



Members were greeted by, left to right, **Shauna Olson**, **Cathy Klocke** and **Becky Nyhagen** at the registration table.

## Members who attended annual meeting left with a smile

**N**orthern Plains Electric Cooperative held its 25th annual meeting on June 21 at the Rugby High School. Members visited while enjoying a treat of gelato and a pulled pork meal following the business meeting.

The meeting was led by President Tracy Boe, along with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's attorney, Bruce Gibbens. The proposed bylaw amendment was presented. The ballots were counted at the meeting by five Northern Plains members, who volunteered to serve as tellers. After the



The evening's entertainment, **Mylo Hatzenbuehler**, had the audience rolling in laughter.

count, it was determined that the bylaw change was approved by the membership.

An election was also held for one director to fill an open seat in three districts. Members had the option to vote through mail-in ballot or in-person. Although the directors from each district ran unopposed, we appreciate the members' participation in the democratic process by casting their vote. Congratulations to directors Tracy Boe, Randy Simon and Judy Geier, as they were each reelected to serve

**AUGUST 2021**

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**Cheryl Belle** and **Ashten Dewald** serve gelato.



Manager **Seth Syverson**, left, and President **Tracy Boe**, right, presented student **Abigail Mehlhoff** with a scholarship certificate.

another three-year term on the board.

Director Randy Simon gave an update on the financial position of the cooperative in a treasurer's report and co-op employees were recognized for the hard work throughout the year.

The Northern Plains Electric/Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship winner, Abigail Mehlhoff, was recognized twice, as she also won the two, \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships for attending the meeting.

The night ended with a standing ovation following a rock-and-roll performance by Mylo Hatzenbuehler.

Thanks to all the members who attended and made it a memorable night. ■



Northern Plains Electric Cooperative attorney, **Bruce Gibbens**, leads the election for the board of directors.





**A**s summer continues, we welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but know that Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. NPEC encourages you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

We have listed a starting point for storm preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food and bottled water.
- Ensure your first-aid kit and supply of medications is stocked.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights and batteries and other essentials like toiletries and diapers.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power

surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on, so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. ■





*Performing under the stars, Fort Totten Little Theatre's 58th production of "Rock of Ages."*

## *Performing under the stars* **Fort Totten Little Theatre**

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

**W**here there's a will, there's a way. This phrase sums up the determination of the long-running summer theater program, Fort Totten Little Theatre (FTLT). More times than one, members of this company have had to put on their thinking cap and alter plans, as "the show must go on."

Each July, a Broadway-style musical, using a combination of local and professional talent, is produced and performed at the Fort Totten State Historic Site. The pandemic of COVID-19 brought the global theater industry to a standstill and the FTLT feared that to comply with state regulations on social distancing, its 2020 summer production would not be possible.

The company, which was established in 1963, has never missed a summer production and it wasn't about to let its streak end. So, it found a haven 13 miles away at Devils Lakes' Roosevelt Park, transforming a band



*The cast of "Grease," Fort Totten Little Theatre's 59th production.*

shelter to a stage for an outdoor production. At the park, the theater not only had the room to give ticket holders extra space and group seating options including bringing your own chair or blanket, seating at picnic tables and bleacher seating, but also additional seating

than the little theater could hold.

The innovation paid off and the theater emerged stronger, as its 2020 production of “Rock of Ages” brought over three times the audience of its previous summer’s musical. The new setting, along with many other factors, brought a new audience that had never seen a FTLT production.

“We are about the only ones that had something positive come out of COVID,” chuckled Peter Foss, the director of “Rock of Ages” and this summer’s production of “Grease.”

“Grease” is the word! For the second year in a row, actors and actresses spent their summer nights performing under the stars at Roosevelt Park, turning out to be another successful year for the theater’s 59th production.

Director Foss said although they miss the nostalgia of the little theater, they have found a “new home” at Roosevelt Park. To keep the legacy of the historic little theater going, the FTLT offered its first ever youth camp at the historic site in June 2021. The camp was open to students in second through eighth grade and offered the young inspiring actors and actresses a well-rounded theater education, developing acting, singing and dancing skills.

Foss said they don’t have plans yet for next year’s 60th production, but it will be “something big!” No doubt, this company will be around for years to come, continuing to engage and enrich the greater community. ■

# LOOK UP FOR HAZARDS ON THE FARM

Overhead power lines are necessary to deliver electricity to hardworking farmers and ranchers, but those same power lines can also be deadly if not treated with respect. While you need to focus on the field and your machinery, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative urges you to also watch for electrical hazards around the farm or ranch.

## BE AWARE

- Be aware of overhead power lines and keep equipment and extensions far away from them.
- Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and a power line may be closer than it looks.
- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level before moving or transporting them.

## USE A SPOTTER

- Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.
- When raising or lowering equipment, it is difficult to estimate distance, too. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.

## REALIZE THINGS CHANGE

- If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year.
- Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with

power lines.

- Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact your electric cooperative to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

## EDUCATE THE CREW

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment. Do this every year, as equipment sizes and soil conditions may change.
- For spotters, learn the same language. To enhance communication and promote farm safety, the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers developed 11 universal hand signals. NDSU Extension has released a poster and window cling to help you learn those signals.

## LOOK AROUND, TOO

- Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don’t do it yourself.

## USE THE PROFESSIONALS

- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.





**Brian Backer,**  
lineworker,  
5 years



**Shannon  
Petersen,**  
lineworker,  
10 years



**Dave Jaeger,**  
lineworker,  
15 years



**Josh Cabler,**  
lineworker,  
15 years



**Barry Heisler,**  
lineworker/  
warehouseman,  
25 years



**Rodney Kitsch,**  
Cando district  
engineer,  
35 years

## 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 six employees who have put in a collective 105 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 with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Please join us in expressing appreciate for their many years of dedicated service. ■



## NPEC distributes local grants

At a June meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) Operation Round Up (ORU) board of directors approved grants totaling \$9,000 to help support worthy causes.

The board meets quarterly to disburse funds to help NPEC members with medical expenses and area nonprofit organizations. Since the program's beginning in October 1998, grants totaling \$843,162 have been awarded to 1,170 local charitable causes.

Grants approved in June include:

- Fessenden Fire Protection District, purchase SCBA
- Harvey Volunteer Fire Department, purchase rescue truck
- Harvey Kiwanis Club, playground equipment
- Jamestown Regional Entrepreneur Center, youth camp
- Little Bobcats Daycare, Maddock, startup costs

- New Rockford Park District, community skating rink
- Pingree Lutheran Church, community park
- Robinson Lions Club, repair park restrooms
- Bio Girls Inc., Carrington youth camp
- Conner George (Brooke), Jamestown, medical expenses
- Terri R. Farbo, Cando, medical expenses
- Brock Thomas, Cando, medical expenses
- Eunice A. Baker, St. John, medical expenses

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](http://www.nplains.com). The board will meet again in September to review applications. Application deadline is Aug. 20. ■

# CONNECTED to SAFETY

## Making your Home Safe and Efficient

Whether you're **working** from home, **learning** from home, or just **spending more time** at home, it is important to make sure your home is electrically safe, secure, and efficient. Learn how the **internet of things** and **smart devices** can improve your quality of life and **make your home safer**.

### Home Energy Use



AIR CONDITIONING

17%



SPACE HEATING

15%



WATER HEATING

14%



LIGHTING

10%

AVERAGE YEARLY ENERGY USE BY ITEM \*source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2015 Residential Energy Consumption Survey

### Energy Efficiency Through Smart Devices



Smart refrigerators to **optimize temperature**



Optimize wash/dry times for **lowest energy costs**



Automated HVAC controls

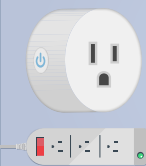


Automated lighting



Remote / automated outlet controls

### Prepare your Home for Safe and Efficient Energy Use



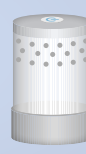
Use a **smart plug** or **power strip** to turn off power when devices are not in use



**LED light bulbs** last longer than traditional bulbs and use 25-80% less energy



Heat only the area you're in with **energy efficient space heaters**



Utilize **home automation** to control HVAC and lighting systems while not at home



Have an electrician **inspect your electrical system** every 10 years to avoid overloads

### Home Electrical Safety Devices



**AFCI breakers** and outlets protect against arc-faults which could lead to fires



**Grounded outlets** protect against electric shocks



**GFCI outlets** and breakers are required where water and electricity may come in contact and protect against ground-faults



**Surge protectors** protect against damaging power surges that can destroy electrical equipment



**M**any factors go into determining if solar is right for you. Being a North Dakota resident, you are already receiving some of the lowest electric rates in the country. Is it economically feasible to install a solar system for your home?

One of the many deciding factors is determining if you have the correct space for a system. North Dakota gets a yearly average of 4.5 peak sun-hours per day, and more than six peak sun-hours per day during the months of June and July. You want to make sure your solar panels are free from obstruction to maximize on every minute possible. In general, the best sites for solar power in North Dakota are those offering the following conditions:

- A location to the southwest, where the solar radiation rates are higher.
- Having a rooftop with a large area facing south, since most sunlight comes from the southern portion of the sky in the northern hemisphere.
- Being free from obstacles blocking a significant portion of the incident sunlight.

Keep in mind that these conditions are not mandatory, they just represent the optimal scenario.

See below the latest recordings for Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's 16-panel 6.56-kilowatt solar system installed at the Carrington headquarters. So far, 2021 recordings are average from years prior, and no maintenance has taken place as of July 1. ■

## Total Energy Generated [kWh]

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	\$ Saved
2021	231	590	853	885	997	1063	-	-	-	-	-	-	4619	\$508.00
2020	321	678	868	947	1019	1048	1188	1012	818	601	445	329	9273	\$1,020.00
2019	303	190	879	814	958	942	1138	978	710	474	250	190	7825	\$861.00
2018	398	593	765	1113	1015	1051	1142	1004	757	584	266	257	8945	\$984.00
2017	276	538	723	759	905	1016	1208	1011	760	721	426	332	8675	\$954.00
2016	325	484	831	821	975	1104	991	1042	730	536	440	248	8527	\$938.00
2015	0	0	0	0	530	961	1065	1019	861	607	413	232	5689	\$626.00



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*An equal opportunity provider and employer.*

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