



Grants available to nonprofits

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is excited to partner with CoBank in the Sharing Success matching grant program once again this year.

The Northern Plains board of directors can decide to award up to four grants for a total of \$10,000. Matching funds will be requested through CoBank's Sharing Success program.

To qualify for the grant, an organization must be a certificated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or fire/ambulance department that is located within Northern Plains Electric's service territory.

CoBank is a cooperative lending institution that provides loans

and other financial services to vital industries throughout rural America, including agribusiness, water, communications and power providers. CoBank is headquartered outside of Denver, Colo.

The Sharing Success program was launched by CoBank in 2012

and was designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperative's play in individual communities across the country.

Contact Cheryl Belle, business manager, at 800-882-2500 with questions or to request an application. The application deadline is July 20. ■

JUNE 2020

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Call before you dig!

Planting a tree? Installing a fence? Remember to contact North Dakota One Call first! The first step to any project is safety, and damaging an underground facility while you dig can cause injury or even death.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property, ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer lines, but North Dakota One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

Contact North Dakota One Call and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as detached garages, wells or yard lights.

Go online at www.ndonecall.com or call 800-795-0555 or 811.

It's free, it's simple and it's the law.

The 811 process:



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

1. Notify

Notify the North Dakota One Call Center by calling 811 or making an online request at least 48 hours before work begins, excluding weekends and holidays. You'll give the operator information about how to contact you, where you are planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, or go online to enter this information. Utility companies who have potential facilities in the area of your dig site will be notified about your intent to dig.



2. Wait

Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.



3. Confirm

Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities. Compare the marks to the list of utilities the One Call Center notified.



4. Respect

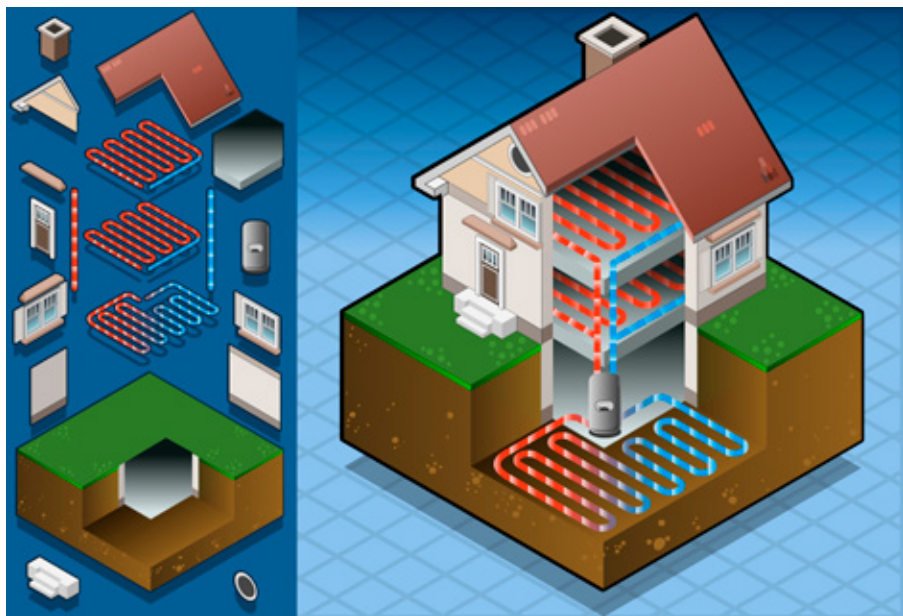
Respect the marks. The marks provided by the affected utilities are your guide for the duration of the project. If you are unable to maintain the marks during your project, or the project will continue past your request's expiration date, please call 811 to ask for a re-mark.



5. Dig carefully

Dig carefully around the marks. No mechanical excavating can take place within 24 inches on either side of the marked location of the underground facility. If you plan on digging within that 4-foot-wide area, hand digging is allowed, but please dig carefully and cautiously.

**NORTHERN
PLAINS** *Electric Cooperative*



Lighten the load with a ground-source heat pump

Consumers have many options these days when it comes to heating and cooling systems. One option is right below their feet – taking advantage of the earth’s constant underground temperature known as a ground-source heat pump.

Also called a geothermal heat pump, a ground-source heat pump is a central heating and/or cooling system that transfers heat to or from the ground. These systems

transfer heat by pumping water or a refrigerant through pipes just below the earth’s surface, where the temperature is a constant 50 to 60 degrees.

How it works

1. Water or a refrigerant moves through a loop of pipes.
2. When the weather is cold, the water or refrigerant heats up as it travels through the part of the loops that’s buried underground.

3. Once it gets back above ground, the warmed water or refrigerant transfers heat into the building.
4. The water or refrigerant cools down after its heat is transferred. It is pumped back underground, where it heats up once more, starting the process again.
5. On a hot day, the system can run in reverse. The water or refrigerant cools the building and then is pumped underground, where extra heat is transferred to the ground around the pipes.

This technology has been keeping consumers comfortable for more than 50 years and can cut energy bills up to 65 percent, compared to traditional HVAC units (www.energy.gov). However, the installation costs can be up to several times more expensive than traditional HVAC units, but it provides more energy savings. These pumps tend to pay themselves back typically within 10 years. In additional benefits, ground-source heat pumps can help lighten the load on the electric grid, especially during summer peak demand and they reduce carbon emissions, thanks to their high efficiency. ■

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

Northern Plains 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 800-882-2500.



NPEC announces safety poster contest winners

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative hosted its second annual safety poster contest, asking for members' children to depict "how to stay safe around electricity."

The contest was open to kindergarten through sixth-grade students. The purpose of the contest is to help bring awareness to the dangers of electricity. At

Northern Plains Electric, safety always comes first, and we are dedicated to doing our part to help children learn how to be safe around electricity.

Over 50 children entered their drawings, with a wide variety of scenes showing safety precautions taken at their home or on the farm. The posters were judged by a 20-employee committee at

Northern Plains. First through third place winners in each category received a cash prize.

We hope the contest made children more aware of their responsibility in practicing safety around electricity.

Thank you to all who participate and congratulations to the winners! ■

Kindergarten-first grade



First place:
Sydney Opdahl,
Fessenden



Second place:
Kale Blue,
Cando



Third place:
Tate Thomson,
Cando



Second-third grade



First place:
Westin Wright,
Grace City



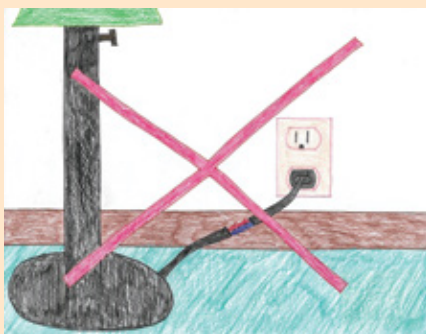
Second place:
Mya Neis,
Carrington



Third place:
Asher Hermanson,
Cando



Fourth-sixth grade



First place:
Maggie Stegmiller,
Jamestown



Second place:
Logen Disrud,
Rolla



Third place:
Kole Thomson,
Cando



Rich Short retires

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



After 34 years of employment with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, Carrington District Engineer Rich Short has said goodbye to the cooperative.

In 1976, after graduating with a degree in electrical technology from North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, the Grand Forks native returned to his hometown to begin his career with Nodak Electric Cooperative as a staking engineer.

Ten years later in November 1986, a job opportunity presented itself at neighboring cooperative, Tri-County Electric. Short accepted the job and relocated his wife, Juanita, and their three girls to Carrington. The former Tri-County and Baker Electric cooperatives merged in 1997, creating Northern Plains Electric.

Over his 34-year career with the cooperative, a lot has changed. He has seen growth of populations, snowstorms and fires. Through

it all, there comes a time to rebuild and that's what Rich really enjoyed doing.

As Rich looked back on his career, he said he enjoyed working with crews and members the most. This included building new services, which meant listening to the member's future plans, then designing where to put line in the best possible place to meet the needs of the member and the cooperative.

Although he ranked building new services at the top of list, he enjoyed it all. "I loved the not knowing what each day was going to bring," Rich says. "Some days, I would be in the office working on mapping or easements. Other days, I'd be in the field, staking line or correcting line problems."

In the office, Rich was known as a jokester. His co-workers couldn't pass by his desk without hearing a good joke or singing along to an "oldie," as he always had music playing. He was also well-known for sneaking treats into the office to share.

Cathy Klocke, who worked alongside Rich for over 25 years, said he will definitely be missed.

"Not only was Rich very thoughtful toward his co-workers, he never missed putting candy on our desks for any holiday, but because of his attention to detail he was great to work alongside," said Klocke, who works as a customer service representative. "Rich did his paperwork to perfection. It was rare to find any kind of mistake."

In retirement, Rich plans to enjoy traveling with his wife, Juanita. He is also looking forward to spending time with his daughters and their



families, which includes attending many activities in which his 10 grandchildren are involved.

From everyone at Northern Plains Electric, we want to thank Rich for his dedication and years of service to the co-op and wish him well. ■



NPEC welcomes Justin Liebig



Justin Liebig

Justin Liebig is the newest employee at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative. He joined the team in April and is working out of the Carrington office as a staking engineer. His responsibilities include working with members on requests for new services, line conversions and capacity increases, along with

identifying projects to improve system performance and the accuracy of the cooperative's mapping system.

Liebig is a native of Pingree and lives in Kensal. In his off time, he enjoys golfing, fishing, camping, biking and photography. Welcome to the team, Justin! ■

We are here

During this time of uncertainty as the world fights the COVID-19 pandemic, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative would like to assure you we are here to help and will continue to provide you with reliable electricity.

As businesses start opening back up, members might not be ready to venture into the world. Northern Plains would like to remind our members of the several convenient ways to do business without visiting one of our offices:

- Call us toll-free: 800-882-2500
- Email us: justask@nplains.com
- Visit us online: www.nplains.com
- Download our app: SmartHub

We also provide many convenient ways to pay your monthly electric bill without visiting our offices:

- **Pay-by-phone.** Simply call the toll-free number: **844-749-3052** and follow the prompts that will guide you through the easy payment process. This option is an automated service that is free to members that takes payments 24 hours a day.
- **Mail.** You can mail a check or money order payment to: PO BOX 608, Cando, ND 58324.
- **Drop Box.** Drop off your payment at either Cando or Carrington offices using the drop box conveniently placed at the main entrance.



- **Pay online.** NPEC offers two ways to pay online using e-check, VISA, MasterCard or Discover.
 - **Pay Now:** make a one-time, quick payment by visiting our website www.nplains.com.
 - **SmartHub:** Download the SmartHub app on your apple or android device.

Please follow our Facebook page and website for periodic updates or contact us with any questions by calling 800-882-2500. ■

LOOK UP AND LOOK OUT!

Farmers and their equipment should always be 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air. Practice extreme caution and use a spotter to make sure you stay far away from power lines when you use tall equipment. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment.

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.



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.

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.**

**NORTHERN
PLAINS** Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

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