



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

LIVE LINES

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

July 2026

Director Candidates Named

According to the Woodbury County REC by-laws, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors each year to appoint a committee of nominations; consisting of five to eleven 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, 2026 met on May 11th, named four Woodbury County REC members as candidates for three director seats which will be vacated in August. Those members nominated for election are: Michael Baird, Kimberly Brouwer, Chris Countryman, 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.



Pictured above are members of the Nominating Committee. They are (l-r): Brian Crichton, Austin Hazard, Corey Hamman, Charlene Widman, Larry Etler, Stan Haugen, and Kent Herbold.

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 Directors, management, and employees feel that safety is top priority and will continue to review numerous safety procedures unique to the electric industry.



The Recipe Corner

Fresh Strawberry Pie

1 ½ cups water
¾ cup sugar
3 Tbsp. cornstarch
1-3oz package strawberry gelatin
4 cups fresh strawberries, halved
Baked pie shell
Whipped topping (optional)

Combine water, sugar, and cornstarch and cook over medium heat, bringing it to a boil and stirring continuously. Boil for 2 minutes or until the liquid is clear and thick.

Add gelatin and stir until dissolved. Place strawberries in the baked pie shell.

Pour the gelatin mixture on top of strawberries while hot.

Chill until set.

Serve with whipped topping if desired.



Woodbury County REC office will be closed Friday July 3rd in Observance of Independence Day. Even When the office is closed, our phones are answered 24 hours a day. If you should have an electrical outage, report it using our SmartHub app or call (800)469-3125 or (712)873-3125. Have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

How You Can Help During Peak Demand

Your electric utility works hard to ensure safe, reliable power to homes and businesses 24/7. To make sure everyone has the power they need, generation must match consumption and have the capacity to adjust to changing demands for energy.

A large part of our Cooperatives whole sale power cost is Demand Cost, based on our System Peak. Peak demand is the period in a given month or year when electricity use is highest. It's caused by many people using energy-consuming equipment at the same time. It differs based on geography, weather and time of year. For example, demand is typically highest on hot summer afternoons and cold winter mornings. Most utilities also experience daily peaks when people are getting ready in the mornings and returning home in the evenings.

When everyone uses more energy at the same time, it puts more stress on the electric grid and requires more expensive electricity to meet the need. Electricity cost is based on supply and demand. The wholesale cost of electricity is higher when the demand is higher, which costs the utility more.

To lower energy use and strain on the grid during peak times, there are habits we can adopt in our homes.

Let's look at two examples:

Joe and John arrive home from work at 5:30 p.m. They both turn on the oven to make dinner.

While John waits for the oven to preheat, he throws in a load of laundry. He finishes dinner, cleans up and starts the dishwasher. Then, he moves the clothes to the dryer.

Joe finishes dinner, loads the dishwasher and sets it to start at 10 p.m. He puts a load of laundry in the washing machine and later that evening switches it over to the dryer.

Although they use the same appliances and amount of energy, John uses it all at once, running multiple appliances during peak hours, creating higher demand and more strain on the electric grid while using more expensive energy.

To lower your demand, spread electricity use throughout the day and avoid peak times as much as possible. This will reduce the utility's cost of supplying electricity to your home.

Large appliances including washers, dryers, ovens, water heaters and air conditioners have the biggest impact. Using them during off-peak hours or one at a time can help.

Automate as much as possible. Most electric vehicle chargers can be set to charge during scheduled hours with built-in timers or apps. Most modern dishwashers have delay-start features.

Spreading out your energy use helps your utility keep costs down and benefits your local energy grid.



Mark Your Calendar Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

That is the day of the 88th 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.