Hinson, the 2025 NRECA Youth Tour winner, gave a short presentation about her experience visiting Washington, D.C. and meeting with representatives on Capitol Hill. She thanked the Board of Directors for allowing her to represent the Cooperative.*
- *CEO Dan Carlisle shared highlights from the fall CEO conference. He also proposed a schedule to review TWEC Bylaws.*
- *Board Member Mike Thorson gave the Great River Energy (GRE) report. GRE has been working towards becoming "Carbon Free" by 2040 to satisfy Minnesota's regulations.*
- *The following language was added to Policy 306 Construction, Content J.3 Lighting: "The Cooperative reserves the right to make final determination of selection, application, location, routing, and design of its equipment."*
- *Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the August financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 4 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 4 percent under budget. August's purchased power expense was 4 percent under budget. TIER is 1.74 and Equity is 41.06.*
- *The board approved the RUS Loan for $8.5 million to finance the 2025-2028 workplan.*
- *The 2024 Key Ratio Trend Analysis results were presented to the board.*
- *Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. The STAR team has been busy with multiple projects, including promoting and growing the NOVA software option, taking on additional engineering work, and developing wildfire mitigation plans for customers.*

Pick Up Your 2026 Calendar!

TWEC's 2026 calendars will be available for pickup the week of Thanksgiving. Stop by to pick up a calendar at our office or at one of our pickup locations throughout the service territory *(locations listed below calendar preview)*. Love our calendars? So does everyone else! With limited quantities at each spot, we ask you to grab just 1–2 so your neighbors can enjoy them too. ***Thank you to all of our members who submitted photos!***

WINNERS

January
Daniel Caponera

February
Owen Anderson

March
Ronat Converse

April
Kara Brockpahler

May
Brittney Ewert

June
Jennifer Allen

July
Samantha Krause

August
Heather Barrett

September
Kristi Walburn-Dahl

October
Teresa Perish

November
Kathleen Shaffer

December
Missy Beyatt

Cover photo
Angie Hartwig

Pick Up Locations

Browerville: Konetzko's Meat Market // *516 Main St. S.*
Long Prairie: Chamber of Commerce/Great River Regional Library's Foyer // *43 3rd St. N.*
Menahga: A Clean Plate Local & Organic Grocery // *13 Birch Ave. SE*
Staples: Hubbard's Hardware // *205 Warner Road NE*
Wadena: Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative // *550 Ash Avenue NE (Hwy. 10)*

Interested in Becoming a TWEC Director?

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors plays a vital role in guiding the future of our co-op. These dedicated individuals represent our members, make key decisions, and help ensure reliable, affordable service for all.

Directors:

- ✔ Attend monthly meetings to discuss co-op operations
- ✔ Dive into reports and policies to stay informed
- ✔ Participate in conferences and training sessions
- ✔ Make strategic decisions on rates, power supply, and financial planning
- ✔ Champion the cooperative business model
- ✔ Navigate political, environmental, and member-driven challenges

It's a role that requires commitment, curiosity, and a passion for community. If you're ready to help shape the future of TWEC, consider becoming a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Interested? Reach out to a member of the **Nominating Committee** *(listed below)* to learn more.

2026 Nominating Committee

Name	City	Phone Number
Jerome Miller	Sebeka	(218) 837-5690
Wally Wiese	Verndale	(218) 639-6348
Ray Gildow	Staples	(218) 821-8848
Annette Adamietz	Verndale	(218) 445-5190
Samantha Krause	Staples	(507) 766-0238
Heather Gilreath	Nimrod/Sebeka	(218) 841-0309
Lloyd Lanz	Wadena	(218) 639-1806
Dan Skogen	Hewitt	(218) 639-3405

Members interested in becoming a director candidate may also contact the cooperative office at (218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932 or by emailing Kallie Baxter at **kbaxter@toddwadena.coop**.

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

How Capital Credits Work

Capital credits go through two steps on their way to members. They are first ***allocated;*** then, at a later time when the cooperative is able, they are ***retired*** (or dispersed) to members.

1 ALLOCATION

An *allocation* is made annually for each member based on the amount of electricity purchased. The allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements and maintenance over a period of years.

When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.

Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the time they have membership.

At the end of each year, any funds remaining after expenses (margins) are allocated to the member's account based on percentage of electricity purchased.

The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance until the board of directors retires capital credits.

2 RETIREMENT

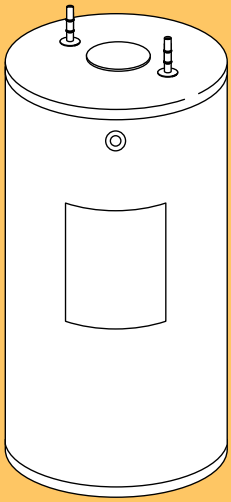
A *retirement* is the amount a member receives back as a refund. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is no longer needed for operating expenses, it is retired. The amount paid is decided annually by the board of directors based on the financial conditions of the cooperative, and is subject to Rural Utility Services (RUS) and other lending institutions.

When the board elects to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount to pay each member based on historical allocation.

Annually, the board of directors evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative to determine whether to retire capital credits.

Active members have their capital credits applied to their account as an energy credit on their December bill. Checks are mailed to former members.

Notice to Members Enrolled in the Peak Shave Water Heating Program



Are you enrolled in our Peak Shave Water Heating load management program? ***If your water heating setup has changed***, let us know so we can update our records.

These updates help us keep our records accurate and ensure the program runs smoothly. Contact Kallie at (218) 631-3120 or email at ***mbrservices@toddwadena.coop***

If you still have your 85-gallon or 105-gallon tank, or a working 2-tank system, **no** action is needed.

Please contact us if one or more of the following is true:

- ✔ You've connected a wood stove to your water heater
- ✔ You no longer have a 2-tank system
- ✔ You've switched to natural gas, propane, or a tankless water heater
- ✔ Water heater is no longer being used (old milkhouse/barn, abandoned house, etc.)

Thank you for helping us serve you better!

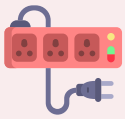
Keep Safety in Mind This Holiday Season

The holidays bring warmth and cheer—but also an increased risk of electrical and fire hazards. A few simple precautions can help keep your home and family safe.

Inspect and use decorations safely.

Before hanging lights or plugging in décor, check for cracked sockets, frayed wires, or loose connections. Only use products with safety labels from trusted testing labs like UL, CSA, or ETL. Avoid overloading outlets—plug only one high-wattage item into each outlet—and never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.

Protect cords and keep decorations clear of heat.



Prevent shock or fire hazards by keeping cords out from under rugs or furniture and away from heat sources. Don't pinch or nail them in place. Maintain at least three feet of space between decorations and fireplaces, heaters, or candles.

Be mindful with trees and candles.

If you have a real tree, keep it fresh and watered daily—dry trees are a major fire hazard. Instead of open-flame candles, choose battery-operated ones. Candles are responsible for nearly half of all home decoration fires (NFPA).

Stay attentive in the kitchen.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Always stay nearby when food is on the stove.

Power down before bed or heading out.

Turn off and unplug all decorations—and extinguish any candles—before leaving home or going to sleep. Nearly half of all home fire deaths occur between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. (NFPA).

With a little extra care, you can enjoy a safe, bright, and worry-free holiday season.

Medical Alert List

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative maintains a *Medical Alert List* to identify households with residents who rely on life-support equipment. This includes devices such as:

- ***Oxygen concentrators***
- ***Ventilators***
- ***Respirators***
- ***Home dialysis systems***
- ***Other medically necessary equipment for life-threatening conditions***

Placing your account on the medical alert list does not guarantee uninterrupted service. If the individual using life-sustaining equipment cannot be without power for any length of time, TWEC recommends developing alternate plans.

Why it Matters: If you're on our *Medical Alert List*, we'll attempt to notify you before any planned outage—giving you time to make alternative arrangements. Notifications are sent via automated calls and emails to the contact information we have on file.

During unplanned outages, our restoration process begins with the system backbone. Once stabilized, we prioritize members on the Medical Alert List.

How to Enroll: If someone in your household has a critical health condition or uses electricity-dependent medical equipment, please have your medical provider complete the *Medical Equipment Priority* form.

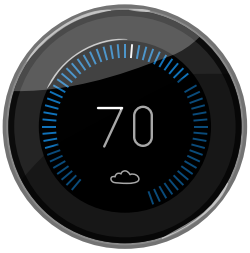
You can find it by scanning the QR code above, or by visiting ***www.toddwadena.coop/medicalalert***

Electrifying ideas for every home and budget this holiday season!

Give gifts that make life brighter, cozier, and more ***energy-efficient*** this holiday season. Whether you're shopping for tech lovers, outdoor enthusiasts, or anyone who loves comfort, these ideas will spark joy while saving energy!

Smart & Savvy Tech

- **Smart Plugs & Power Strips:** Control lamps, decorations, or appliances from your phone and reduce phantom energy use.
- **Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat:** Perfect for keeping cozy while managing heating costs—plus rebates may apply!
- **Rechargeable Headlamps or Flashlights:** Great for hunters, campers, or storm-prepared households.



Cozy Comfort Gifts

- **Electric Throw Blanket or Heated Mattress Pad:** Warm up efficiently and avoid cranking up the thermostat.
- **Heated Slippers or Socks:** Because toasty toes make every day brighter!
- **Electric Kettle or Coffee Maker:** Quick, efficient, and perfect for chilly mornings.

For the Adventurers

- **Portable EV Charger or Charging Cable Organizer:** Handy for electric vehicle owners.
- **Battery-Powered Heated Jacket/Vest or Handwarmers:** Ideal for outdoor work or winter recreation.
- **Power Bank:** Keeps phones charged on the go.

Energy-Smart Home Upgrades

- **LED Light Bulb Variety Pack:** Energy savings that last all year.
- **Smart Light Strips or Dimmable Lamps:** Create festive ambiance with efficient lighting.
- **Insulated Curtains or Window Sealing Kits:** Not flashy, but they keep the cold out and savings in.

Just for Fun

- **Mini Plasma Ball or Lightning Globe:** A fun, electric-themed desk gadget.
- **DIY STEM Kits:** Inspire young minds with hands-on electric circuit or solar car kits.

Check with TWEC for available rebates on smart thermostats or EV chargers — making your gift even more rewarding!

Note: Our offices will be closed on the following dates.

- **November 27th–28th** for Thanksgiving
- **December 24th-25th** for Christmas
- **January 1st** for New Years Day

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers, and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: www.energy.gov

Operation Round Up Grants in October

In October, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Community Trust Board awarded $5,700 in Operation Round Up® grants to three local organizations. These funds fuel meaningful work happening right here in our communities!

Organization		Amount
Wadena County Humane Society	*Creating a Family Project*	$2,000
Sounds of Spirit Lake	*2026 Season of Summer Concerts for Sounds of Spirit Lake*	$1,500
Sebeka Fire & Rescue	*Pagers*	$2,200
Total		**$5,700**

Want to help? If you're not already rounding up, it's easy to enroll—just contact us or visit our website. Operation Round Up lets you round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar. The average member gives just $6 a year—less than your favorite specialty coffee. But when thousands of members join in, those small contributions become powerful support for nonprofits and community programs across our service area.

Apply for a grant! If your organization is making a difference in our community, consider applying for an Operation Round Up grant. We'd love to support your mission!

Community Trust Board

Left to right:
Samantha Krause, Kristine Hendrickson *(Chair)*, Sandy Mumm, Peter Fink *(Vice Chair)*, Heidi Huotari *(Secretary/Treasurer)*, Al Withers
Not pictured: Cathy Riewer

Be a Tree Trimmer

Celebrate the ***Season of Giving*** with us! Make sure every child in our community has a gift to open this Christmas by *1) Donating new toys, hats, or mittens for boys and girls ages 0-7*, or *2) Donating money*. Help us bring joy to a child's Christmas this year!

We are collecting items for the Wadena Empty Stocking fund through December 5th.

Toys for Tots: Bringing Holiday Cheer to Local Families

The holiday season should be magical for every child—and ***Toys for Tots*** helps make that happen. Families in need can receive free toys for their children, with no financial information, residency requirements, or nominations required. Parents, grandparents, foster parents, and guardians are all welcome.

What makes this program special is the opportunity for caregivers to "shop" for toys during designated distribution dates, selecting gifts that best fit their children's interests and personalities.

Toy Distribution Dates

- **Sunday, December 7th • 1-5 p.m.**
- **Monday, December 8th • 3-7 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 9th • 3-7 p.m.**

Fast Pass Option

To make the experience as simple and welcoming as possible, families can pre-register for a faster shopping visit at ***wadena-mn.toysfortots.org***.

For more information about toy distribution, donation drop-off locations, or volunteer opportunities, contact Kim Dailey at ***wadena.mn@toysfortots.org***.

Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for members & friends of

Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Office Hours: *8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday*

Telephone: *(218) 631-3120 or (800) 321-8932*

Website: *www.toddwadena.coop*

Email: *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:
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

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www.instagram.com/twec.coop

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November 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 **December 15th**.

1. In December, serach TWEC's website and keep your eyes peeled for _____.
2. The holiday open house will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, December _____ in our lobby.
3. Please contact TWEC if your _____ heating setup has changed for members enrolled in the Peak Shave Water Heating program.

Name: **Your TWEC Account Number:**

Beatrice Backholm of Menahga was the September Reader's Contest winner.