

Wishing our members a happy Thanksgiving

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26.

Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency power outage.



Check out our new website!



After months of hard work, we are happy to officially announce the launch of our new website, www.nplains.com.

The website has been completely redesigned to provide our members with an easier way to learn about who we are, and what services and solutions we offer.

We have new menu content, including a “Storm Center” button, where members can get all the information on what to do if they should encounter a power outage and how to report it.

The new site offers easy access to our SmartHub login and a new button on our homepage to pay your bill online.

Visit us often, as we will be constantly updating our content

with new updates and links to our social media accounts to stay up-to-date.

We hope you enjoy the new fresh and modern design. ■

NOVEMBER 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Grants awarded
- Employee news
- Operation Round Up donates



Bowdon Ambulance Service District will use the \$8,000 in grants toward raising the headers in the garage section of the ambulance building and to replace the two overhead doors. Left to right: Eight representatives of the Bowdon Ambulance Service District, Northern Plains Director **Judy Geier** and Northern Plains Vice President **Curtis Wiesz**.



The Can-Do Senior Citizens will use the \$500 in grant funds toward the replacement of a 2015 van which provides transportation for Towner County residents for out-of-town medical appointments, shopping trips and other excursions. Left to right: Representatives of the Can-Do Senior Citizens, **Roger Dix** and **Pat Papachek**, Northern Plains Director **Mark Brehm** and Northern Plains General Manager **Seth Syverson**.

Northern Plains and partners award grants totaling \$32,000

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

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

At its July board meeting, the Northern Plains Electric board of directors granted \$2,500 to four nonprofit organizations, including the Rolette County Firefighters Association, Minnewaukan Rural Fire Protection District, Sheyenne Fire Department and the Bowdon Ambulance Service District. Both CoBank and Basin Electric matched the \$2,500, granting each organization \$7,500.

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 that cooperatives play in individual communities across the county.

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

In addition to the \$30,000 in grants, being that Northern Plains is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC), it was eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 for community-based projects in its service area. RDFC granted \$500 to four community-based projects in the Northern Plains service area. Those organizations include Can-Do Senior Citizens, Bowdon Ambulance Service District, Sheyenne Fire Department and the Minnewaukan Rural Fire Protection District. 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.

Northern Plains is thankful to have partners like CoBank, Basin Electric and RDFC who contribute to the communities they serve. ■



Sheyenne Fire Department will use the \$8,000 in grants toward an addition to its existing fire hall building used to store equipment and vehicles. Left to right: Northern Plains Secretary/Treasurer **Randy Simon**, Sheyenne Fire Department Fire Chief **Elvis Thumb** and Northern Plains General Manager **Seth Syverson**.



Minnewaukan Rural Fire Protection District will use the \$8,000 in grants toward a purchase of a Minor Washer-Extractor. The washer-extractor properly cleans the PPE/turnout gear worn by the volunteer firefighters. It is recommended by National Fire Protection Association standards to properly clean all PPE/turnout gear after every fire. Left to right: Northern Plains General Manager **Seth Syverson**, Minnewaukan Rural Fire Protection District representatives: board member **Dave Ambers**, Treasurer **Brian Lysne**, board member **Randy Thompson**, Chairman **Donnie Buckmier** and Northern Plains Secretary/Treasurer **Randy Simon**.



Rolette County Firefighters Association will use the \$7,500 in grants toward purchasing grain bin rescue equipment to be shared between six fire departments within the county. This equipment will also be available to Towner County, as part of Rolla's fire district includes property from that county. Left to right: Northern Plains General Manager **Seth Syverson**, Northern Plains Board President **Tracy Boe**, chief of the Rolla Volunteer Fire Department **Brad Ebensteiner**, and **Darwin Bucholz**, member of the Rolla Volunteer Fire Department.

Weatherize for comfort and efficiency



Weatherizing your home is one of the best investments you can make to reduce utility costs and extend the life of your heating and cooling equipment. The primary goal of weatherization is to create a solid barrier that separates the conditioned air inside your home from the outdoor air. This can be accomplished by using a variety of different materials and sealing techniques.

- **Seal the perimeter:** Older homes are very porous, so it's important to seal all the gaps and penetrations in the exterior

walls to reduce unwanted air infiltration. Caulking around electrical and plumbing penetrations and sealing the gap under the sill plate will reduce winter drafts and save energy.

- **Duct sealing:** Ductwork leaks rob your HVAC system of efficiency and can cause your heating and cooling bills to skyrocket. Duct sealing is a process that eliminates gaps, leaks and loose connections through the application of a specially formulated duct sealant material.

- **Add insulation:** Besides slowing the flow of thermal energy, adding insulation to your ceiling and walls helps to fill structural gaps while providing a natural air infiltration barrier. Check out blown-in-place insulation systems, which also have excellent noise reduction properties.
- **Weatherstripping for windows and doors:** Fixing a cracked or broken window improves efficiency and also eliminates a safety issue. Weatherstripping around doors and windows saves energy, and it's easy to apply. Cover single-pane windows with storm windows or replace them with more efficient double-pane windows. Remove your plywood attic scuttle panel and replace it with an insulated access door so you'll have a tight, energy efficient seal. ■

Looking to update your home or business with an energy-efficient project? Northern Plains Electric can help!

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative offers energy efficiency loans to members receiving electric service from the cooperative.

Qualifying projects for energy-efficiency loans:

- Caulking and weather-stripping
- Insulation for the floor, walls, ceiling and foundation
- Insulation for heating/cooling ducts and pipes
- Electric water heaters
- Storm or thermal windows and doors
- Attic ventilation
- Installation of electric heating systems
 - Dual heat
 - Storage or slab heat
- All-electric heat
- Air-to-air heat pump
- Ground-source heat pump

Members must own the residence for at least 12 months and have a positive credit rating with Northern Plains to qualify. To find out more about the terms of an energy-efficiency loan, contact us by calling 1-800-882-2500. ■

Employee news

Northern Plains recognizes employees for years of service

Every year, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative expresses appreciation to those employees who have achieved a significant work anniversary. This year, we recognize three employees who have put in a collective 55 years of service to the cooperative.

We thank these employees for their commitment to our cooperative and the role they each play in providing our members



Danny Schuchard
operations supervisor
30 years

with safe, reliable and affordable electric



Christopher Schroeder
lineworker
20 years

service. Please join us in expressing appreciate



Shauna Olson
business assistant
5 years

for their many years of dedicated service. ■

Northern Plains hires Omlie full time

Apprentice lineworker Jordan Omlie, who was hired at the start of the summer as temporary help on the Cando crew, has secured a full-time position at Northern Plains Electric. Omlie joined foreman Josh Cabler's Carrington East crew in September.

A Lankin native, Omlie graduated from the Lineworkers Program at Bismarck State College in 2020, before starting at Northern Plains in May. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

Welcome to the team, Jordan. We are happy to have you! ■



OPERATION ROUND UP

Turning YOUR coins into change

Operation Round Up wouldn't be possible without you, the Northern Plains member who generously elects to have his or her electric bill rounded up to the next dollar. The donated amount averages about 50 cents a month for each participating member and raises approximately \$37,000 each year.

Since the program's beginning in October 1998, grants totaling \$815,062 have been awarded to 1,127 local charitable causes.

At its September meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Operation Round Up board of directors approved grants totaling \$9,600 to help support worthy causes.



Grants approved in September include:

Griggs County Community Youth Project "More for Less" Thrift Store	Replace roof and lighting
Good Samaritan Hospital Association, Rugby	New elevator
James River Humane Society, Jamestown	Repair of kennels/dog runs
St. Aloisius Medical Center, Harvey	Purchase two new Zoll monitor/defibrillators
McHenry Fire Department	Repair McHenry's Veterans Memorial
First Congregational Church, New Rockford	Replace roof and ceiling
Gail Gader, Glenfield	Medical expenses
Tim Gader, Glenfield	Medical expenses
Sylvia Martin, Pettibone	Medical expenses
David Flath, Robinson	Medical expenses
Anton Korb, Cando	Medical expenses
Bryan Haugen, Cando	Medical expenses
Pamela Walter, Cando	Medical expenses
Benson, Eddy, Carrington Daily Bread, Griggs, Kidder, Pierce, Rolette, Stutsman, Cando Area Food Pantry, Wells, Ramsey County	Food pantries

The Operation Round Up board meets every quarter to disburse funds to worthy individuals and organizations. The board will meet again in December to review applications. The next application deadline is Nov. 20.

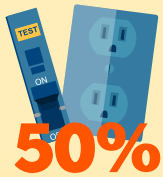
If you would like additional information about this worthy program, please contact Northern Plains Electric Cooperative by calling 800-882-2500; or, you may obtain guidelines or download applications at www.nplains.com. ■

FIRE PREVENTION

IT SAVES LIVES

PREVENTION: IT SAVES LIVES. Installing smoke alarms on every level of your home, testing them regularly, and replacing smoke alarms every 10 years are some of the steps you can take to keep your family safe.

PREVENTION



AFCI Breakers and Outlets can prevent **50%** of residential home fires.



Each year **2,400 children** in the US are treated for injuries caused by outlets. **1/3** of parents do not have outlets childproofed. Install **Tamper Resistant Receptacles**.



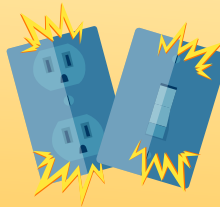
470,000 counterfeit smartphone batteries were recalled in one year due to burn and **fire hazards**. Purchase electronics at reputable retailers.



3,300 home fires originate from **extension cords** each year. Heavy reliance on extension cords is a sign to have more outlets installed.



The **CPSC** found **47%** of electrocutions could be prevented with **GFCI protection** in homes.



Frequently **tripped circuit breakers** or blown fuses and cracking, sizzling or buzzing from outlets can be signs of an overloaded circuit. **47,700 home fires** in the US are caused by electrical failure or malfunction each year.

DETECTION



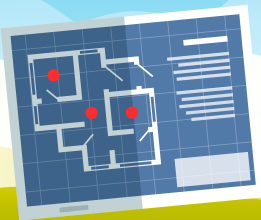
SMOKE ALARMS: REPLACE EVERY 10 YEARS



BATTERIES: TEST MONTHLY, REPLACE YEARLY



2/3 of **fire deaths** occur in homes with no, or nonfunctioning, smoke alarms.



Have **at least one smoke alarm** on every floor, outside each sleeping area, and in every bedroom.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION VISIT WWW.ESFI.ORG

Energy assistance available



Are you or someone you know having difficulty paying home heating bills? If so, there is a federal program that could help.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home energy assistance.

Eligible households are encouraged to apply for assistance for:

- **HEATING ASSISTANCE:** LIHEAP can pay for a portion of fuel or electricity used to heat the

home you live in during the months between Oct. 1 and May 31. The amount of benefit depends on your income, the type and size of your home, and the type of fuel used to heat your home.

- **WEATHERIZATION SERVICE:** The weatherization program helps low income families make their homes and apartments energy efficient. Weatherization seals a home to keep warm air in and cold air out during the winter.
- **FURNACE AND CHIMNEY CLEANING:** The program can pay (up to a certain amount of monies dependent on the service) to clean and inspect your furnace and/or chimney.
- **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:** LIHEAP funds are available when there is a home energy emergency that may threaten the life of your family.
- **ENERGY COST REDUCTION DEVICES:** Funds are sometimes available to help with installation costs of energy-reducing device to qualify for lower electric heat rates.

Applications are accepted from Oct. 1- May 31 of each heating season. For LIHEAP services, call your local county social services office or contact: Energy Assistance Program N.D. Department of Human Services at 1-800-755-2716. ■

**NORTHERN
PLAINS** Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

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