



Grants available to nonprofit entities

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) is excited to partner with CoBank in the Sharing Success matching grant program once again this year.

NPEC’s board of directors can decide to award up to four grants, for a total of \$10,000. Matching funds will be requested through CoBank’s Sharing Success program.

To qualify for the grant, an organization must be a certificated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or fire/ambulance department located within NPEC’s service territory.

CoBank is a cooperative lending institution that provides loans and other financial services to vital industries throughout rural America, including agribusiness, water, communications and power providers. CoBank is headquartered outside of Denver, Colo.

The Sharing Success program was launched by CoBank in 2012 and was designed to celebrate the vital role cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

RDFC

Since NPEC is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC), we are eligible to apply for a grant up to \$2,000 to be used to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects.

Eligible projects include community-owned businesses (cafe, grocery store, motel, other); community facilities (ambulance services, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center, other); or community-based projects (school/youth projects, other) that benefit rural areas and lead to community betterment.

RDFC makes these funds available, so more people become aware of its larger loan program that funds community-based projects and nonprofit entities with low-interest loans.

Contact Cheryl Belle, business manager, at 800-882-2500, with questions or to request an application. The application deadline is June 17. ■

MAY 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Scholarship opportunity
- Contractors in the area
- Employee news



Scholarship opportunity for class of 2022

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) invites member dependents who are in the graduating class of 2022 to join us for our annual meeting. NPEC strongly believes in the future of area students and takes pride in helping develop future leaders, so the NPEC board approved two \$1,000 scholarships to be given away at this year's meeting in a luck-of-the-draw format.


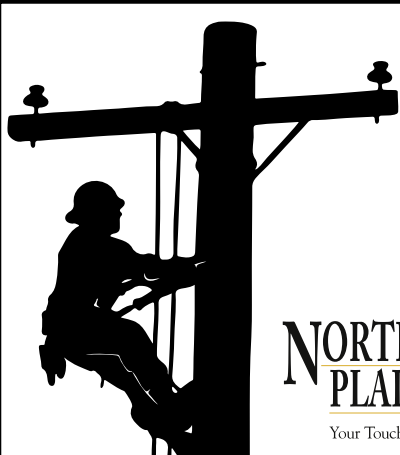
Luck-of-the-draw scholarship qualifications:

1) Student must be a graduated senior, class of 2022,

who will be attending college in the fall semester of 2022.

- 2) Student must be a dependent of an NPEC member. Student will need to register using a guardian's account information.
- 3) Student must be present to win.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at the North Dakota Farmers Union headquarters in Jamestown. Registration and meal will be from 5 to 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6 p.m. ■



JOIN US
NORTHERN PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
2022 ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 14
Jamestown, ND
North Dakota Farmers Union headquarters
Register/Meal: 5-6 p.m.
Meeting: 6 p.m.

-Learn cooperative updates, industry issues and how they affect your electric service
-Enjoy a free meal catered by Snack Attack & dessert by Duchessa Gelato!
-Door prizes & cash drawings! -Two \$1,000 luck-of-the-draw college scholarships

SPRING INTO SAFETY IN MAY

Every day, we rely on electricity to power our homes, farms and businesses. However, it is important to always be safe around electric appliances, equipment and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and it's a great time to raise awareness on how to avoid potential electrical hazards.

By taking simple precautions, everyone can avoid electrical-related fires, fatalities, injuries and property loss. Here are some safety tips from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative:

INSIDE

Make sure all light bulbs are the appropriate wattage for the fixture.

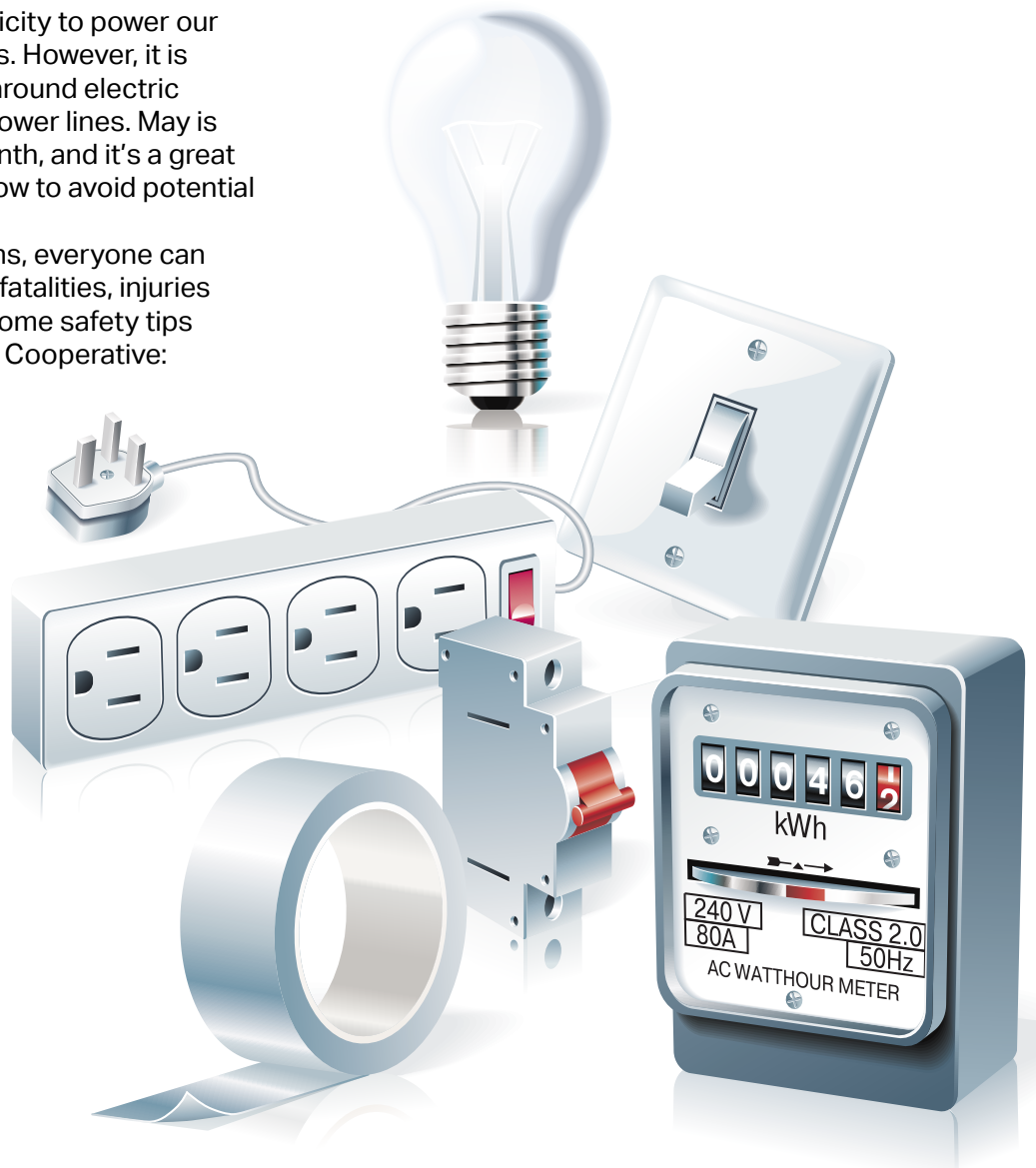
Avoid plugging too many devices into one outlet.

If small children are present, use tamper-resistant outlets.

Keep your electrical panel free from obstructions.

Remember extension cords are intended to be temporary; they are not intended as permanent wiring.

Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets in the kitchen, bathroom and other potentially damp areas.



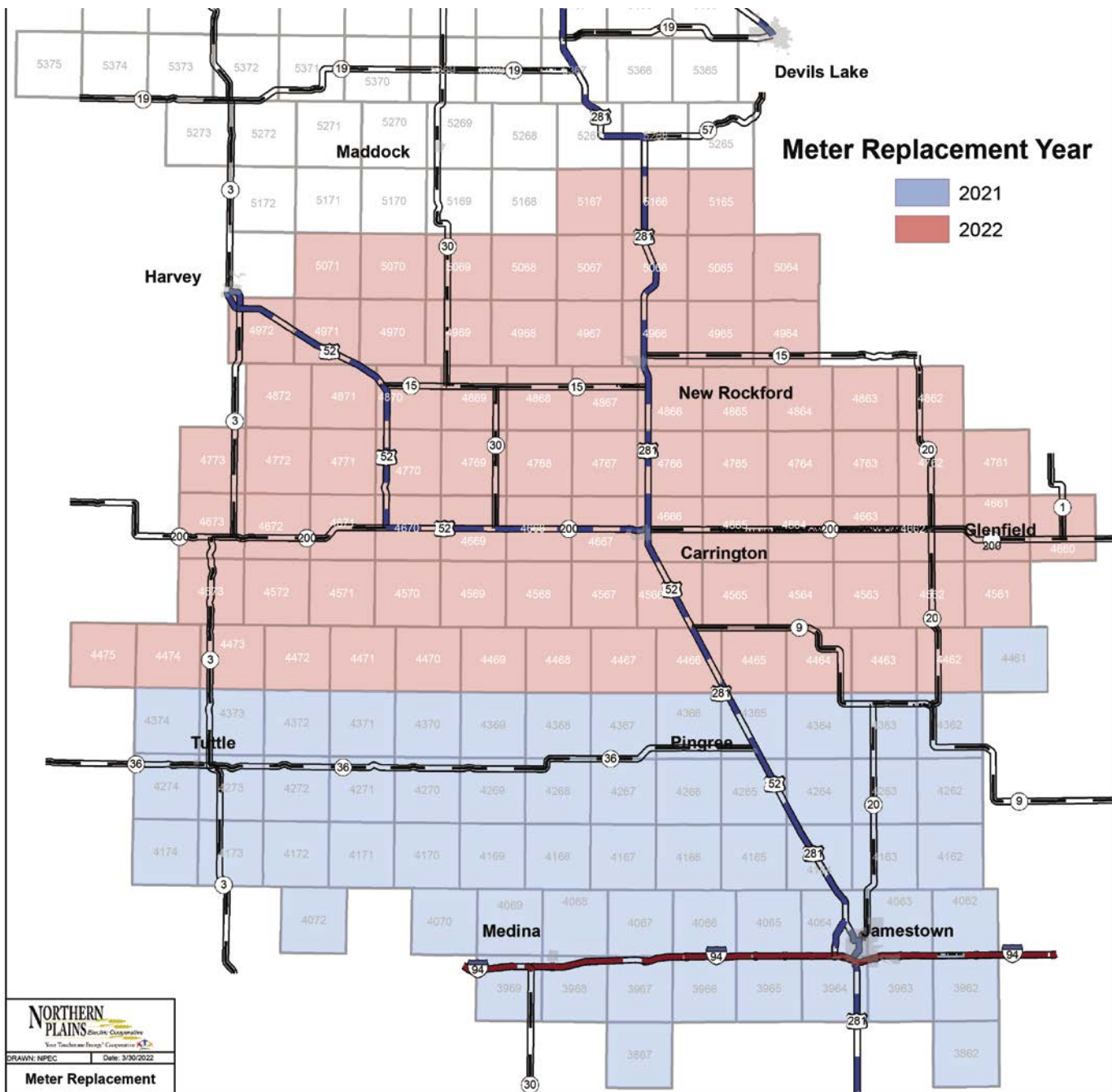
OUTSIDE

Install protective covers on all outlets and make sure they are GFCIs.

Use only weather-resistant extension cords marked for outdoor use.

Power lines may be underground. Before digging, call 811 to have utility lines marked.

Look around for overhead power lines before using a ladder or trimming a tree branch.



Contractors may be in your area

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) has approximately 74,000 poles on about 3,900 miles of overhead line in its system, 2,781 miles of buried cable and serves over 11,500 meters. It takes a lot of moving parts to maintain the reliability of NPEC's system. Much of that maintenance needs to be

squeezed into the spring and summer months, while construction projects are in full effect.

To improve efficiency, NPEC hires contractors to work on some of the larger power line improvements, including pole testing, pole replacements, meter exchanges, plowing cable and cable locates. NPEC

wants to inform our members that contractors may be in your area and they may need to access your property.

Pole testing

For the past couple years, NPEC has hired RAM Utilities, a utility service company from Moorhead, Minn., to inspect our utility poles to ensure they are safe. RAM Utilities conducts a series of tests, including a visual inspection, a sound test and boring inspections, to determine if the pole is in need of treatment or replacement.

So far, 19,750 of 74,000 of NPEC's poles have been inspected by RAM. This spring, poles in south Pierce County, southwest Benson County and a majority of Wells County are scheduled to be tested. RAM team members will be accessing all cooperative distribution lines using pickups and ATVs.

Pole replacements

Last year, 7,767 poles were tested in the Tuttle, Robinson and Woodworth areas. Some 815 poles tested were rejected and will be replaced by the co-op with help from Legacy Power Line Inc. out of Wadena, Minn., this summer. Most of these changeouts are being conducted "hot," meaning members will not lose power. It is important to note that just because a pole is rejected doesn't mean it was in imminent danger of failure. The purpose of the inspection process is to prevent future issues.

Cable locating

To improve NPEC's efficiency, Summit Locating out of Missoula, Mont., handles all underground cable locates in our system. By law, utilities only have 48 hours to get the lines marked, often pulling a crew member from our busy construction season to locate.

To make a locate request, by law, you must call 811 two or three days prior to the start of your project. The operator will notify all the utilities affected by your project, including NPEC. Wait two to three days for the affected utilities to respond to your request. Electric cables will be marked with red flags.

In 2021, Summit Locating conducted 2,500 locates in the NPEC territory. Outsourcing our locates has allowed our crews to efficiently work on construction projects with little or no interruptions.

Construction

Integrity Contracting Inc. from Shevlin, Minn., will be helping crews with plowing cable this summer.

They will be working all around the NPEC service area, with two big projects scheduled for the Bisbee and Carrington areas. Integrity uses a variety of equipment and vehicles that may need to access your property. Its logo and name will be posted on equipment.

Meter replacements

Starting in June, meter exchanges will be conducted in the southern part of NPEC service territory. Members who have an older Power Line Carrier meter will have their meter replaced with an AMI meter by our contractor, Chapman Metering of Avoca, Iowa.

"The reasons for the meter changes are twofold: the ages of these meters and the high meter maintenance costs we are experiencing as they age," said Scott Buchholtz, NPEC's manager of IT.

This will be the second year in our projected four-year meter maintenance program. NPEC started changing meters in 2021 on the south edge of our service area in Stutsman and Kidder counties. The program will continue to move north across our service territory over the next two years, so we complete our meter maintenance by the end of 2024.

Members in the counties of northern Stutsman, northern Kidder, western Griggs, Foster, Wells, Eddy and the Oberon area of Benson are on the list for a meter exchange this summer. These members will be notified by an automated telephone call from a 800 number when the meter changes are expected to take place in their area.

Chapman Metering will be driving white service vans with its company name and our Northern Plains Electric Cooperative name on them.

Give us a call

To be informed when our meter maintenance program will be in your area, your current telephone number must be on file. To update your information, contact our office at 800-882-2500.

If you'd like to confirm whether a contractor working in your area is employed by NPEC, give us a call. Vehicles will be either marked with one of the company names or with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative logo. They may have out-of-state license plates. Provided is the list of contractors hired by NPEC. Ram Utilities, MN; Legacy Power Line, MN; Summit Locating, MT; Chapman Metering, IA; Integrity Contracting, MN. ■

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Cabler promoted to manager of operations

In February, Josh Cabler was promoted to Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's (NPEC) manager of operations, after previously serving as a lineworker for over 15 years.

"Josh has proven that he has the experience, skills and leadership to take on this new role," said Seth Syverson, general manager at NPEC.

Cabler, born and raised in Carrington, received his lineworker education at Bismarck State College in 2004. NPEC hired him as a temporary apprentice lineworker in May 2006, joining the New Rockford line crew. Cabler was then hired by the cooperative full time in November 2006 as a lineworker for the Glenfield outpost, where he earned his journeyman certificate.

In 2012, NPEC closed the Glenfield and New Rockford's warehouses and created the Carrington East crew based at the Carrington headquarters, where Cabler worked and was eventually promoted to foreman in October 2016.

As Cabler steps into the new role as manager of operations, he notes the most important aspect of the job is ensuring safety.

"My number-one priority is the safety of the crews, our consumers and the general public," he said. Cabler said he is looking forward to working with all the crews across the NPEC system and making sure they have the correct tools to do the job efficiently and safely.

In his spare time, Cabler enjoys spending time with his wife, Kristin, their three kids Kaydri, Brexyn and Rhyatt, going to the lake, golfing, attending North Dakota State University football games and watching his kids' sporting events. ■



NPEC welcomes Kennedy

Marcus Kennedy is the newest employee at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative. He joined the engineering team in March as an electrical system engineer, working out of the Carrington office.

As an electrical engineer for the cooperative, some of his responsibilities include the design, coordination, load balancing, planning and troubleshooting of the cooperative's electric power distribution system. Additionally, he will assist with the cooperative's AMI system and the supporting

communication infrastructure.

Kennedy is a native of Reynolds and a 2021 graduate of North Dakota State University. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and playing strategy games. He describes himself as a somewhat quiet individual who enjoys a good cheeseburger. Welcome to the team, Marcus! ■



Hoyt earns journeyman status

On April 1, Laine Hoyt completed all requirements of the apprenticeship program and earned his journeyman status.

A McHenry native, Hoyt graduated from the lineworker program at Bismarck State College in 2018. He was hired at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative in May 2021, working on the Carrington East crew.

Hoyt said he enjoys working for his hometown

community and being close to home. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with friends.

Congratulations, Laine! ■



NPEC announces scholarship winner



Kaylee Panchot

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative announces its 2022 Basin Electric Power scholarship winner, Kaylee Panchot.

Kaylee is a freshman at North Dakota State University, majoring in nursing and minoring in business. She works at a senior living community in West Fargo as a CNA while pursuing her degrees. Her goal is to become a registered nurse and work in a hospital, hopefully with children. She is a 2021 graduate of Jamestown High School and the daughter of Northern Plains Electric

Cooperative members, Douglas and Linda Panchot of Jamestown.

The scholarship is based on many factors, including academics, extracurricular activities, community involvement and a written essay, with the topic as: “What challenges face rural electric cooperatives in the coming years and how do you think challenges should be addressed?”

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is honored for the opportunity to play a small part in the education of young adults. Congratulations, Kaylee! ■

NPEC distributes local ORU grants



At its March meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) Operation Round Up (ORU) board of directors approved grants totaling \$9,125 to help support worthy causes.

The board meets quarterly to disburse funds to help NPEC members with medical expenses and area

nonprofit organizations. Since the program’s beginning in October 1998, grants totaling \$874,091 have been awarded to 1,220 local charitable causes.

Grants approved in March include:

- Carrington Youth Center, children’s indoor play area project
- Stutsman County Sheriff’s Office, drone project
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Rolla, replace heating system
- Leslie Hensrud, Cando, medical expenses
- Leeds Community Food Pantry, Hungry Free Food Pantry-New Rockford, Carrington Daily Bread, The Bread of Life Food Pantry-Cooperstown, Kidder County Food Pantry, Pierce County Food Pantry, Community Action-Rolla, Community Action-Jamestown, Cando Area Food Pantry, Wells County, The Hope Center-Devils Lake food pantry programs

If you would like additional information about this worthy program, please contact Northern Plains Electric Cooperative by calling 800-882-2500, or you may obtain guidelines or download applications at www.nplains.com. The board will meet again in June to review applications. The application deadline is May 20. ■

Planning a trip to Medora this summer?

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 or visit <https://medora.com/> and provide the discount code of Touch 2022 for a 15% discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

**Call 1-800-MEDORA-1
or book online at medora.com.
DISCOUNT CODE: TOUCH2022**



**NORTHERN
PLAINS** Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

CANDO OFFICE:
609 4th Ave.
Cando, ND 58324

CARRINGTON OFFICE:
1515 West Main
Carrington, ND 58421

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.nplains.com
justask@nplains.com
800-882-2500

BOARD & MANAGEMENT:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Tracy Boe, Mylo |
| Vice president..... | Curtis Wiesz, Heaton |
| Secretary/treasurer | Randall Simon, Oberon |
| Assistant secretary/treasurer..... | Dave Teigen, Rugby |
| District 1 | Mark Brehm, Cando |
| District 1 | Bruce Olsen, Cando |
| District 3..... | Lori Carlson, Jamestown |
| District 3..... | Judy Geier, Heaton |
| District 3..... | Curtis Hanson, Pettibone |
| General Manager | Seth Syverson |
| Manager of Engineering | Ashten Dewald |
| Manager of Operations | Josh Cabler |
| IT Manager | Scott Buchholtz |
| Business Manager | Cheryl Belle |
| Northern Notes Editor | Brittnee Wilson |