



POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY



**Verendrye
Electric
Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2025 ANNUAL REPORT
June 11, 2026 • Annual Meeting





Kristie Hoff, Verendrye's Member Services Communications Aide presents a check to **Lyle Kraft**, president of the Glenburn Booster Club in November. Also pictured are **Larry Derr**, Glenburn School Superintendent and **Emilie Walker**, Glenburn School Principal. The money was used for a new playground.



Brad Doll, general manager (left), and **Clint Gjellstad**, board chairman

POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY

A community can be defined as a geographical location where a group of people live, but to the team at Verendrye Electric Cooperative, it is more than that. We like the definition of community as a group of people working together to accomplish common goals.

The "Powering Your Community" theme illustrates how we help the communities we serve not only by providing reliable, affordable electricity, but also with several programs and personal services.

Challenges

We unfortunately had to increase rates in May 2025 and again in March 2026. Our power producer, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, increased its rates, causing us to increase ours. Our power costs were \$40.2 million last year which is about 70% of our total costs. Electric rates have increased nationwide because of inflation, higher interest rates, regulations and the need for new power plants and upgrades to the grid.

We have been informed by Basin Electric to expect another rate increase in January 2027, but we don't yet have an idea of how much it will be. For more about rates and our financials, see the business report on pages 8-9.



A B-52 Stratofortress readies for takeoff on the flightline at Minot Air Force Base. Verendrye powers the base and part of the missile field. Verendrye provides the base with reliable power and is a proud sponsor of events that help the men and women serving their country.

Reliability

We had a great year for reliability with an average outage per meter of 41 minutes, which is well below the state and national averages. We accomplish low outage times by upgrading and replacing infrastructure, conducting regular line inspections and doing ongoing maintenance.

We installed 57.5 miles of new underground power lines in 2025. We continually make strategic improvements replacing aging infrastructure and hardening the system. You can read more about our work in the Operations and Engineering sections on pages 10-11.

Giving Back

We're proud of our involvement in the communities we serve. Several of our employees volunteer for non-profits, school events, sports, fundraisers and serve on local boards. We have a program where employees can receive a donation for their cause if they actively volunteer.

We match employee donations to the Souris Valley United Way, providing a \$12,800 donation this past year. We also teamed up with Basin Electric Power Cooperative to provide a \$10,000 donation to the Home For The Holidays program that helps airman at Minot Air Force Base afford to travel home to see their families during the holidays. Our matching grant program with CoBank and Basin Electric over the years has provided donations to a number of communities, including \$13,000 towards a new playground in Glenburn, \$15,000 towards equipment for

the Towner Ambulance and \$2,000 for planting trees in the Berthold City Park.

Our Operation Round Up program, funded by members who round their bills up to the nearest dollar each month, contributes almost \$70,000 a year in grants of up to \$2,500 each to schools, emergency responders, senior centers, community facilities and more.

You can see all of the Operation Round Up recipients over the past year on page 14. Lastly, we're proud to give three scholarships and send one student on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about our country's history and government. You can see the winners on page 13.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is a way to say "thank you" to all of our members. It is also a time to celebrate our 87th year in business, to learn more about the cooperative and to visit with friends, cooperative employees and directors.

Thank you for your support. We hope to see you at the annual meeting on June 11th!

Manager Brad Doll

Board Chairman Clint Gjellstad



A room full of bouncy houses, other games and prizes will be available for kids.

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 11

\$2,000 prize guaranteed

Mark your calendar for Verendrye Electric Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting on June 11 in the State Fair Center in Minot. Registration begins at 4 p.m. and the meal is served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Entertainment starts at 5 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

You will also get to vote for candidates for the Verendrye Board of Directors. See next page for details on the election.

A free dinner of meatballs and mashed potatoes will be served with all the fixings, and ice cream bars.

Prizes

Several prizes will be given away, including a chance to win \$3,000 cash or a consolation prize of \$2,000 cash. The cash prize is given to a member who has to be in attendance at the time of the drawing. The \$3,000 drawing is from all of the Verendrye members. If that person is not present the \$2,000 consolation drawing will occur from names of registered members and will be given away to a member who is present.

A number of other prizes will also be given away to members who register at the meeting. Registered members will also receive a free insulated casserole carrier.

Kids activities and prizes

Kids will be entertained with bounce houses from Backyard Bounce Inflatables N' More. There will be a variety of bounce castles to appeal to all ages. Kids' prizes will be given away and cotton candy will be served.



The Annual Meeting is June 11 in the State Fair Center in Minot! Enjoy entertainment by the **Waddington Brothers** starting at 5 p.m.

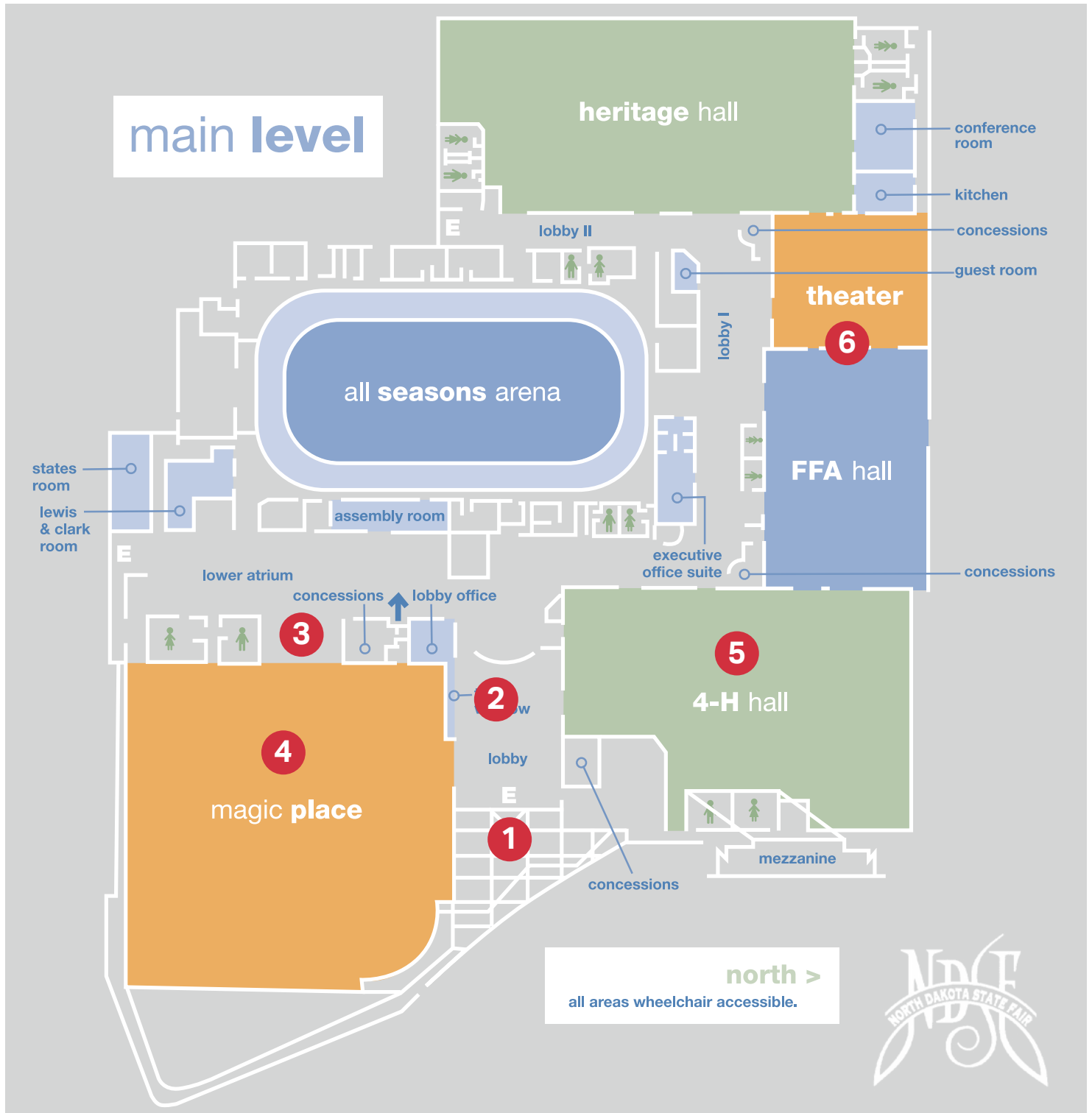
Waddington Brothers to headline annual meeting

An award-winning band known for their cowboy and bluegrass music will be the featured entertainment once again.

The Waddington Brothers, a band of four brothers from rural North Dakota, perform what they live: music that is real to them, that takes listeners on a journey through the heart of the American West. Seth, Ethan, Jacob, and Job Waddington skillfully blend cowboy and bluegrass music, creating a style that's timelessly classic and yet refreshingly new and unique.

They will perform from 5 p.m. to approximately 6:15 p.m. in the 4-H Hall at the State Fair Center in Minot. ■

MAP OF STATE FAIR CENTER



- 1. Entry
- 2. Registration
- 3. Dinner Line
- 4. Dining Hall
- 5. Meeting Hall and Entertainment
- 6. Kid's Activities



From left are Verendrye Manager **Brad Doll**, attorney **Scott Knudsvig**, Board members **Jon Hansen** (Makoti), **Blaine Bruner** (Drake), **Ken Schild** (Harvey), **Bob Wolf** (Minot), **Shawn Kaylor** (Velva), **Bob Hargrave** (Rice Lake), **Clint Gjellstad** (Velva), **Karen Hennessy** (Des Lacs) and **Maxine Rognlien** (Towner). Gjellstad serves as chairman, Hennessy as vice chair, Kaylor as secretary-treasurer and Rognlien as assistant secretary-treasurer.

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There are 9 directors on the Verendrye Board and they each serve terms of three years. The terms are staggered so that there is one seat up for election each year in each district. There are three directors serving in each district – West, Central and East. You can find a map of the districts on our website (www.verendrye.com). Directors have to be members of Verendrye Electric Co-op.

Directors are responsible for setting policy, hiring the manager and selecting legal, accounting and other consultants. The manager implements board policies and selects staff to perform duties and is accountable to the board.

Caucus meetings are held each year for the purpose of nominating candidates that will be voted on at the annual meeting. Information about the caucus meetings is mailed and sent electronically to members and is published in *North Dakota Living* and on our website in the spring. If you cannot attend a caucus meeting, you can also submit a petition with signatures of members in your district. Petition forms are made available when caucus meetings are announced. ■

VOTE FOR DIRECTORS

Voting for directors occurs at the annual meeting. Candidates were nominated at caucus meetings held in April. This year there will not be a contest since only one director from each district was nominated. However, there will be a voice vote to officially elect the candidates.

If you want to vote, plan to be in the FFA Hall at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will start with a short report and then move into voting. You need to register before the business meeting and receive your voting sticker in order to vote. All members vote for all districts.

In addition to a member's personal vote, a member may carry one additional non-personal vote (church, township hall, business) if the member is authorized to do so and has the appropriate registration card for the organization.

The candidates' bios are listed in the order they were nominated.



Eastern District **Maxine Rognlien**

Maxine Rognlien has served on the board since 2011. She grew up on a farm near Buffalo, N.D., which was served by Cass County Electric Co-op. She attended North Dakota State University and graduated with a major in Home Economics Education in

1979 and began her 32-year teaching career in Towner.

A few years after moving to Towner, Maxine met and married a Towner cowboy (John). They have four children: James and his wife, Alli; Jared and his wife Shayna; Elliot, and his wife Ashley; and Emma. They have 12 grandchildren.

Maxine was elected McHenry County Superintendent of Schools in 1989, retiring from that position in 2020. She does prom and wedding alterations and designs and makes little dresses. She enjoys summer yard work, funky junk, golfing, cheering on the Bison and taking care of and cheering on her grandchildren.

She previously served on Verendrye Electric's Member Advisory Committee. The Verendrye Electric director position appeals to Maxine because she enjoys being around fun people, lending a helping hand, investing in the communities served by the cooperative and learning something new every day. She continues to learn and gain appreciation of electric cooperatives, having completed several classes to achieve her Director Gold Certificate. She was recently re-elected treasurer of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.



Central District **Bob Wolf**

Bob Wolf has served on the board since 2008. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director and has completed the Board Leadership Training. Bob currently represents Verendrye Electric's members on the Central Power Board of Directors.

Bob is employed with Local 714 and is a licensed electrician in North Dakota. He still occasionally teaches apprenticeship classes and keeps very involved in the electrical construction industry. Bob has lived in the Minot area most of his life and is married to Lisa, a business education teacher at Minot High School Central Campus. They have three children and two grandchildren. Bob enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family including the Labrador dogs. "I appreciate being given the opportunity to represent the members of Verendrye Electric and will do just that to the very best of my ability. I am honored to be a board member of a cooperative like Verendrye, they truly are one of the best, and that is a reflection of its members."



Western District **Robert Hargrave**

Robert (Bob) Hargrave was raised in the Minot area and his family has ties to the Drake and Anamoose area. His family moved to the west side of Logan in 1968 and that's when they became part of the Verendrye family. He attended the Bell School

and Minot Public School system and graduated from Magic City Campus. He attended the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton for refrigeration and electrical and he met his wife Marlene while attending school. They made their home in the Minot and Rice Lake area and are currently residing at Rice Lake. He worked as a Journeyman electrician at Coal Creek Power station while it was being built and from there spent 34 years working as an electrician/ appliance service tech and project manager for the housing maintenance on the Minot Air Force Base. He spent 10 years working for Food Services of America as the plant services supervisor. He also previously worked at Shock's Safe and Lock. He and his wife have one daughter Jill who is married to Jon. They live in rural Minot. ■

MORE THAN JUST A kWh FACTORY



Christel Laskowski
Business Manager

This year's theme is "Powering Your Community." When I began working at Verendrye Electric, I remember the general manager's conviction clearly and his preaching of how "we" are not just here to provide electrons to people and be a kilowatt-hour (kWh) factory. Instead "we" are here to serve the members who have poured into the cooperative.

We do that by abiding by the seven cooperative principles: 1) voluntary and open membership, 2) democratic member control, 3) member economic participation, 4) autonomy and independence, 5) education, training, and information, 6) cooperation among cooperatives and lastly 7) concern for community which aligns with our theme. We live and work in the communities we serve and I'm very proud of the positive impacts we've had over the years.

What keeps me up at night is the affordability of your power. We are in a period of back-to-back January 1 rate increases from our generation and transmission power providers which unfortunately must be passed on to you. We operated 2024 with a loss and increased member rates May 1, 2025 along with utilizing revenue deferral.

We endured another rate increase Jan. 1, 2026 from our power suppliers and implemented a rate increase March 1, 2026. We have been informed to expect another rate increase Jan. 1, 2027.

Good news is we were fortunate to receive \$975,000 from Central Power Electric Cooperative (CPEC) in capital credit retirements. After assessing your cooperative's financial condition at the end of the year, ensuring we have met all our loan covenants and are prepared for the future, we are able to return \$1.4 million back to you in capital credit retirements. Refer to your May usage bill (received early June) for both the allocation and retirement values.

Under our Cooperative business model, you earn patronage in Verendrye through your purchases of electricity. The operating margin that is generated during the year, revenues less expenses, is allocated (non-cash) to you based on the ratio of your purchases of electricity to the total membership purchases. This is how you gain "ownership" in the Cooperative. Capital credits returned to you is the portion of your ownership the Cooperative can afford to pay back in cash without causing financial distress.

Thank you for being a member-owner of Verendrye Electric Cooperative! ■

SAVE \$24 on Your Bill

Verendrye members can save \$24 a year in monthly bill credits for going paperless and using Auto Pay from a checking or savings account.

That's a credit of \$2 each month! You can choose to enroll in one or both of the programs. If you are not currently in the programs, here's how you can start saving:

GO PAPERLESS: Create an online account through SmartHub or www.verendrye.com and choose the paperless option. You will receive a \$1 credit per month for the paperless option.

SIGN UP FOR AUTO PAY: Join Auto Pay with a checking or savings account to receive the \$1 credit per month. Sign up through our SmartHub app or at www.verendrye.com. Call our billing department at 800-472-2141 if you need help with either of these programs. ■

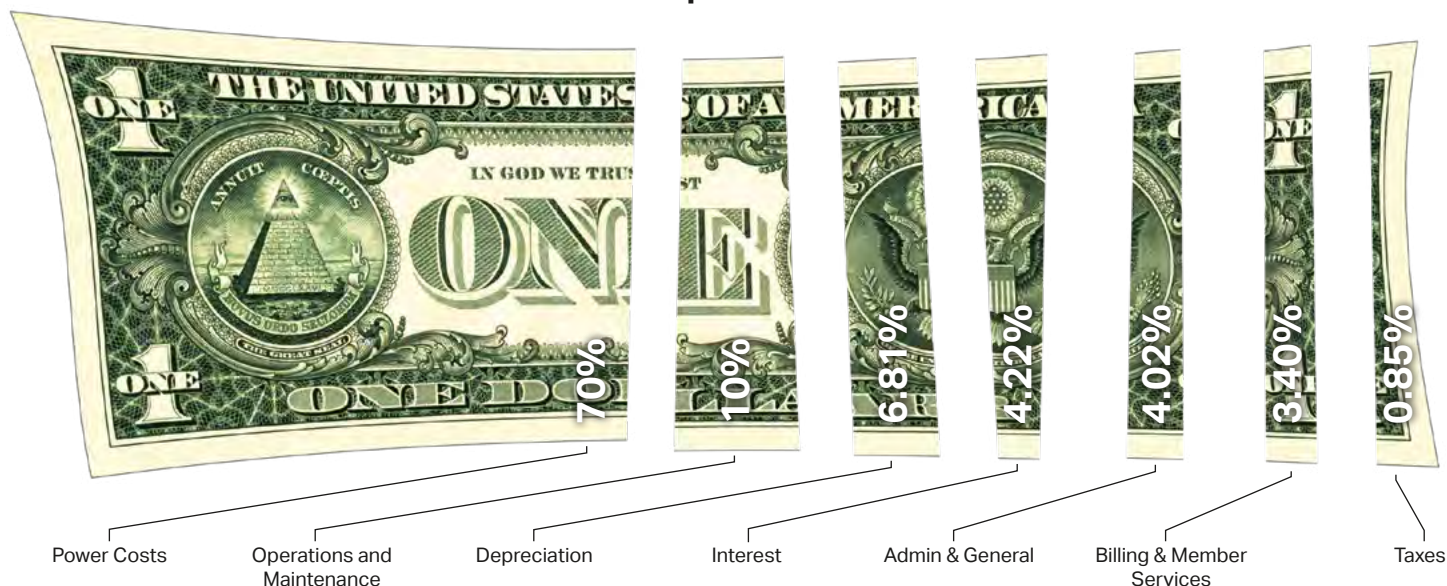
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FINANCIALS

Expenses



BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS	2025	2024
Utility Plant	\$162,231,402	\$157,207,171
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	46,567,060	44,133,601
Total Net Utility Plant	\$115,664,342	\$113,073,570
Cash	\$12,034,765	\$6,772,022
Patronage Investments	39,491,425	37,937,176
Accounts & Notes Receivable	8,139,147	7,540,053
Other Investments	4,495,966	4,252,882
Special Funds	4,348,727	5,343,264
Materials & Supplies	6,023,734	7,726,631
Prepayments	246,983	296,540
Total Assets	\$190,445,089	\$182,942,138
LIABILITIES		
Long Term Debt	\$83,576,918	\$82,893,534
Accounts Payable	3,995,248	3,777,476
Member Deposits	1,147,408	1,024,276
Noncurrent Liabilities	551,148	611,465
Current Liabilities	2,402,667	2,335,244
Deferred Credits	19,535,355	16,901,170
Deferred Revenue	4,100,000	5,000,000
Total Liabilities	\$115,308,744	\$112,543,165
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	\$50,725,373	\$48,132,473
Other Equities	24,410,972	22,266,500
Total Equities	\$75,136,345	\$70,398,973
Total Equities & Liabilities	\$190,445,089	\$182,942,138

STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

REVENUES	2025	2024
Residential Sales	\$25,758,351	\$23,590,167
Irrigation Sales	505,223	430,981
Commercial Sales	13,494,502	13,998,522
Industrial Sales	14,961,451	11,487,517
US Air Force	3,949,859	3,513,110
Other Sales	131,515	137,502
Total Revenues	\$58,800,901	\$53,157,799
EXPENSES		
Power Cost	\$40,188,881	\$36,619,015
Operations & Maintenance	6,004,410	5,783,108
Billing & Member Service	1,946,884	1,867,469
Administrative & General	2,301,954	2,428,124
Depreciation	3,895,524	3,766,473
Taxes	488,965	444,763
Interest	2,415,795	2,375,353
Total Operating Expenses	\$57,242,413	\$53,284,305
OPERATING MARGINS	\$1,558,488	(\$126,506)
ALLOCATIONS		
G&T Allocations	\$2,498,028	\$2,179,226
Other Allocations	332,948	453,725
Total Allocations	\$2,830,976	\$2,632,951
NON-OPERATING MARGINS	\$1,941,165	\$1,639,362
NET MARGINS	\$6,330,629	\$4,145,807

ENGINEERING REPORT



Dennis Huffman
Engineering Manager

At its core, “Powering Your Community” is a commitment to stability and growth. The engineering department’s strategy in 2025 remained focused on hardening the system – both on the ground and behind the scenes. Our goal is to provide a service that is as secure as it is reliable.

Verendrye’s electric system consists of approximately 4,621 miles of powerline, serving nearly

17,000 meters. Approximately half of the infrastructure is comprised of underground cable, while the other half consists of overhead conductors.

In 2025, Verendrye installed approximately 57.5 miles of underground cable. This wasn’t just routine maintenance; it is a strategic replacement of aging overhead lines and 1980s-vintage underground cable. This ensures Verendrye can remain as reliable as possible, especially during weather-related events.

Hardening the system now requires more than just boots on the ground; it requires a sophisticated virtual shield.

To protect your data and Verendrye’s grid, we focused on strengthening our cybersecurity and hardening our virtual infrastructure against threats. Additionally, we continue to implement and upgrade data analytics tools to assist with key decision-making processes. This reinforces where investments are needed most while ensuring every dollar spent has the maximum impact.

Our system is only as strong as the power flowing into it. We continue to work closely with Central Power Electric Cooperative, our power provider, to align their supply with the evolving energy demands of our members. A key part of this evolution is working with Minot Air Force Base to meet their growing needs.

A Look to the Future:

The engineering department will continue to build upon the pace set in 2025. Our roadmap for the coming years will focus on system modernization, strategically installing underground cable, and technological integration. While we are proud to be a leader in utility technology, our progress is driven by people. The expertise of staff – past and present – along with the membership’s support, is truly what keeps the lights on. We aren’t just maintaining a grid; we are powering the homes, farms, and businesses that make our community thrive. ■



Verendrye lineworkers complete work on a powerline in a rural area. Regular maintenance and system improvements help keep power reliable.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW



Burton Atkinson
Operations Manager

In 2025, Verendrye Electric Cooperative continued focusing on keeping your electric service safe, reliable, and affordable. Our crews stayed busy maintaining the electric system and responding to member needs.

One of our biggest challenges in 2025 was the Puppy Dog Coulee project around the Dakota Square Mall. This was a city project to improve drainage in that area,

which included installing large new culverts. Careful planning and coordination allowed our crews to replace and reroute underground electric lines within an active construction area while maintaining reliable service for our members and communities.

Although 2025 was a slower growth year, our commitment to serving our members remained strong. Throughout the year our crew's completed 3,204 service orders, addressing the needs of our members and our electric system. We also completed 403 work orders which include system upgrades and new services. This equated to 57.5 miles of new underground line installed.

Verendrye Electric Cooperative conducted detailed line inspections during 2025. These inspections identified

potential reliability concerns, ensured compliance with industry standards, and aided in future system improvements and planning.

All this work has proven successful, reflected by our SAIDI number. The SAIDI is the System Average Interruption Duration Index. SAIDI is a reliability metric used by electric utilities to measure the average total duration of power outages per customer, the lower the number the better the reliability. Our SAIDI of about 41 minutes per meter, which is well below the industry average, shows our commitment to our members.

We had a total of 551 outages during the year. Of these, 235 outages were scheduled outages. Scheduled power outages are carefully planned to reduce member impact. While outages are unavoidable, our crews responded quickly and safely, often working long hours in challenging conditions to restore power and keep our communities lights on.

Verendrye Electric Cooperative remains focused on delivering safe, reliable electricity today while proactively preparing for your future electrical needs. Through ongoing investment in maintenance, inspections, technology, and our electric system, we are well equipped to meet future challenges. We are excited to serve our members and communities with confidence for years to come. ■



MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Getting to know Verendrye Members



Tom Rafferty
Member Services
Manager

One of the best things about working for Verendrye Electric is the opportunity to meet our members all across our 4,800-square-mile territory.

One of my favorite experiences was this past fall when I attended the 100th birthday of the town of Verendrye. The cooperative was founded in the town in 1939 as a not-for-profit cooperative. Two of the people I got to visit with

that day were Verna Shook, who was 100 at the time and Raymond "Buddy" Walter, who was 99.

They both told stories of how their lives changed when Verendrye brought electricity to their homes and communities.

There are countless stories of how grateful members are when lineworkers worked through blizzards or bitter cold to restore outages. Over the years farmers have even helped us on outages by pulling bucket trucks through snow or mud.

We have technicians who visit people's homes, farms and businesses to conduct free energy audits. They also get called on to repair electric heating equipment or solar pasture wells when they are urgently needed. They help advise members on heating and cooling and we have rebate programs for water heaters, heat pumps and commercial lighting.

It is exciting to see how much it means to community organizations when you volunteer at an event, present an Operation Round Up donation, conduct a safety presentation to a school, or simply drive a truck in a small-town parade.

We want to provide the highest level of service to our members. That's one of the reasons why you can walk into our offices to get in-person service and when you call us you will talk to someone either in Velva or Minot.

We have a Member Advisory Committee that meets once a year to provide input to

the board and our Operation Round Up Board that meets three times a year to grant Round Up funds. If you are interested in either of these opportunities give me a call at 852-0406.

One of the best ways to get to know your cooperative is to attend the annual meeting to see how we are "Powering Your Community" with more than just electricity. See you June 11th! ■



The poster features a dark green background with cartoon illustrations of various animals including giraffes, elephants, lions, bears, monkeys, a rabbit, and a turtle. At the top, the Verendrye Electric Cooperative logo is displayed with a lightning bolt icon and the text "A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative". Below the logo, the words "ZOO DAY" are written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, a yellow banner contains the text "WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH 10 AM TO 2 PM". At the bottom, another yellow banner reads "**FREE ENTRY WITH PROOF OF VEC MEMBERSHIP**". The Roosevelt Park Zoo logo is also visible in the bottom right corner.

VERENDRYE ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year VEC awards three students with scholarships. This year the scholarships increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. We also provide \$1,000 to Dollars for Scholars Chapters in our service area. Scholarship details are posted on our website early in the year.



Eastern District

Leah Volochenko is a senior at Velva High School. She plans on attending the University of Mary in Bismarck to study elementary education and Catholic studies. She is a past class president and is involved in numerous activities including Youth Group, band, 4-H, FCCLA, FBLA, basketball, volleyball and softball. She has also volunteered for her church and other organizations. Her parents are Natasha and Dustin Volochenko.



Central District

Noel Pankratz is a senior at Our Redeemer's Christian School. She plans on attending the University of North Dakota to study pre-physical therapy, with the goal of pursuing a doctoral degree in that field. She was the varsity senior captain on the volleyball team, won the Joseph Award for character in 2025, was a middle school youth group leader and is a National Honor Society Chaplain. Her parents are Amber and John Pankratz.



Western District

Emma Jo Marten is a senior at South Prairie High School. She plans on attending Minot State University to study multi-media communications. She is involved in speech, drama, FFA, BIO Girls and North Dakota Miss Amazing. Her parents are Joey and Bruce Marten.



YOUTH TOUR WINNER ANNOUNCED

The 2026 Youth Tour Winner is **Burke Rauschenberger**, a junior at South Prairie High School. His parents are Gabe and Karlee Rauschenberger.

Each year, Verendrye Electric selects one area student to take an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. where they will see their nation's capital up close, learn about the political process and interact with their elected officials. Students submit an essay that is judged, and a winner is selected. ■

OPERATION ROUND UP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Verendrye Electric members continue to make an impact by participating in Operation Round Up. Members voluntarily round their bills to the nearest dollar each month and the money collected is used for charitable causes. Members gave back \$69,468 over the past year.

The Operation Round Up program is controlled by the Verendrye Electric Trust Board. The board has five members who are elected from within Verendrye Electric’s Member Advisory Committee. Members can serve a maximum of two terms, each consisting of three years. There is one member for each Verendrye district – east, west and central – and also two members elected at large. If you are interested in serving on the Operation Round Up Board contact Member Services Manager Tom Rafferty at 701-852-0406.

Current members are President Amanda Zietz, Minot; Vice President Kristi Howe, Velva; Treasurer Annette Thompson, Surrey; Secretary Sandy Hanretty, Towner, and Board Member Renetta Pearson, Minot.

For more information, go to www.verendrye.com.

The following table lists all of the Operation Round Up Grants from May 1, 2025 through May 1, 2026. ■



Verendrye Member Services Manager **Tom Rafferty** presents a \$2,000 check to **Jessica Ackerman**, manager of **Local Motives**, the organization that runs the **Citizens Alley** in Minot. The money was used to buy a basketball hoop free to use by the public.

The following table lists all of the Operation Round Up Grants

Bethel Free Lutheran Church.....	mower.....	\$1,000
Burlington Rural Fire District.....	rescue auger.....	\$1,100
Camp Bentley.....	signage.....	\$1,000
Magic City Discovery Center.....	repairs to exhibit.....	\$1,000
Makoti Community Food Pantry.....	outlets, light and garden.....	\$1,000
Companions for Children.....	lpad.....	\$1,000
Dakota Boys Ranch.....	cottage construction.....	\$2,500
Dakota Hope Clinic.....	boutique items.....	\$1,000
Douglas Fire Protection District.....	building addition.....	\$2,500
Drake Trinity Lutheran Church.....	furnace work.....	\$1,000
Lillian and Coleman Taube Museum of Art.....	repair door.....	\$1,276
Minot Public School-Minot North.....	blueprint build class pack.....	\$1,000
Mouse River Players.....	podcast equipment.....	\$1,000
Norway Lutheran Church of Rural Denbigh.....	repair steps.....	\$1,000
Oak Valley Lutheran Church.....	kitchen renovation.....	\$1,000
Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry.....	food.....	\$1,000
Scandinavian Heritage Association.....	electric work.....	\$1,000
Souris Valley United Way.....	shelving.....	\$1,500
South Prairie School Foundation.....	chicken coop equipment.....	\$2,500
Animal Empowerment League.....	computer and printer.....	\$1,250
Berthold Ambulance.....	papers.....	\$2,500
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church.....	sound system.....	\$2,000
North Shore Plaza School.....	laptop.....	\$1,100
McHenry County Historical Society.....	remodel building.....	\$2,500
Northern Pines Stables.....	supplies for events.....	\$500
Peer Vision for Mental Health.....	suicide prevention resources.....	\$2,163
Ryder-Makoti Rural Fire Protection District.....	firefighting gear.....	\$2,500
Upham Fire Supporters.....	firefighting gear.....	\$2,500
YMCA.....	pool vacuum system.....	\$1,500
City of Drake-Community Cupboard.....	supplies.....	\$2,000
Sheridan County Park Board.....	playground equipment.....	\$2,500
NDSU Bottineau Foundation.....	expand radiography program.....	\$2,000
Minot Public School District.....	ChompSaw.....	\$2,000
Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports.....	Gravel for Velva Wildlife Club.....	\$700
Souris Valley Animal Shelter.....	Spay-It-Forward program.....	\$2,000
The Difference-A Holistic Approach.....	Therapeutic healing equipment.....	\$2,038
Velva Public Schools/Backpack buddies.....	supplies.....	\$2,000
City of Granville.....	updating siren system.....	\$2,300
Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry.....	food.....	\$2,000
Souris Valley United Way.....	blankets for service project.....	\$1,500
Minot Symphony Associaton.....	bass stools.....	\$2,040
Little Hands Loving Hearts.....	Update playground.....	\$2,000
Ward County Historical Society.....	carousel project.....	\$1,500

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF VERENDRYE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

JUNE 12, 2025

The 86th Annual Meeting of the members of Verendrye Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held at the North Dakota State Fair Center in Minot, North Dakota, on June 12, 2025.

Registration and Call to Order

President Clint Gjellstad called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the presentation of colors and singing of the National Anthem by Kiera Torgeson, a 2025 Minot High School graduate, he announced that a quorum was present. President Gjellstad appointed Attorney Scott M. Knudsvig of the law firm of Pringle & Herigstad, P.C., as Parliamentarian and Recording Secretary.

Notice of Meeting/Minutes

It was moved, seconded, and carried to dispense with the reading of the formal notice of meeting, the proof of mailing to the members, and to approve the June 13, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Introductions

President Gjellstad recognized those serving as Sergeant of Arms and the Resolutions Committee.

Door Prizes

Manager Brad Doll described how the door prizes would be selected and that the \$3,000 grand prize would be drawn from the total membership list.

Introduction of Directors

Manager Doll introduced the members of the Board of Directors and their spouses:

Chairman Clint Gjellstad and his wife, Jamie, Velva
Vice President Karen Hennessy and her husband, Jay,
Des Lacs
Secretary-Treasurer Shawn Kaylor, Velva
Blaine Bruner and his wife, Kim, Drake
Maxine Rognlien and her husband, John, Towner
Ken Schild and his wife, Julie, Harvey
Bob Wolf and his wife, Lisa, Minot
Jon Hansen and his wife, Debbie, Ryder
Robert Hargrave and his wife, Marlene, Rice Lake

Director Election

Gjellstad reported on the caucus and petition board nominations that Karen Hennessy was nominated at the Western District caucus, Clint Gjellstad was nominated at the Central District caucus and Blaine Bruner was nominated at the Eastern District caucus. Gjellstad also

reported that there were no nominations by petition.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to authorize the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the unopposed candidate in the Western, Central and Eastern Districts. A unanimous ballot was cast and Karen Hennessy, Clint Gjellstad and Blaine Bruner were elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term.

Introduction of Guests

Manager Doll extended greetings received from several VIPs who were unable to attend the meeting, including Governor Armstrong, Senators Hoeven and Cramer and Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak. He also reported that several guests from neighboring rural electric cooperatives, other area cooperatives, former directors, and the City of Minot as well as other elected officials were in attendance. Elected officials were recognized by name on the overhead screen. Manager Doll recognized members of the Minot Air Force Base and all veterans. Manager Doll recognized Miss North Dakota Kennedy DeLap.

Financial Reports

Doll introduced Christel Laskowski, VEC Business Manager, to give the financial report for the year 2024.

Laskowski reported that Eide Bailly completed an audit of the VEC books and records and issued a clean audit opinion on the financial statements, on compliance with rules and regulations and on internal controls of the cooperative. Eide Bailly found the financial records of the cooperative to be in good order.

Laskowski noted revenue for 2024 totaled \$53.2 million, which is a 3.4% increase from 2023. Operating expenses for 2024 totaled \$53.3 million. Our largest expense is power cost totaling \$37 million, which represents 69% of total expenses.

Operating margin was a loss of \$126,000. Margins allocated by Central Power Electric Cooperative, VEC's power supplier, and others totaled \$2.6 million. These are non-cash allocations. Non-operating margins totaled \$1.6 million. Our 2024 net margins are \$4.1 million, meeting all RUS mortgage requirements.

Total assets for 2024 are \$183 million. Our distribution plant is the cooperative's largest asset totaling \$113 million, which comprise 62% of total assets. Ownership in Basin Electric and Central Power Electric Cooperative totals \$38 million, which comprises 21% of total assets. The remaining 17% of our assets are comprised of short

term investments, accounts receivable, materials and other, totals \$32 million. Total liabilities for 2024 are \$113 million. Total equity is \$70 million.

Management Reports

President Gjellstad and Manager Doll provided separate president/manager reports.

VEC's theme this year is "Trusted Service. Dependable Power". VEC's total margins were approximately \$4.1 million in 2024.

Gjellstad reported the cooperative was in good financial condition and met all of our financial ratios by RUS. Gjellstad discussed the rate increase.

VEC is retiring capital credits of over \$1.4 million. The capital credit checks were mailed at the end of May. Gjellstad reported on the investments by VEC in infrastructure.

Gjellstad extended a thank you to employees for their hard work, to the board of directors for their commitment to the cooperative, and to the members.

Doll reviewed sales, expenses, and account information as it pertains to the cooperative. Doll discussed concerns regarding EPA rules with respect to coal and natural gas power generation. Doll discussed the importance of America's Electric Cooperatives PAC and encouraged members to join.

Operation Roundup

The Operation Roundup report was reviewed. Since last year's annual meeting \$67,218 in grants have been distributed to worthy organizations and individuals.

Scholarship Awards

Manager Doll announced that three \$1,000 scholarships provided by VEC and BEPC were awarded to area students, one from each director district.

From the Western District, Drew Zwak, received the scholarship. Drew is a Senior at Bishop Ryan High School and plans to attend Minot State University. His parents are Sarah and Jesse Zwak.

From the Central District, Evelyn Seil, daughter of Melinda and Brian Seil, received the scholarship. Evelyn is a Senior at Velva High School and plans to attend Minot State University.

From the Eastern District, Mason Lemer, son of Mitchell and Candy Lemer, received the scholarship. Andrew graduated from Drake High School and attends Minot State University.

Youth Tour Winner

Manager Doll announced Abby Finke as the Youth Tour Winner to receive a trip to Washington, DC. Abby is the

daughter of Kelly and Todd Finke.

Resolutions

President Gjellstad reviewed the resolutions.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the Continuing Resolutions.

1. Rural Economic Community Development
2. Support for Power Marketing Administration Retention
3. North Dakota Territorial Law
4. Rural Utilities Services Loan Support
5. E.P.A. Regulatory Concerns
6. Support for Sentinel Missile System
7. Net Metering
8. Electric Vehicles
9. Supporting Investment in Reliability and Efficiency from Federal Bills

Old Business

President Gjellstad called for old business. There was none.

New Business

President Gjellstad called for new business. There was none.

Member Questions

The chairman asked the membership for any questions. There were no questions.

Prize Drawings

President Gjellstad outlined requirements for the member to be present and registered to win the \$3,000 grand prize. Kasey and Garrett Scofield, Minot, were drawn. They were not in attendance. A consolation drawing was made from the members registered for a \$2,000 cash prize. Roger Myers, Voltaire, was in attendance and was the winner of \$2,000.

Adjournment

There being no further business, without objection, President Gjellstad adjourned the annual meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Scott M. Knudsvig, Recording Secretary

Shawn Kaylor, Secretary

ATTEST:

Clint Gjellstad, President



Verendrye members have a voice at the annual meeting where they get to vote for directors and give their input.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

1) RURAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Keeping farm families on their land will benefit Verendrye Electric Cooperative and all of North Dakota. We support North Dakota's long tradition of keeping production agriculture in the hands of family farms. Therefore, we urge continued funding of those Rural Development programs which will help family farms. Priority should be placed on loan programs that will help family farms diversify by investing in ways to process and market their products. We continue to support other rural economic development activities including rural housing, energy development, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. We encourage Congress to continue to fund the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) and the Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program (RCDG) that are administered by the USDA.

We encourage the Administration and Congress to work to improve the business economy through rural renaissance zones and other applicable incentives to stimulate growth. Verendrye Electric Cooperative

reaffirms our long-time support for reasonable economic development efforts for the City of Minot and the surrounding region.

We support efforts to expand value-added agriculture and other ag-related industries in the area, including the Logistics Park of North Dakota

2) SUPPORT FOR POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATION RETENTION

We strongly oppose changing from a cost base to a market base rate for hydro-generation. At market rates the costs for power would dramatically increase and the incentive to use this environmentally friendly power source would diminish.

We strongly oppose the sale of the power marketing administrations (PMAs), which include Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) generation and transmission facilities, which supply Verendrye Electric Co-op reasonably priced power. We support the continued current management of the PMAs by their respective federal agencies, i.e. WAPA.

3) NORTH DAKOTA TERRITORIAL LAW

We are strongly opposed to either weakening or repealing the ND Territorial Law of 1965. We urge continued vigilance in this area of potentially recurring legislation.

4) RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES LOAN SUPPORT

We believe that there is continued need for a distribution and transmission loan program for those Rural Utilities Services (RUS) Program systems serving areas with low consumer density per mile of line. We strongly encourage Congress to fully fund the insured RUS loan program and the guaranteed loan program. This financing is crucial to the rural way of life.

5) E.P.A. REGULATORY CONCERNS

Verendrye Electric Cooperative believes that climate change concerns should be addressed by the U.S. Congress through legislation, rather than by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through administrative rulemaking. The Clean Air Act of 1970 was never intended to address greenhouse gasses or climate change and EPA should not have jurisdiction to limit greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. We encourage all government officials to visit our coal-fired power plants, which are some of the cleanest in the world.

We also support the "All of the Above" approach to electricity generation. While new renewable energy projects are on the rise, we still need baseload generation like coal and natural gas to maintain reliability. We discourage policies that prevent renewable or baseload energy plants from being constructed in North Dakota. A diversified portfolio will help maintain affordability and reliable electricity.

6) SUPPORT FOR SENTINEL MISSILE SYSTEM

The Minot Air Force Base plays a crucial role protecting U.S. citizens and helping keep peace in the world with its nuclear deterrent that consists of 150 Minuteman III missiles and a fleet of B-52 Bombers. The base is an economic engine for our region, providing more than \$600 million in economic impacts to the area. Verendrye Electric Cooperative serves the base and 40 of its 150 missile sites, while four other electric cooperative serve the remaining missile sites.

The military has been working on replacing the aging Minuteman III missiles with the new Sentinel missile system at three Air Force Bases. Verendrye Electric encourages the Administration and Congress to fund the Sentinel system at the Minot Air Force Base. We urge the Administration and Congress to include electrical infrastructure as part of the infrastructure to be improved as part of the Sentinel system.

7) NET METERING

Verendrye Electric Cooperative opposes any net metering laws or rules that result in some members

subsidizing electric service of others. Proposals requiring cooperatives to pay retail rates to members generating their own power do not take into consideration the costs of distribution and transmission infrastructure and backup services supplied by the cooperative. Net metering proposals must take into consideration there are times of the year and even times of the day when power costs are higher. Power generated from net metering facilities often cannot be dispatched during periods of higher costs when it is most needed. Decisions on net metering policies are best made by each individual electric cooperative. Proposals for any net metering laws or rules should include input from electric cooperatives.

8) ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Electric vehicles (EVs) are becoming more common, more affordable and with increased range. Charging stations for EVs are also becoming more widely available.

Verendrye Electric recognizes the potential of EVs to benefit the cooperative and its members. We are educating members about EVs by using one for our business operations, and by installing EV chargers, including a fast charging station.

Verendrye Electric supports policies and investments that encourage the use of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to support them, including state and federal grants to help increase the amount of charging stations across the country.

9) SUPPORT INVESTMENT IN RELIABILITY AND EFFICIENCY FROM FEDERAL BILLS

If federal funding is available for grid resiliency, modernization, cybersecurity, clean energy and EV vehicle infrastructure, Verendrye Electric Cooperative urges the federal government and state governments to include opportunities specifically for cooperatives.. Improving infrastructure of cooperatives and programs for its members will benefit the communities served by cooperatives and help create jobs. ■

OFFICIAL NOTICE

DETACH this registration card
for a **QUICKER REGISTRATION**
at your annual meeting June 11, 2026.

If you **bring this card** to your annual meeting, **registration will be a breeze**. All **we** have to **do** is **scan the barcode** on the back and you'll be registered.

NOTICE TO THE MEMBERS OF VERENDRYE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

The annual meeting of the members of Verendrye Electric Cooperative Inc. will be held June 11th in the State Fair Center, Minot, county of Ward, state of North Dakota, for the purpose of electing three (3) directors, one (1) for each district and each for a term of three (3) years, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year and transacting other business that may come before the meeting.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. with the call to order at 6:30 p.m. The following names have been submitted by the various district caucuses as candidates for directors and they have accepted the nominations:

Eastern District
Maxine Roglien, Towner

Central District
Bob Wolf, Minot

Western District
Robert Hargrave, Rice Lake

BRING REGISTRATION CARD FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$100!

Do you want
a chance to win A
\$100 Bill Credit?

All you have to do is detach the card above and use it to register at the annual meeting. There's a barcode on the back that will be scanned when you arrive and that's all you need to do to be registered!

This year we are giving away two \$100 bill credits!

Registering at the Verendrye Electric annual meeting has never been quicker or easier!





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Detach this registration card and bring it to your annual meeting June 11, 2026.
This is your official registration card for Verendrye Electric Cooperative's annual membership meeting.

87th Annual Meeting Agenda

- 4 p.m. Registration Begins**
- 4:30 p.m. Supper is served by Homesteaders in the Magic Room**
- 5 p.m. The Waddington Brothers perform**
- 6:30 p.m. Call to order – 4-H Hall**
Welcome and introduction of guests
- 6:45 p.m. Report of caucus meetings and voting for directors**
(you must be in the 4-H Hall with voting stickers to vote)
- 7 p.m. Reports**
Secretary-Treasurer
Board President and General Manager
Resolution – old and new business

Drawings

\$3,000 grand prize or **\$2,000** second place prize.

All Verendrye members will be in the drawing to win the \$3,000. If the person whose name is drawn is not registered and not in attendance at the time of the drawing, a second cash drawing of \$2,000 will be drawn from the members who registered. You must also be in attendance at the time of the drawing to win the \$2,000.