




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# LIVE LINES

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

July 2025

## 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 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, 2025 met on May 7th, named three Woodbury County REC members as candidates for two director seats which will be vacated in August. Those members nominated for election are: Brett Baldwin, Tom Morgan, and Ronald Steinhoff. 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): Vernon Knaack, Austin Hazard, Larry Etler, Charlene Widman, Kevin Clausen, Dennis Reyman, and Brian Crichton.

## 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.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# The Recipe Corner **Beware of Damaged Power Equipment**

## **Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies**

1 cup shortening  
2 eggs  
2 cups sugar  
½ cup milk  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
2 cups of flour  
2 teaspoons of baking powder  
½ cup cocoa  
1 teaspoon salt  
3 cups of oatmeal

Mix shortening, eggs, sugar, milk and vanilla until creamy. Sift together flour, baking powder, cocoa and salt. Add egg mixture and mix thoroughly. Add oatmeal and mix. Drop by teaspoonful to lightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. (These cookies also are good with walnuts or chocolate, peanut butter or butterscotch chips.)



**Woodbury County REC  
office will be closed  
Friday July 4th 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!**

The transmission and distribution of power is safe and reliable much of the time.

However, storms, critters and car accidents can damage energized utility equipment such as power lines, poles and padmount transformers (green boxes). Not only can this cause minor inconveniences, like service interruptions and road closures, it can also create life-threatening situations when energy invisibly spreads like ripples on a pond.

### **Here is what can occur when utility equipment is damaged:**

- Step potential happens when a person walks from one voltage “ripple” to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage.
- Touch potential happens when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage.

Both types of potential can cause serious internal and external injuries and death, since electric current enters the body at one point and exits at another.

### **How to stay safe**

Take precautions near downed power lines, poles or other damaged power equipment. Always assume damaged power equipment is energized; it can look lifeless and harmless and still be live.

Besides accidents, storms and animal interferences, another hazardous situation may occur when equipment or extensions get too close to or contact power equipment. To stay safe around damaged utility equipment:

- Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Report damaged power equipment to a dispatcher.
- Only exit if you see smoke or there is a fire.

### **If you must exit due to a fire, carefully do the following:**

- Cross your arms and make a clean jump out.
- Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Make solid hops with your feet together as far away as you can.
- If you are unable to hop, shuffle away without lifting your feet.
- Do not return to the vehicle.

### **If you are near the scene:**

- Do not approach the scene to help.
- Stay at least 50 feet away.
- Do not lean on or touch anything.

Never approach a downed power line or pole or a damaged pad mount transformer.



## **Mark Your Calendar Wednesday, August 20, 2025.**

That is the day of the 87th 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.