



The Northern Plains Electric Cooperative board of directors, including, from left to right, **Lori Carlson**, **Curtis Wiesz** and **Judy Geier**, approved the retirement of more than \$1 million in capital credits to the cooperative's members!

Board approves capital credit return to members

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) is excited to announce it will be returning a total of \$1,023,000 in capital credits to members for the year 2025. NPEC is a nonprofit organization, meaning we operate at cost. Any excess revenues or margins are returned to our members in the form of capital credits.

In October, active members who earned patronage by doing business with the cooperative in 2010 and 2024 will see a capital credit earning applied to their bill if the amount is between \$2 and \$500. If the amount is greater than \$500 or if the member's service is inactive, the refund will be issued by a check in the mail, unless the member participated in one of the cooperative's early payment capital credit buyout programs.

The amount of the check depends on a member's "patronage," or how much electricity the member purchased in those years. To date, the co-op has also made early retirements of \$231,000 to member estates and former members who requested an early buyout at

the time they left the system.

Capital credits are the most significant source of equity for most electric cooperatives. This equity is used to help meet the expenses of the co-op, such as paying for new equipment and repaying debt. Capital credits help keep rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed.

For more information on capital credits, call 800-882-2500. ■

OCTOBER 2025

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Write a winning essay and earn a trip of a lifetime!



Annabelle Staus (back left) and fellow students show pride for their home state during the 2025 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Staus won the essay contest, which earned her a seat on an all-expense-paid trip sponsored by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.

"Just do it!" This is what Annabelle Staus tells students thinking about applying to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

"It was so easy. Just write the essay," she says.

Staus joined 14 North Dakota students in June for a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., each sponsored by their local electric cooperative. Together, they explored American history, learned about the role of electric cooperatives in our communities and got a firsthand look at how our government works. Their days were filled with visits to iconic landmarks, such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Gettysburg Battlefield and our nation's Capitol.

"If I took this trip with my parents, I know we wouldn't have been able to see all that we did," Staus says. "Days were long, but we got to experience so many cool things."

One of those top experiences for Staus was a stop at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

"We saw real aircrafts – no replicas. But the coolest thing was being inside a flight simulator, kind of like being in a rollercoaster, but I was flying it!" she says.

While in Washington, D.C., another highlight for students is the opportunity to meet with their state's congressional delegates on Capitol Hill and discuss important issues.

Staus previously met Sen. Kevin Cramer in her hometown at a hospital groundbreaking ceremony and got a photo with him. When she showed him the photograph on her phone, he insisted they get another photo.

"He was really nice," Staus adds.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. Participants returned home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader and put those skills to use right here in our communities.

Applications for the 2026 Youth Tour are now open. If you know a high school sophomore or junior with a passion for leadership, service or government – or if you are one – visit nplains.com/youth-tour for details on the application process.

Just do it! You won't be disappointed. ■



Annabelle Staus had the opportunity to meet with **Senator Cramer**.



1,800 students.
7 days.
1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative! *Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.*

Learn more at ndyouthtour.com.

To enter the essay-writing contest:

- You must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.

Essay question:

As member-owned organizations, electric cooperatives are always seeking new ways to engage their members. What are some ways electric cooperatives can better communicate and connect, especially with students and young adults?

The application deadline is Jan. 16, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Brittnee Wilson, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, at 701-968-3314 during regular business hours.

Email entries to Brittnee Wilson at brittneew@nplains.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 608, Cando, ND, 58324-0608.



New Rockford rallies to rebuild historic Rockford Theatre

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



On Main Street in New Rockford once stood a building that held nearly a century of memories. Built in 1920 and previously known as the Blackstone Theatre, the beloved Rockford Theatre had been a key gathering place for generations.

Owned by the New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation (NRABC) and leased to an operator, the theater was the place to catch a weekend movie with friends and family, open Friday through Monday with a new film each week.

But in December 2022, tragedy struck. Just as a volunteer was preparing to host a group of students for a pre-Christmas break movie party, she heard unusual creaks and groans from above. Moments after she stepped outside, the roof gave way under the weight of

heavy snow. They were hoping the roof could be repaired, but an inspection deemed it unsafe, and a total teardown was ordered, leaving a significant void on Main Street.

For some communities, such a loss might have been the end of the story. For New Rockford, it became a rallying cry.

"We never questioned rebuilding. We just knew we would," said Amanda Hegland, executive director of the NRABC. "The community has been great at fundraising and giving what they can to help the cause."

Since the collapse, the NRABC has led the charge to bring the theater back to life. Their efforts are divided into two phases. The first is a \$500,000 goal to rebuild the structure itself. As of August, they were just shy of \$80,000 from reaching that mark. If the ground settles in time, the foundation will be poured this fall. Otherwise, construction will begin in the spring.

Once the walls are back up and the roof is secure, stage two of the campaign will focus on filling the theater with life once more with the addition of seats, a projector and everything needed to bring the magic of the movies back to New Rockford.

Though the path has not been easy, the resilience of the community shines through every step of the way. From significant donations from area businesses to kids selling lemonade to an elderly resident cleaning out his change jar, every bit helps, Hegland said.

Little by little, the pieces are coming together. Each fundraiser, each donation – no matter the size – has moved the project one step closer to bringing movies and memories back to Main Street.

"On behalf of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC), we are proud and honored to partner with NRABC in helping restore the theater and downtown New Rockford," said NPEC Director Randy Simon.

In July, the NPEC board of directors approved a \$2,500 donation to the NRABC's theater rebuild campaign as well as applied for two matching donations on their behalf, resulting in \$7,500 in grants. More about those donations can be found on the next page.

In rural areas like New Rockford, access to cultural and artistic venues are often limited. NRABC's hope for the revitalization of the theater will restore a sense of community and continuity for New Rockford as well as serve as a catalyst for economic growth.

To be part of the effort and help bring the theater back to life, community members can donate or learn more through the New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation. ■

Northern Plains Electric and partners award \$30,000 in grants

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) recently teamed with CoBank and Basin Electric Power Cooperative to give \$30,000 to nonprofit organizations who contribute to the communities NPEC serves.

At their July board meeting, the NPEC directors approved a donation of \$10,000 to be split among four nonprofit organizations in the co-op's service area. By teaming with CoBank and Basin Electric, NPEC helped the following nonprofits receive matching donations, resulting in a total of \$7,500 for each organization.

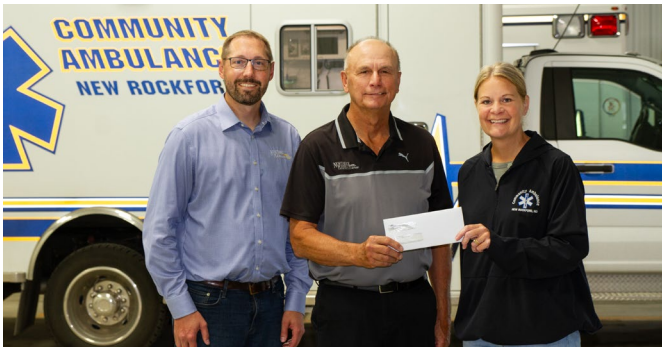
- **Community Ambulance Service of New Rockford** to help purchase a medical device called LUCAS that delivers automated chest compressions during CPR.
- **Rockford Theatre and New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation** to help rebuild the Rockford Theatre.

- **Bowdon Development Center** to help purchase a new propane furnace heater for the Bowdon Activity Center (school gym).
- **CHI St. Alexius Health Carrington** to help purchase a pulmonary function testing machine.

CoBank, a cooperative leading institution headquartered in Denver, Colo., makes these funds available through its Sharing Success matching grant program. The program was designed to celebrate the vital role cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

Basin Electric is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Bismarck that provides electricity to electric cooperatives in nine states, including NPEC.

NPEC is thankful to have partners like CoBank and Basin Electric who contribute to the communities we serve. ■



Left to right, NPEC General Manager **Seth Syverson** and NPEC Director **Randy Simon** present checks to Community Ambulance Service of New Rockford representative **Angie Hopfauf**.



Bowdon Development Center (BDCI) President **Darliss Huss** and Treasurer **Bob Martin**, right, accept grants from NPEC General Manager **Seth Syverson**.



Left to right, NPEC General Manager **Seth Syverson** and NPEC Director **Randy Simon** present checks to New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation representatives **Amanda Hegland**, executive director, and **Stuart Richter**, president.



Left to right, NPEC General Manager **Seth Syverson** and NPEC Director **Curtis Wiesz** present checks to CHI St. Alexius Health Carrington representatives **Kristy Konschak**, supervisor of nursing, **Shelley Kollman**, vice president of patient care, **Amy Fritel**, surgical supervisor, and **Taylor Sabinash**, foundation director.

YOUR co-ops power YOUR life

From internet service to agricultural products to the electricity that powers your home, cooperatives play a role in your everyday life. As we celebrate Co-op Month in October, electric cooperative members should be proud of the success of the cooperative business model and the spirit of cooperation these organizations promote. Cooperatives are a true example of grassroots involvement, because cooperatives are owned and controlled by the people they serve.

North Dakota is home to over 500 cooperatives that include sectors such as electricity, broadband, credit unions, finance, agriculture and even child care.

Decades ago, rural residents joined together to bring the convenience of electricity to their communities. The cooperatives they formed are as strong and relevant today as they were then.

But co-ops are not just products of a proud past. Today, folks across the country recognize the cooperative approach works to achieve price and service benefits, just as effectively as it delivers affordable power to rural North Dakotans. As locally owned businesses, cooperatives are part of the community. Neighbors helping neighbors. That's the cooperative difference.

And all these cooperatives operate under the same principles of member ownership. The power of the people is exemplified in the seven principles that guide all cooperatives:

1. **Voluntary and open membership** – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
 2. **Democratic member control** – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels
- are organized in a democratic manner.
3. **Members' economic participation** – Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.
 4. **Autonomy and independence** – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.
 5. **Education, training and information** – Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
 6. **Cooperation among cooperatives** – Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.
 7. **Concern for community** – While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members. ■

FAST FACTS ABOUT NORTH DAKOTA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



155,498
members



66,946
miles of distribution line



3,038
full-time jobs



Unplug energy vampires

Our homes are filled with an alphabet of electronics: DVD, PC, TV, Xbox. Americans own approximately 24 electronic products per household, according to the Consumer Electronics Association, so considerable energy goes toward powering those products.

And some of these products consume power even when they are not in use. To control these “energy vampires,” Northern Plains Electric Cooperative offers some suggestions.

Use power strips

No matter what types of electronics you use, those glowing lights at night prove power is still being consumed, even while everyone is sleeping. Those TVs, game consoles, cable boxes and other electronics all draw small amounts of power, even when not in use, wasting energy in the form of “vampire loads.”

There is a convenient and low-cost solution. A power strip makes it easy to turn them all off with one click.

Advanced models offer options like timers, remote control or the ability to set a “master device” to shut down everything else when it’s turned off.

Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips (APS) can help reduce the electricity wasted when these devices are idle.

APS are designed primarily for home entertainment centers and home office areas where there are typically many consumer electronics plugged into a power strip, and they work by preventing electronics from drawing power when they are off or not being used.

Unplug

When a laptop or smartphone is fully charged, unplug it. Turn off computers, game consoles and other devices when they are not in use. Powering down your computer completely every night uses 50% less energy than sleep mode. ■

Co-op welcomes Risovi



Risovi

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) is pleased to welcome Jeremy Risovi as the cooperative's new system engineer.

Joining NPEC in July, Risovi brings more than 19 years of experience in electrical engineering. In his new role, he is responsible for the design and planning of the cooperative's electric power distribution system as well as assisting with load management. He is based out of the Carrington office and works closely with Chris

Pierson, NPEC's manager of engineering.

"Jeremy is a great fit and a valuable addition to Northern Plains. His contributions will further strengthen our ability to consistently deliver exceptional service to our members," Pierson said.

A graduate of North Dakota State University, Risovi lives in New Rockford with his wife and their three boys. Outside of work, he enjoys biking, camping and cheering on his sons at their sporting events. ■



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