



LIVE LINES

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

July 2023

Director Candidates Named

According to the By-laws of Woodbury County REC, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors each year to appoint a committee on nominations consisting of between five and 11 cooperative members. This committee is one of the most important in the governance of the cooperative way of doing business. It's this committee's responsibility to name the persons who will run for election to the Board of Directors.

The Nominations Committee for, 2023 met on May 1st, named five Woodbury County REC members as candidates for three director seats which will be vacant in August. Those members nominated for election are: Kimberly Brouwer, Chris J. Countryman, Matt Lawler, Laura Myrture, and Bruce Sadler. A short biography of each candidate will be included in the Annual Report being mailed next month. Please take the time to read each biography and vote for your director choice.

This years Nominating Committee included Kim Brouwer, Brian Crichton, Larry Etler, John Hoppe, Raymond Knaack, Laura Myrture (Chair), and Dennis Reyman.

Mark Your Calendar Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

That is the day of the 84th Annual Meeting of the members of Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative. Supper will be served from 5 to 6:30 PM with the business meeting starting at 6:30. A complete notice, including director election information, will be mailed to you next month.

Climbing Competency and Basket Rescue

Every year as just one part of your Cooperatives comprehensive safety program all Woodbury REC lineman review the procedures to rescue a fellow lineman who may have had electrical contact, heat exhaustion, an allergic reaction, or other health related incidents while working on the lines.

The following are the procedures our lineman review during this training: The assisting lineman first makes a May Day call to our office to get help coming by calling the Woodbury County Emergency Services then proceeds to rescue the victim on the pole by climbing the pole or using an aerial device. He attempts to have the victim on the ground and start doing CPR and first aid within four minutes and continues until Emergency Medical Services arrive.

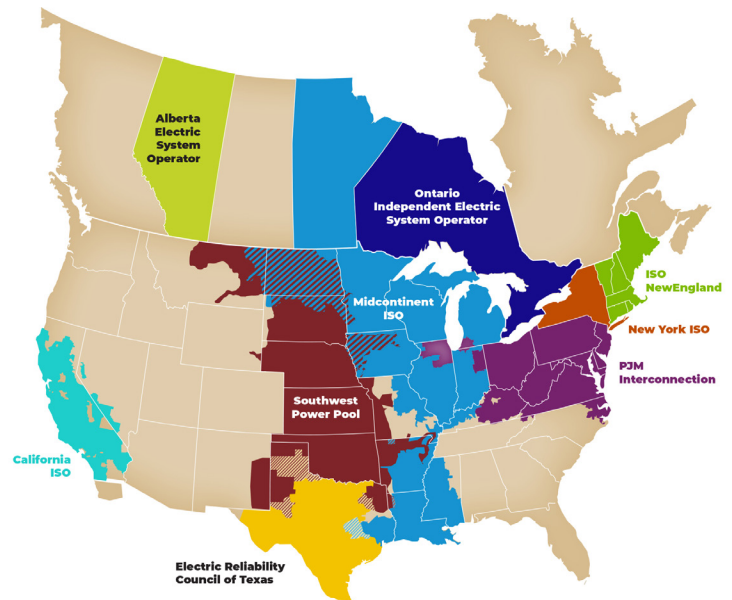
Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative management and employees feel that safety is top priority and will continue to review numerous safety procedures unique to the electric industry.



Summer Reliability: Serving Your Energy Needs in Western Iowa

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining its 2023 Summer Reliability Assessment in May. In the report, NERC warns that two-thirds of North America is at risk of energy shortfalls this summer during periods of extreme demand.

Many electric utilities across the country are members of one of nine regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs), also referred to as power pools. These entities are federally regulated by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and work on a regional scale to coordinate, control, and monitor supply and demand on the electric grid. RTOs do not own the power grid, but they work as "air-traffic controllers" of the grid to ensure reliable power supplies, adequate transmission infrastructure, and "day-ahead" electric market coordination of wholesale electricity prices on behalf of their members.



NIPCO, Woodbury County REC's wholesale electric generation and transmission provider, owns and operates transmission resources in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) RTO footprint.

While there are no high-risk areas in this year's assessment, the number of areas identified as being at elevated risk has increased. The assessment finds that, while resources are adequate for normal summer peak demand, if summer temperatures spike, seven areas — the U.S. West, SPP, MISO, ERCOT, SERC Central, New England, and Ontario — may face supply shortages during higher demand levels.

The report noted that areas in the U.S. West are at elevated risk due to wide-area heat events that can drive above-normal demand and strain resources and the transmission network. In SPP, wind energy output will be key to meeting normal summer peak and extreme demand levels due to little excess baseload electric generation capacity.

What does this mean for Woodbury County REC?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear and natural gas are being retired. Woodbury County REC believes and advocates for an "all-of-the-above" energy approach. "All-of-the-above" promotes the idea that the U.S. depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation, including biofuels, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, and coal.

It's important to remember that the electric grid is made up of thousands of generating stations and millions of miles of line. An unexpected power plant outage or natural disaster could impact SPP's projections. Woodbury County REC, NIPCO, and NIPCO's primary power provider Basin Electric Power Cooperative, are well-positioned to meet this summer's peak demand. In fact, in 2022, NIPCO's Reliability Factor was 99.9905%, and its 5-year average Reliability Factor is slightly higher at 99.9907%. Rest assured, reliable electric service to our members remains paramount, and we will communicate any potential issues with you should they arise.

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Governance and Accountability Shape our Coop

By Kent Amundson

When you began receiving electric service from Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), you also became a member of our cooperative – which means you have a say in how our co-op operates. This democratic member control is a unique benefit of being a part of a co-op that you won't find in many other organizations.

We believe that local governance strengthens our co-op – because we are led by members and belong to the communities we serve. Thanks to the voice, vote and engagement of our members, we are structured for local decision-making and upholding the highest values of transparency and accountability.

Your voice and vote at annual meeting

All member-consumers are invited to attend Woodbury County REC's Annual Meeting of Members on August 23, 2023 at 5p.m.. The annual membership meeting is a living example of the democratic values that set electric cooperatives apart.

During the annual meeting, every single member of Woodbury County REC can hear business reports, connect directly with board members and co-op staff, and enjoy what it means to be a part of this community. Spending time with you, gaining your guidance and hearing your perspective helps us set priorities for the co-op and our future decisions.

And most importantly, the annual meeting is the time for members to vote in director elections. You elect directors – who also are cooperative members – to represent your interests when it comes to setting policies or making decisions on issues that impact you. One member equals one vote, and every vote counts.

An ongoing commitment to member governance and accountability

While director elections are a prime example of democratic member control, local and member-driven governance is woven throughout the fabric of how we operate every single day.

Did you know cooperatives can set most of their policies and procedures locally? This means we can meet the unique needs of the communities we serve. This allows our local membership community through the cooperative's governance structure to determine the level of our commitment to providing members with safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible power.

The member-elected board of directors regularly meets throughout the year to ensure the co-op is steadfast in its mission to serve the best interests of our members and community today and in the future. Your co-op's directors bring diverse skills and well-rounded backgrounds to the boardroom and the willingness to make group decisions.

Woodbury County REC directors must possess or demonstrate the desire to learn financial skills, industry knowledge, an understanding of regulatory and legislative policymaking, and an aptitude for determining the ongoing and future strategic direction of the cooperative. They are also committed to furthering their skills by attending governance education courses and industry conferences to be informed on the latest challenges, trends, regulations, and technologies impacting electric cooperatives. The electric industry is complex and ever-changing, and we sincerely appreciate the board members' commitment to staying abreast of local, state and national policies and initiatives. No matter what the topic or challenges are, Woodbury County REC's board members never lose sight of our obligation to serve members across our entire system and ensure a sustainable co-op is here to serve many generations into the future.

Your engagement matters

Our board of directors and staff members welcome member-consumer feedback, questions and ideas. After all, wholeheartedly believe an engaged membership is a healthy membership. Our annual meeting is a special opportunity to connect with your co-op. We hope you will attend and take part in experiencing what it means to be a valued electric cooperative member.

The Recipe Corner

Fresh Strawberry Pie

Crust:

- ½ c. oil
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 ½ c. flour
- 2 T. milk
- 2 T. sugar



Mix together and press into pie tin. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until browned.

Filling:

- 1 ¼ c. water
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1 qt. fresh berries
- 1 c. sugar
- 3 – oz. pkg. strawberry Jell-O

Cook water, sugar and cornstarch until thick and clear. Add Jell-O. Let cool and then add sliced berries. Put in crust and chill. Top with Cool Whip.

What is Woodbury County REC doing?

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We will continue to work with policymakers and regulators on a state and federal level for a sensible all-of-the-above generation approach.

The ongoing energy transition must recognize the need for time and technology development while including all energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. A resilient and reliable electric grid that affordably keeps the lights on is the cornerstone of our rural economy.

Electric cooperative families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. To maintain the reliability of your power supply, we must adopt an "all-of-the-above" strategy that includes renewable energy as well as dependable resources we have come to rely on like coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower. This diverse energy mix is essential to meeting those expectations day in and day out.

We are keenly aware that the sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow. While we support and encourage the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when there simply isn't enough of it to keep the lights on all the time. Its place is to supplement a reliable and affordable baseload generation mix. That's why we must continue to recognize the value of and operate baseload generation plants now and into the future.

Our mission remains the same. We are here to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and do everything we can to continue to live up to that mission.

Marathon Water Heaters

Woodbury County REC is selling water heaters guaranteed not to leak as long as you own your home. So with a lifetime guarantee why wait for yours to spring a leak and get the home all wet or wait until the old one could become a safety hazard. Older water heaters do not operate as efficiently as the new insulated Marathon units. With the Polyurethane insulation wrapped around the water tank reduces energy consumption and standby heat loss.



Marathon facts and requirements

1. The water heater needs to be installed on Woodbury County REC system in order to qualify for the rebate.
2. All units shall be wired to Switch Makes Cents to qualify for the rebates.
3. If unit is a new installation a 85 gallon water heater is required.
4. Lifetime guaranteed not to leak as long as the purchaser owns the home, 15 years warranty for out buildings.
5. The elements and thermostats are guaranteed for six years from the manufacture date of the unit.
6. They have adjustable thermostats for temperature control.

	50 gallon	85 gallon	105 gallon
List Price	\$1150	\$1,825	\$2,040
Rebate	\$300	\$400	\$500
Your Cost	\$850	\$1425	\$1,540

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy

