Todd-Wadena
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pine to Prairie
www.toddwadena.coop
November 2026



Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 22nd
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Lobby

The holiday season is here, and we'd love to celebrate with you! Swing through our lobby to grab a cookie, sip something warm, and pick up a copy of the 2027 photo calendar. In a hurry? No problem. We'll have to-go cups ready so you can take the holiday cheer with you.



Capital Credits: Your Cooperative Ownership at Work

By Lisa Graba-Meech, Chief Financial Officer


Lisa Graba-Meech

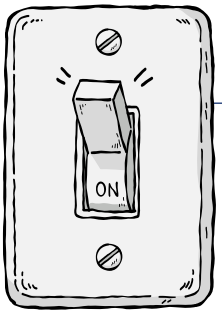
One of the things that makes Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) different from other electric utilities is that we are owned by the members we serve. As a not-for-profit cooperative, our focus is on providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, not generating profits for outside investors. One of the ways our members benefit from this ownership is through capital credits.

I am pleased to share that at the October meeting, your Board of Directors approved the retirement of **$478,000** in capital credits from TWEC to members for the *balance of 2009* and a *portion of 2010*. There is no capital credit retirement from GRE this year.

Active members receiving capital credits will see them applied directly as a credit on their December bill, regardless of the amount. Inactive members who are eligible for a retirement will receive a check if their retirement amount is $10 or more. Amounts less than $10 will be held and accumulated until they reach the minimum $10 distribution threshold.

Why aren't capital credits returned immediately? When the cooperative's revenues exceed the costs of providing electric service, the remaining margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on their electricity purchased during that year.

Continued on page 4



Planning Today for the Power We'll Need Tomorrow



Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

When you flip a light switch, you expect the power to be there. But providing reliable electricity doesn't happen one day, or even one year at a time. Many of the decisions that determine how electricity reaches your home or business are made years, and sometimes decades, in advance.

At Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC), planning for tomorrow means looking at how much electricity our members may need in the future and making sure the electric system is prepared to meet that demand reliably and affordably.

Electricity needs are continually changing. Electric vehicles, electric heating, new technology, business growth, and potential large electric loads can all affect how much power our system needs to deliver. At the same time, existing infrastructure ages and eventually needs to be upgraded or replaced.

That means TWEC and our power supplier must continually ask: How much electricity will members need five, 10, 20, or even 30 years from now, and what investments need to be made today to prepare for it? These forecasts help guide decisions about generation resources, transmission lines, substations, distribution equipment, and other infrastructure.

Building or upgrading electric infrastructure isn't something that happens overnight. A major transmission project, for example, can take years of engineering, permitting, regulatory review, land acquisition, and construction before it is ready to serve members.

The same long-term thinking applies to our power supply portfolio. The electricity TWEC purchases for its members comes from a mix of resources and contractual arrangements. Building a diverse power supply portfolio helps balance reliability, cost, availability, and risk over time.

To secure favorable contracts and competitive wholesale power rates, power supply agreements are often negotiated many years in advance. Some commitments can extend 20 or even 30 years into the future. Longer-term agreements can provide greater cost certainty and help secure reliable sources of electricity, but they also require careful forecasting because decisions made today may affect members for decades.

That is why understanding future electric demand is so important. We need to have enough power and infrastructure available when members need it, while avoiding unnecessary costs from securing more resources than are needed.

Planning for Growth

One of the biggest questions facing the electric industry is how quickly electricity demand will grow. A new commercial or industrial facility can add significant electric load to a system. Emerging technologies and large-load developments can require even greater amounts of electricity.

Growth can create opportunities, but it also requires careful planning. Our goal is to make decisions that allow our communities to grow while protecting the reliability and affordability our members depend on.

TWEC doesn't make every decision affecting our electric system on our own. We work closely with our wholesale power supplier and other industry partners on long-term power supply and transmission planning.

Our role is to bring the perspective of TWEC members to those discussions. When decisions are being considered that could affect future costs or reliability, we advocate for the needs of the rural homes, farms, businesses, and communities we serve.

The electric system of 2040 or 2050 may look different from the one we have today. What won't change is our responsibility to plan carefully. The decisions being made today will help determine the reliability, affordability, and flexibility of your electric service for decades to come; that's why planning for tomorrow starts long before tomorrow arrives.

Daniel Carlisle
President/CEO & General Counsel

Your Voice Matters. Your Leadership Matters.

Have you ever wondered how decisions are made at Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative?

As a member-owned cooperative, TWEC's Board of Directors plays a vital role in guiding the future of our co-op. These dedicated individuals represent the membership, provide oversight, and help make important decisions that ensure reliable, affordable electric service for the communities we serve.



Board Directors are responsible for:

- ✔ *Attending monthly meetings to discuss cooperative operations and key issues*
- ✔ *Reviewing reports, policies, and financial information to stay informed*
- ✔ *Participating in industry conferences, training opportunities, and educational programs*
- ✔ *Helping make strategic decisions regarding rates, power supply, and long-term financial planning*
- ✔ *Advocating for and strengthening the cooperative business model*
- ✔ *Addressing emerging political, environmental, and member-focused challenges*

Serving on the Board requires commitment, curiosity, and a passion for community. It is also a rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful difference while helping ensure TWEC remains strong, reliable, and member-focused for generations to come.

If you're ready to share your perspective, represent your fellow members, and help shape the future of TWEC, consider becoming a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Interested in learning more? Contact a member of the ***Nominating Committee*** listed below or call Kallie at the office at (218) 631-3120. The Nominating Committee will meet on January 6th, 2027 to bring forth nominations.

Wally Wiese	*Verndale*	**(218) 639-6348**
Ray Gildow	*Staples*	**(218) 821-8848**
Annette Adamietz	*Verndale*	**(218) 445-5190**
Jon Krause	*Staples*	**(218) 296-0828**
Heather Gilreath	*Sebeka*	**(218) 841-0309**
Lloyd Lanz	*Wadena*	**(218) 639-1806**
Dan Skogen	*Hewitt*	**(218) 639-3405**
Bruce Lund	*Staples*	**(218) 296-2372**
Diane Breitling	*Verndale*	**(218) 316-1923**
John Dulas	*Verndale*	**(218) 640-1685**
Aaron Wendel	*Eagle Bend*	**(218) 639-9304**

Your cooperative. Your voice. Your chance to lead.



Be a Tree Trimmer This Christmas!

Help us spread holiday cheer and make Christmas brighter for local children through the ***Wadena Empty Stocking Fund***.

There are two easy ways to give:

1) Donate new toys, hats, or mittens for boys and girls ages 0-7
2) Make a monetary donation to support holiday gift purchases

Your generosity helps ensure that every child in our community has a gift to open this Christmas.

We are collecting donations through **December 4th** in our lobby. Join us in sharing the spirit of giving and helping bring joy to a child's Christmas this year!



TWEC's office will be closed on the following dates:

- **November 11th**
  Veterans Day
- **November 26th–27th**
  for Thanksgiving
- **December 17th**
  Employee Meeting
  11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **December 24th-25th**
  for Christmas
- **January 1st**
  for New Year's Day

Capital Credits By Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO *(Continued from page 1)*

These allocated credits represent members' ownership in the cooperative, but they are not immediately returned. Instead, they are retained and used to help fund infrastructure improvements, maintain our electric system, and reduce the need for borrowing.

Over time, as the cooperative's financial position allows, the Board of Directors approves the retirement, or payment, of previously allocated capital credits. The credits being returned this December represent allocations from 2009 and 2010 and are based on electricity purchased during those respective years, not current electricity usage.

Operating an electric cooperative requires ongoing investments in poles, wires, substations, equipment, and technology. Regular maintenance and system improvements are essential to maintaining reliable service, and those investments come at a cost.

By using allocated capital credits to help fund these needs, TWEC can reduce its reliance on borrowed money. Less borrowing means lower interest expenses, which helps keep electric rates affordable for members over the long term. Just as importantly, investing in maintenance and improvements today helps prevent more costly repairs and reliability concerns in the future.

Your Board of Directors carefully evaluates the cooperative's financial health, cash flow, future system needs, and long-term obligations when determining how much to return to members. The goal is to strike the right balance between returning money to members today and protecting the affordability and reliability of electric service tomorrow.

As your CFO, I take seriously the responsibility of managing our cooperative's financial resources. I'm proud that we can return money to our members while continuing to make the investments needed to maintain a strong and reliable electric system.

When you review your December bill, and if you were a member during 2009 or 2010, look for your capital credit refund! It's a tangible reminder that TWEC is more than your electricity provider, it's a cooperative you own.

Learn more about capital credits at ***www.toddwadena.coop/capitalcredits*** or scan the QR code.

Solar Insights Member Task Force

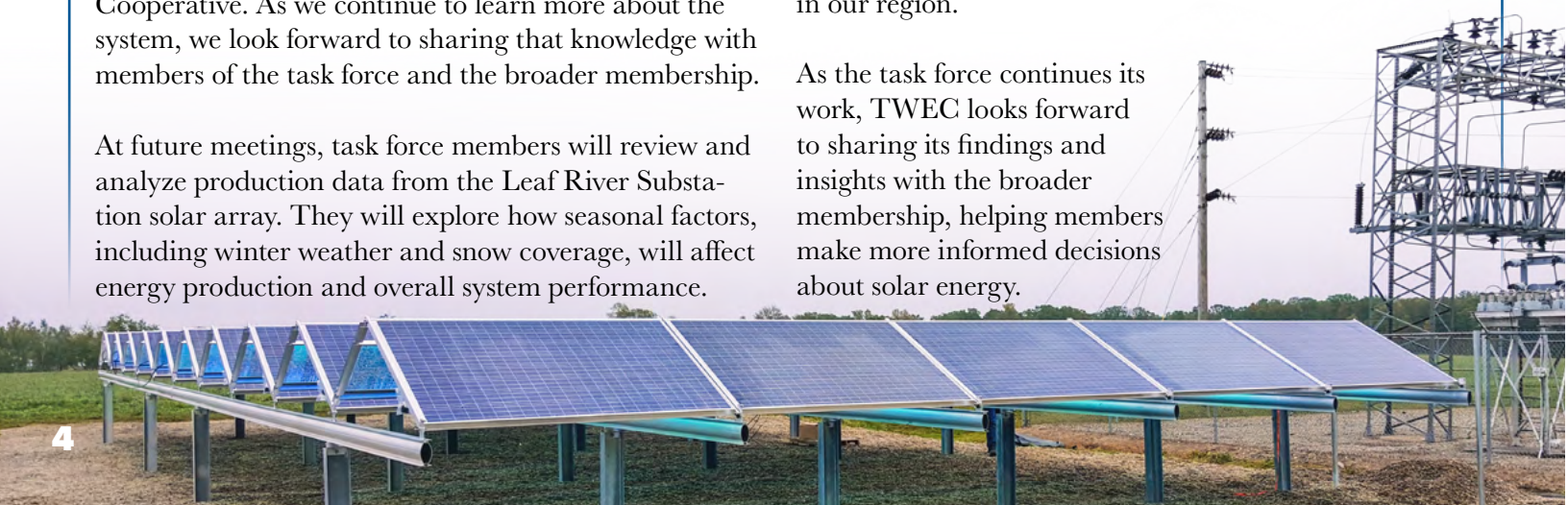
The *Solar Insights Member Task Force* held its kickoff meeting on October 13th, bringing together 10 Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) members interested in learning more about the solar array located at our Leaf River Substation.

The solar array was originally purchased and maintained by our power supplier, Great River Energy. In March of this year, ownership and responsibility for the system were transferred to Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative. As we continue to learn more about the system, we look forward to sharing that knowledge with members of the task force and the broader membership.

At future meetings, task force members will review and analyze production data from the Leaf River Substation solar array. They will explore how seasonal factors, including winter weather and snow coverage, will affect energy production and overall system performance.

The goal of the task force is to gain a better understanding of the opportunities and limitations of solar energy through real-world data and open discussion. Because the Leaf River array is a relatively small-scale system, its production data can provide useful insights for members with residential solar installations. Members who already have solar panels may be able to compare production trends with their own systems, while those considering solar can gain a more realistic understanding of what to expect from solar generation in our region.

As the task force continues its work, TWEC looks forward to sharing its findings and insights with the broader membership, helping members make more informed decisions about solar energy.



Todd-Wadena's 2027 Calendars

TWEC's 2027 calendars will be available for pickup starting November 17th. Stop by to pick up a calendar at our office or at one of our pickup locations throughout the service territory *(locations listed below)*. ***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!

Pickup 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)*



Cover photo
Ronat Converse

January
Heather Barrett



February
Gary Johnson



March
Judith Walters



April
Arlene Koski



May
Brittney Ewert



June
Mark Wohlert



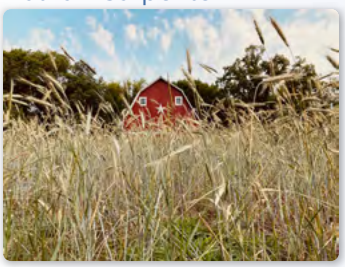
July
Sarah Olson



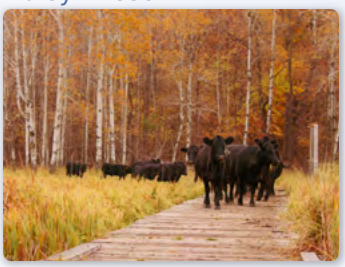
August
Jody Hagenson



September
Nathan Carpenter



October
Haley Wiese



November
Lavonne Nikkari



December
Betty Kreklau



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

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, such as purchasing a back up generator.

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 or by visiting ***toddwadena.coop/medicalalert***

Electrical Safety Tips

The holiday season is a festive time of year! Remember to keep electrical and fire safety in mind as you decorate your home.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households. Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments.

Source: www.energy.gov

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

Operation Round Up Grants in October

In October, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Community Trust Board awarded $6,198 in Operation Round Up® grants to five local organizations. These funds fuel meaningful work happening right here in our communities!

Organization		Amount
Wadena Hockey Association	*Equipment for Youth*	$2,000
Wadena County-Friendly Rider	*Summer Recreation/Activity Free Rides*	$498
Bertha Area Food Shelf	*Holiday Table*	$900
Browerville Legacy Museum	*Alarming of Museum Entrances*	$800
Staples Historical Society	*Polar Xpress-Christmas Festival*	$2,000
Total		**$6,198**

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 at ***www.toddwadena.coop/oru***. We'd love to support your mission!

Trust Board Members (Left to right):
Vice President Al Withers, Sandy Mumm, Secretary/Treasurer Samantha Krause, Karie Steinke, and President Peter Fink.
Not pictured: Cathy Riewer and Kelly Haugen



TWEC Board Minutes

Highlights from the September 25th, 2026, regular board meeting:

- *CEO Dan Carlisle reported how TWEC, Great River Energy (GRE), and other Minnesota cooperatives continue to have robust discussions regarding the future impact of renewables on the grid. He also shared highlights from the fall CEO conference.*
- *Luke Johnson, CEO at Meeker Energy, joined the meeting to talk about why he is running for the NRECA Board position for Minnesota.*
- *Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE board report. Future energy supply continues to be a main area of focus for the board. Over the next 10-20 years, GRE will need an additional 400 MW of generation.*
- *Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the August financials to the board. Monthly kWh sales were 18 percent over budget. Energy revenue was 5 percent over budget. August's purchased power expense was 10 percent over budget. TIER is 1.99 and Equity is 42.19.*
- *The board reviewed and approved the 2027 Wage and Benefit package.*
- *The management team, led by CFC, conducted a thorough risk assessment exercise this summer and presented the results to the board. The report was accepted as presented.*
- *Member & Energy Services Manager Allison Frederickson reviewed the Survey and Ballots quote for the ballot for TWEC's 2027 election, which includes proposed bylaw amendments. The board approved the following voting options: in-person, via post mail, and through electronic means.*
- *Operations Manager Tyler Fisher provided an update on workplan projects. The Operations Department has already begun prepping for 2027 projects.*
- *Board Secretary Marie Katterhagen gave the STAR Energy report. Financials continue to be strong at STAR.*
- *Board Chair Miles Kuschel discussed how AI use continues to be a hot topic, and cooperatives are being encouraged to put an AI use policy in place.*

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.

Find us on

www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative
www.instagram.com/twec.coop

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 431
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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 a photo 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 25th**.

1. The Nominating Committee will meet on _____ 6th, 2027 to bring forth director nominations.
2. We're collecting new toys, hats, or mittens for children in need for the Wadena Empty _____ Fund.
3. If you were a member during 2009 or 2010, look for your capital credit refund on the _____ bill.

Name:	**Your TWEC Account Number:**

Norman Drone of Verndale was the September Reader's Contest winner.

