

TRUSTED SERVICE.  
DEPENDABLE POWER.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

86th Annual Meeting June 12, 2025







# TRUSTED SERVICE. DEPENDABLE POWER.



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

**D**espite electricity's importance in virtually every hour of our lives, most of us don't think about it unless there is an outage or when it is time to pay the bill.

The team at Verendrye Electric Cooperative is constantly thinking about and providing trusted service and power that is safe, dependable and affordable.

In this annual report we will demonstrate some of the things our team has been working on to accomplish those goals. We will also report on the challenges we faced in 2024 and what we expect moving forward.

## OUTAGE TIMES

We recorded an average outage time of 37 minutes per meter in 2024. It is very difficult to achieve an average outage time of less than 60 minutes per meter. The average outage time for all North Dakota utilities was 2.22 hours and for the entire U.S. it was 3.46 hours.

We plan carefully every year to improve our system in part by converting lines from overhead to underground, replacing poles and keeping up with current technology. We spend around \$8 million a year on system improvements and about half of our miles of line are now buried.

We also credit our employees for their outage response efforts. Nearly everyone in the cooperative is mobilized during an outage. Office workers can be inundated with calls with the information being relayed to dispatchers who send the linemen out, often in harsh weather conditions. Our dedicated employees have years of experience handling outages and they bring a team effort when it is needed most.

## MEMBER SERVICE

All of our employees live in our general service area. That means when you call us with a question you get to talk to someone local who is connected to the communities we serve. Unless we are inundated with

outage calls, a live person will answer the phone with no automated phone menu.

We also provide services other utilities don't. Those include free energy audits, free advice on energy products for new or existing buildings and heating equipment products for sale. We will also come to your school or youth organization to conduct safety demonstrations.

We can make the member our No. 1 priority because we are a not-for-profit provider founded by members and governed by a board elected by members.

To ensure we are providing a high level of member service, we conduct a survey every two years using methodology from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI). ACSI is a company that measures customer satisfaction across multiple industries throughout the entire United States.

For 2024, Verendrye received an ACSI score of "87" on a 100-point scale. Verendrye's ACSI score substantially outperforms the industry average score earned by publicly measured utilities reported in the 2024 ACSI Energy Utility Study. Verendrye Electric is honored to have earned a 2024 Customer Satisfaction Award from the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) based on our 2024 member survey results.

### **RATE INCREASE**

One of our priorities is to keep rates as low as possible, but cost pressures forced us to increase rates. Members saw their rates increase May 1 of this year by an average of 7.4%, although that amount varied depending on the type of service.

Besides a few small increases in the monthly facility fee and a small increase in our electric heating rate, we have not had a significant rate increase since 2016.

Most of the cost pressures come from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which produces most of the power we purchase. Basin Electric increased their rates in January. Our bill for electricity is about 70% of our total costs. Other factors putting pressure on rates include inflation, higher borrowing costs and rate increases from our transmission cooperative Central Power Electric Cooperative and rate increases from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), for hydropower we purchase.

We may have to increase rates again in 2026. You can read more about rates in the Business Report on pages 8 and 9.

We want to thank all of our members for their business and participation in the cooperative. We are committed to continuing to earn your trust and provide safe, dependable and affordable power.

We encourage members to learn more about their cooperative and participate in cooperative events. You can read more about what we have to offer later in this report.

We hope to see you at Verendrye Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting on June 12. ■







*The Waddington Brothers, an award-winning band known for their cowboy and bluegrass music, will be the featured entertainment at Verendrye Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting on June 12. They perform from 5 to 6:15 in the 4-H Hall at the State Fair Center. **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. In 2023 The Waddington Brothers took first place in the International Bluegrass Band Competition at the annual SPBGMA (Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America) Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.*

## ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 12

### \$2,000 PRIZE GUARANTEED

**M**ark your calendar for Verendrye Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting on June 12 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.

This year's theme is Trusted Service, Dependable Power. You'll learn in the business meeting how your cooperative takes pride in excellent member service to bring you power you can depend on.

You will also get to vote for candidates for the Verendrye Board of Directors.

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 registered and 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 cutting board and paring knife set.

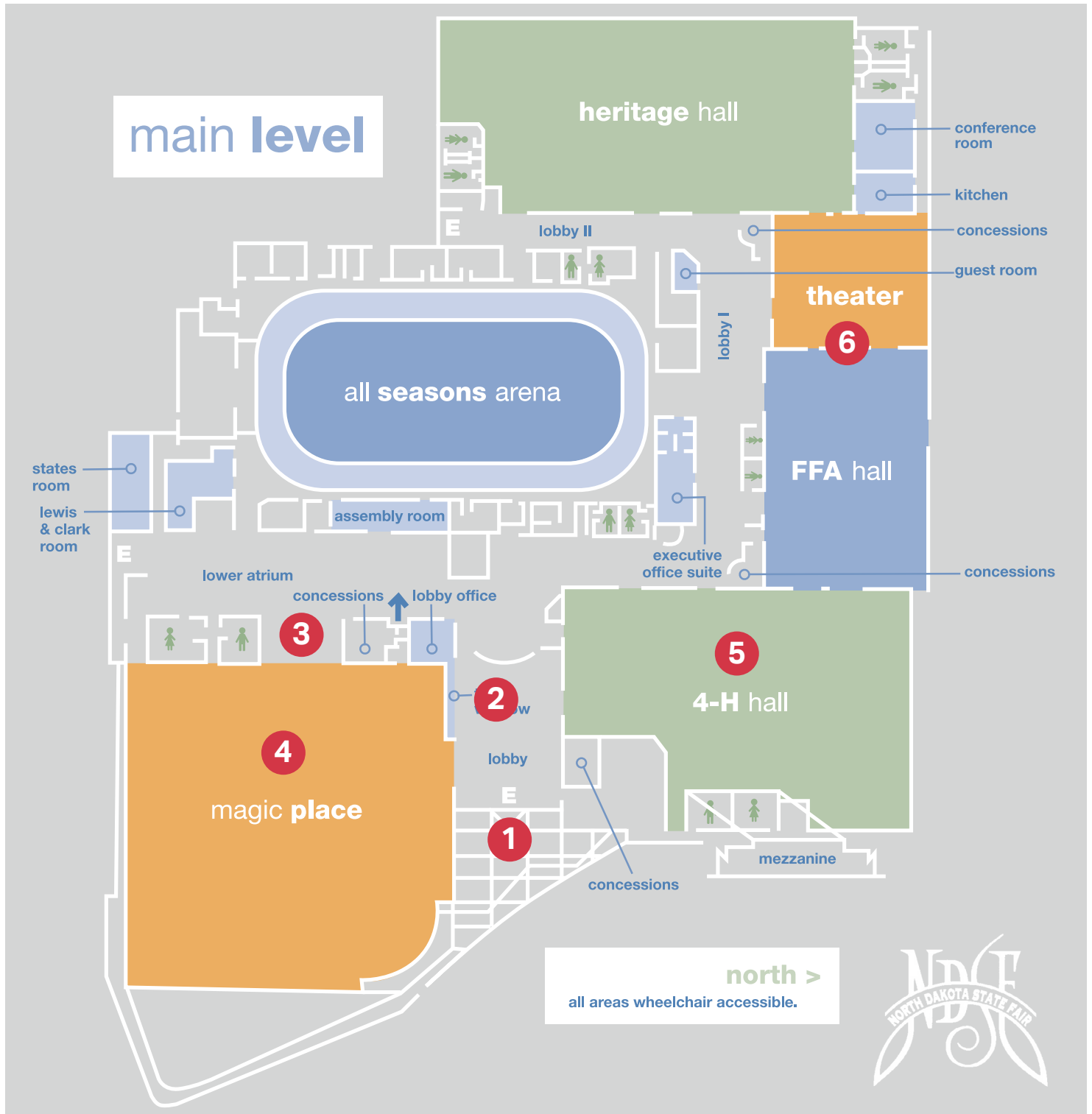
#### KIDS ACTIVITIES AND PRIZES

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. An electric scooter will be given away and cotton candy will be served. ■



*A large room full of bouncy houses will be available for kids at the annual meeting.*

# 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

**T**here 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](http://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

**V**oting for directors in each of Verendrye Electric's three districts occurs at the annual meeting. Candidates were nominated at caucus meetings held in April and there were no candidates nominated by petition. 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** **Blaine Bruner**

Blaine Bruner has been a Verendrye board member since 2001. He previously served as chairman of the board for several years. Blaine has also served on the Operation Round Up board and was previously Verendrye Electric's representative on the board of North Dakota

Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC).

Blaine and his wife Kimberly have 3 adult sons, Travis (Ashley) who have four children, Trenton (Rachel), who also have 4 children and Ty (Erin), who have two children. Blaine and his wife live near Drake where all family members are quite involved in the Bruner Angus Ranch, a fourth-generation family farm. They host two production sales a year and the family has also been successful in developing Dakota Angus, LLC, a retail meat business.

He is also a member of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. He is a former board member of the McHenry County Farmers Union, a position he held for 30 years, and he currently serves on the Strege Township Board of Supervisors.



## **CENTRAL DISTRICT** **Clint Gjellstad**

Clint grew up on a family farm north of Velva, where he currently farms with his wife, Jamie, and two children, Odin (12) and Isabelle (9). They also operate two local businesses in Velva.

Gjellstad graduated from Velva High and from NDSU with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. He played defense for the Bison football team, starting every game in his 4-year career. His leadership, hard work, and determination was learned on the family farm and helped him on and off the field as well as in his career. Before returning to ND, Gjellstad spent 10 years in mortgage banking in Minneapolis.

"I have family ties that go back to when Verendrye Electric was formed," Gjellstad said. "When I flip a light switch at home or at work, I want the light to turn on. Rural energy is critical to the success of our family farm and our life on the prairie. I want this for my family today and in the future. I support our clean coal-fired power plants with our mix of hydro-electric, natural gas, and wind power. I will work hard to maintain the most inexpensive and reliable power for our members."

When Gjellstad isn't working on the farm or as an entrepreneur in town, he can be found spending time with family and friends, enjoying the outdoors in all seasons.



## **WESTERN DISTRICT** **Karen Hennessy**

Karen Hennessy was first elected to the board in 2010. She lives in Des Lacs with her husband Jay. They have six children. Jay operates Hennessy Builders and the family raises Simmental and Commercial cattle. Karen graduated from Lansford High School and Minot

State University with an associate's of applied science degree in 1993. She served on the Verendrye Electric Member Advisory Committee from 2001 to 2007 and was elected to serve two terms on the Operation Round Up Board. Karen was also elected to the Midwest Electric Consumers Association Board in 2019. The Midwest Association promotes and protects the interests of federal power customers and their consumers within the Missouri River Basin. ■

# DEPENDABLE AND AFFORDABLE POWER



**Christel Laskowski,**  
Business Manager

This year's theme is "Trusted Service. Dependable Power." We pride ourselves on providing both reliable and affordable power to our members. Looking at the upcoming landscape of generation and transmission power cost increases, I feel the affordability side of the coin is going to be under pressure. In 2024 our operating "margin" was actually an operating "loss." We knew 2024 was going to be

short (by a little bit) and that our member rates needed to increase. What we didn't know was how significant of a generation and transmission power cost increase we would be facing January 2025. It looks like we will be facing a similar scenario again in January 2026. Unfortunately, we needed to increase our member rates higher than originally expected with phase one of the increase in effect May 1, 2025. The annualized rate increase averages 7.4% across our membership.

Some good news is we were fortunate to receive \$867,000 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 credits. In order to reduce both operating and opportunity costs, we applied the capital credit payments to your electric bill in 2025 instead of mailing out checks. 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!

Credits increased for going paperless and using Auto Pay from bank account

**SMART ENVIRONMENT**

Save a tree (and time).  
Going paperless with SmartHub is easy. And with convenient access to your bill anytime, anywhere, doing your part to save the planet just got easier.  
...all in the palm of your hand and online.

**SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.**

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 verendrye.com and choose the paperless option. You will receive a \$1 credit per month for the paperless option.

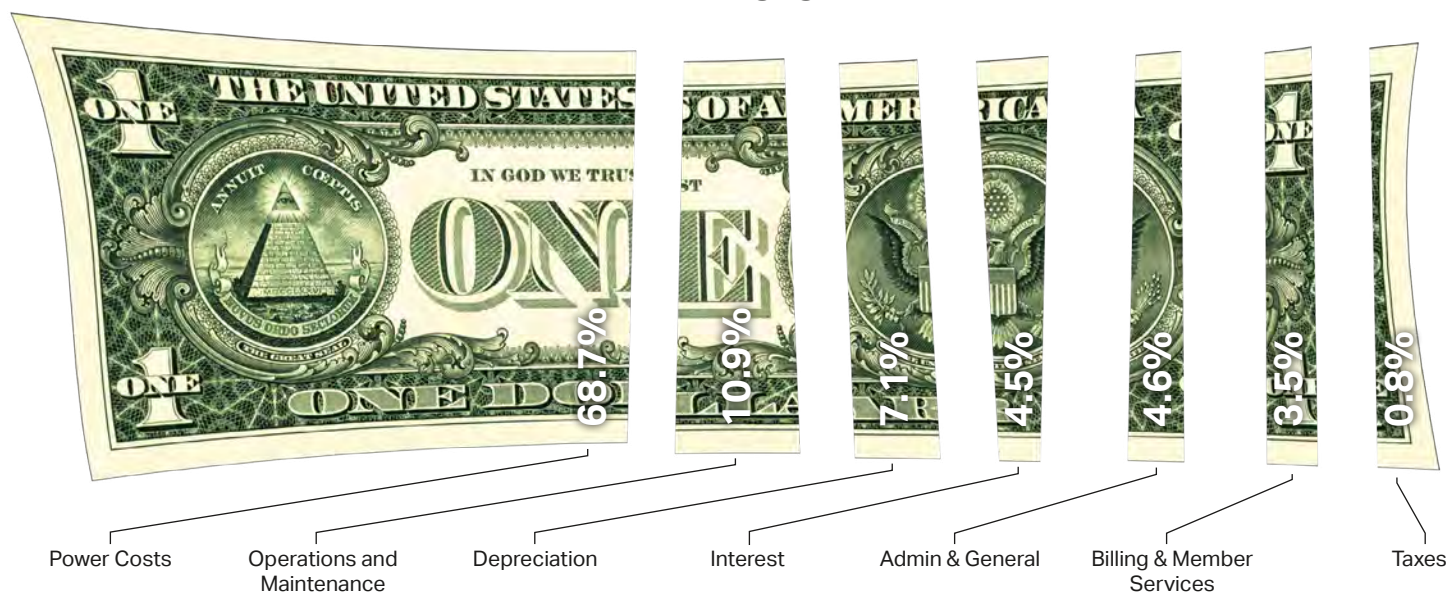
**Sign up for Auto Pay:** Join Auto Pay with a checking or savings account to receive the \$1 credit per month. Sign up through our SmartHub app or at verendrye.com.

Call our billing department at **800-472-2141** if you need help with either of these programs.



# FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES



## BALANCE SHEETS

ASSETS		2024	2023
Utility Plant		\$157,207,171	\$151,878,804
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		44,133,601	41,848,722
<b>Total Net Utility Plant</b>		<b>\$113,073,570</b>	<b>\$110,030,082</b>
Cash		\$6,772,022	\$5,205,578
Patronage Investments		37,937,176	36,535,606
Accounts & Notes Receivable		7,540,053	7,662,758
Other Investments		4,252,882	9,820,801
Special Funds		5,343,264	5,390,083
Materials & Supplies		7,726,631	6,287,187
Prepayments		296,540	267,877
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$182,942,138</b>	<b>\$181,199,972</b>
LIABILITIES			
Long Term Debt		\$82,893,534	\$86,210,699
Accounts Payable		3,777,476	3,362,425
Member Deposits		1,024,276	868,148
Noncurrent Liabilities		611,465	669,466
Current Liabilities		2,335,244	2,321,847
Deferred Credits		16,901,170	14,271,239
Deferred Revenue		5,000,000	5,000,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$112,543,165</b>	<b>\$112,703,824</b>
EQUITIES			
Patronage Capital		\$48,132,473	\$47,979,771
Other Equities		22,266,500	20,516,377
<b>Total Equities</b>		<b>\$70,398,973</b>	<b>\$68,496,148</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES &amp; LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$182,942,138</b>	<b>\$181,199,972</b>

## STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

REVENUES		2024	2023
Residential Sales		\$23,590,167	\$23,282,729
Irrigation Sales		430,981	500,821
Commercial Sales		13,998,522	12,247,526
Industrial Sales		11,487,517	13,249,533
US Air Force		3,513,110	3,561,461
Other Sales		137,502	124,759
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$53,157,799</b>	<b>\$52,966,829</b>
EXPENSES			
Power Cost		\$36,619,015	\$35,518,300
Operations & Maintenance		5,783,108	5,198,054
Billing & Member Service		1,867,469	1,764,899
Administrative & General		2,428,124	2,568,265
Depreciation		3,766,473	3,659,750
Taxes		444,763	442,479
Interest		2,375,353	2,367,697
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$53,284,305</b>	<b>\$51,519,444</b>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS</b>		<b>(\$126,506)</b>	<b>\$1,447,385</b>
ALLOCATIONS			
G&T Allocations		\$2,179,226	\$3,130,438
Other Allocations		453,725	377,099
<b>Total Allocations</b>		<b>\$2,632,951</b>	<b>\$3,507,537</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING MARGINS</b>		<b>\$1,639,362</b>	<b>\$1,855,265</b>
<b>NET MARGINS</b>		<b>\$4,145,807</b>	<b>\$6,810,187</b>

# ENGINEERING REPORT



**Dennis Huffman,**  
Engineering Manager

**A**s one of the newer employees, I am honored to be part of the Verendrye family.

Verendrye's electric network consists of 4,619 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 conductor.

The Engineering Department is dedicated to providing reliable, safe, and efficient electric service to our members, which directly relates to this year's theme of "Trusted Service. Dependable Power."

Building on a consistent construction pace in 2024, we were able to focus on system enhancements, proactive maintenance, and thorough inspections. These efforts included significant upgrades such as replacing overhead lines with underground cable, maintaining and modernizing electrical equipment, and implementing technological advancements. In 2024, Verendrye installed over 40 miles of underground cable, replacing either aging cable from the 1980s or underperforming overhead lines. All these efforts continue to increase Verendrye's reliability and resilience.

With the rapid advancement of technology, we've focused on the reliable and secure operation of our infrastructure.

This included the deployment of updated equipment, the implementation of cybersecurity measures, the enhancement of system resilience, and a commitment to the continuous evaluation and remediation of potential technological vulnerabilities.

We continued to work with our power provider, Central Power Electric Cooperative (CPEC), on their ability to accommodate Verendrye's current and potential loading requirements along with the operation and performance of CPEC's existing system. The construction activity on Minot Air Force Base continues to grow. We have been working together to ensure we met all their current and anticipated needs.

Verendrye Electric Cooperative is proud to be one of the most reliable and innovative electric utilities. This has been accomplished through years of dedication, hard work, support, continuous education, and embracing technology. However, the most important part of achieving this goal has been the people – past and present.

## A LOOK TO THE FUTURE:

As we are nearing the end of the 2023-2026 construction work plan, we will begin developing the next work plan. This plan will consist of infrastructure improvements that will adapt to the changing energy environment, embracing new technologies, and investing in our employees to meet the future needs of the members and Verendrye Electric Cooperative. ■



*Verendrye linemen install new underground power line in this photo. Verendrye has about 4,619 miles of power lines with about half of it buried under ground.*



# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW



**Tim Krumwiede,**  
*Operations Manager*

The outage time for 2024 was 36.6 minutes per meter on average. This is an exceptional outage time. The Electric Cooperative's goal is to keep outage times under 60 minutes. Since 1960 when we started keeping track of our outage times, we have been struggling to get below one hour. For our record keeping purposes we have excluded the extreme storm outages. As you can see in the Outage History Graph our

outage times have trended downward over the past few decades, but can vary greatly from year to year.

Some of the reasons for low outage times include our aggressive maintenance program, regular inspections, replacing older underground cable and converting overhead cable to underground cable.

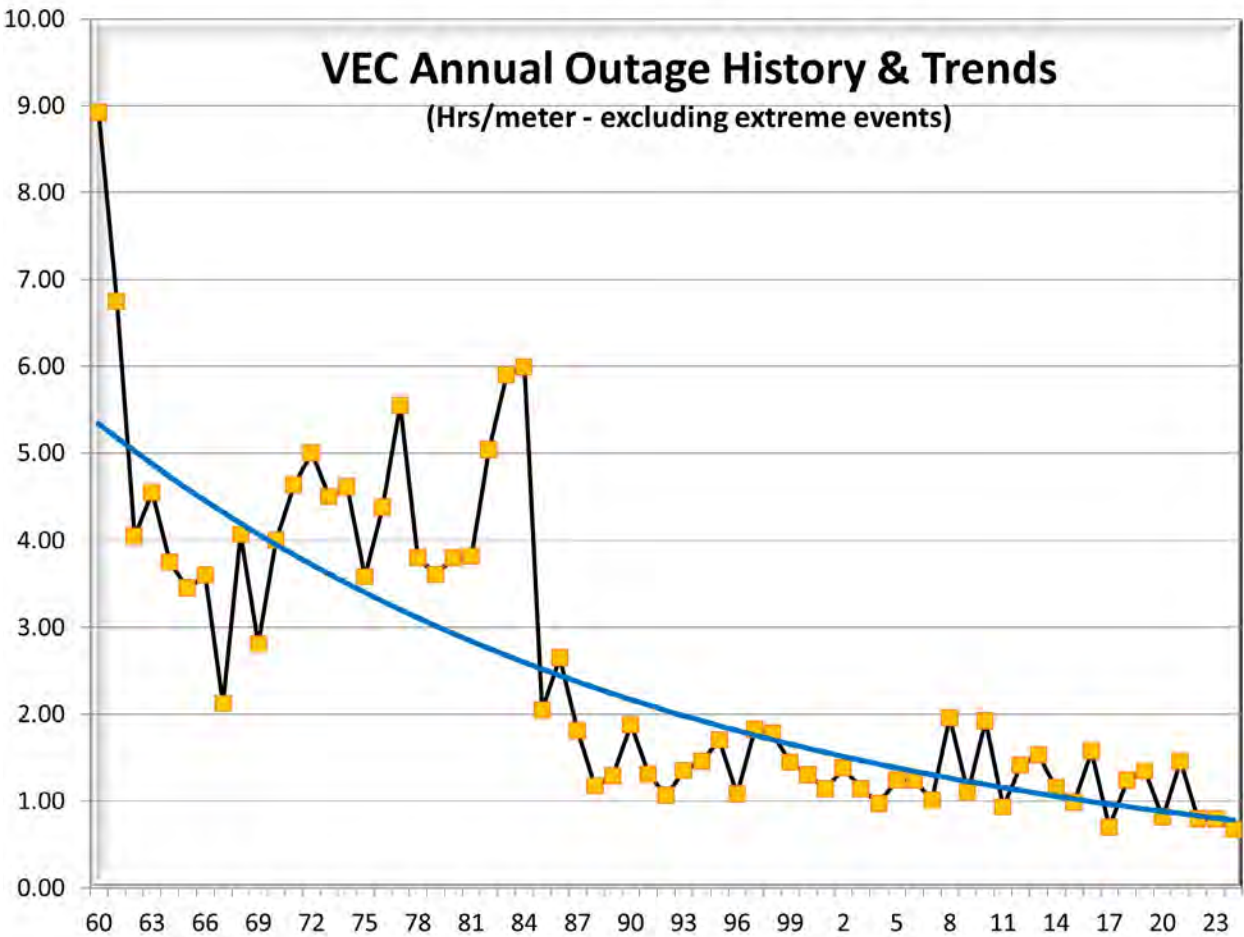
Many outage causes are uncontrollable, with weather related outages being one of the leading causes year after year. Last year weather-related outages were

surpassed by outages caused by equipment failure. This does not mean we have tons of equipment failing, rather, it means there were larger and longer outages to replace the equipment. Unfortunately, we can't do much to control the weather-related outages other than pray Mother Nature treats us right.

Public Accidents is an outage cause that can be controlled. Most of these outages are caused by contractors and homeowners failing to request a cable locate or not being careful while digging. Please call 811 (North Dakota One Call) and request to have underground facilities located. This is a huge public safety concern.

Our investments in technology over the years has helped dramatically with the troubleshooting and restoration of outages. Our dispatchers know when something is not right with our electrical system and the smart meters assist us in finding the outage or problem areas due to the information that we are able to extract from the meters.

All of the things we do in the Operations Department are to provide safe and dependable power to our members. ■



# ANNUAL MEETING IS ABOUT TRUST



**Tom Rafferty,**  
Member Services  
Manager

Over 86 years ago people in rural areas had to start their own not-for-profit utility and it would not have been successful without trust. Building trust remains a priority for us today and we hope to demonstrate that at our annual meeting.

Rural people in the area did not have power until after the cities did because investor-owned utilities were not investing in

rural areas. Those first cooperative members who gave \$5 to become a member of the cooperative had to trust that their investment would lead to having power at their home or farm.

Holding an annual meeting, having elections, communicating issues and calling for member input are a few ways we build trust. But a trustworthy person or organization is also dependable and accountable.

You trust us to make strategic and prudent decisions

with the cooperative's resources that will keep the lights on. That includes carefully planning for infrastructure improvements and seeking out efficiencies, all while setting rates that are fair and can provide financial stability.

We hope this annual report and the annual meeting will give you some insight into how and why decisions are made at your cooperative. We hope you can attend your annual meeting where you can also talk to our management team, board members and employees in person.

There are also other ways you can be involved in your cooperative. We encourage you to attend our area caucus meetings in April. There you can be nominated to run for the board - or simply attend those for the informational session and lunch.

We also have a Member Advisory Committee that meets once a year. The committee receives updates about the cooperative and provides feedback to the board. If that is something you are interested in, give me a call at 852-0406.

We'll see you at the annual meeting! ■





# VERENDRYE ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**E**ach year VEC awards three students with \$1,000 scholarships. We also provide \$1,000 to each of the six Dollars for Scholars Chapters in our service area. Scholarship details are posted on our website early in the year.



## EASTERN DISTRICT

**Mason Lemer** is a graduate of Drake High School and currently attends Minot State University studying chemistry. He is involved in a number of clubs at MSU and plays saxophone in the Minot Community Band. His parents are Mitchell and Candy Lemer.



## CENTRAL DISTRICT

**Evelyn Seil** is a senior at Velva High School. She plans on attending Minot State University in the fall to study nursing. Some of her activities include sports, FFA, FBLA, Speech, Sources of Strength, Science Olympiad 4-H and band.



## WESTERN DISTRICT

**Drew Zwak** is a senior at Bishop Ryan Catholic School in Minot. He plans on studying biology at Minot State University in the fall and wants to eventually attend a chiropractic school to become a chiropractor. He is involved in sports, FBLA, and National Honor Society. His parents are Sarah and Jesse Zwak.



## YOUTH TOUR WINNER ANNOUNCED

**T**he 2025 Youth Tour Winner is **Abby Finke**, a junior at Berthold High School. Her parents are Kelly and Todd Finke.

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

**V**erendrye 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 \$67,218 over the past year to dozens of worthwhile causes in several communities.

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 Laurie Dannewitz, Minot.

For more information, go to [www.verendrye.com](http://www.verendrye.com).

The following table lists all of the Operation Round Up Grants from May 1, 2023 through May 1, 2024. ■

## The following table lists all of the Operation Round Up Grants

City of Velva .....	Light up Velva-New Christmas lights .....	1,000.00
Dakota Clay Busters.....	Concrete, electrical and range equipment .....	1,000.00
HWC Swat Wrestling Inc.....	Wrestling mat for phase 2 .....	1,000.00
Little Hands Loving Hearts Child Development Center .....	Washer/dryer & fencing for playground .....	1,500.00
McHenry County Sheriffs Office.....	K-9 training and officer .....	1,500.00
Northern Pines Stables.....	Horse riding .....	1,500.00
Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry.....	Pantry Items .....	1,000.00
Pathfinder Services of ND .....	Computers and phones .....	1,000.00
Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports .....	iCan Bike Camp .....	1,000.00
Quilts of Valor Foundation.....	Quilts for service member or veterans .....	1,000.00
Renville County Soil Conservation Mouse River Loop Envirothon.....	Breakfast, lunch, and port-a-potties, door prizes and presenter fees .....	1,000.00
Sheridan Memorial Homes.....	Various projects .....	1,500.00
Souris Valley United Way.....	Mid-range AED .....	1,000.00
St Aloisius Hospital .....	Upgrade Wander Guard Patient Alert System .....	1,000.00
St Cecilia Catholic Church of Harvey .....	Elevator, electrical and fire alarm upgrade .....	1,000.00
St Francis Xavier Cemetery .....	Replace lawn mower .....	1,500.00
TGU School District-Towner.....	Equipment for fitness center .....	1,000.00
Velva Wildlife Club.....	Safety equipment and training devices .....	1,500.00
Ward County (Public Library) .....	New Bookmobile .....	1,000.00
Bread of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church in America .....	Paint .....	\$1,000.00
Childrens Museum of Minot Inc/Magic City Discovery Center.....	3-Dyson cordless Vacuum .....	\$1,000.00
City of Sawyer .....	New fence and universal court in the city .....	\$1,000.00
Dakota Hope Clinic .....	Baby Items .....	\$500.00
Douglas Fire Protection District .....	New roof .....	\$2,500.00
Habitat for Humanity International INC Northern Lights.....	Update computer, software, and printer .....	\$1,500.00
Kiddie Korral 2-0 Child Care Center.....	Rental-compact and mini excavator .....	\$500.00
Minot Area Homeless Coalition INC.....	Purchase 2 HP Laptops .....	\$1,719.98
Minot Area Men's Winter Refuge.....	Groceries and household supplies .....	\$1,000.00
Minot Public Schools .....	Co2 race track .....	\$1,000.00
Minot Symphony Association Inc.....	Set of Adams Philharmonic Classic Timpani .....	\$500.00
Scandinavian Heritage Association Inc.....	Audio Equipment .....	\$500.00
Sheridan county youth Adult 4-H Council .....	Rebuild 50' x 80' X 16' pole barn .....	\$2,500.00
St Cecilia Catholic Church of Towner.....	Medical expenses for Richard Stigen .....	\$2,500.00
The Difference- A Holistic Approach.....	Purchase and cover the shipping costs for the OPUS bed and rug .....	\$1,000.00
The Pursuit.....	Medical assistance for Konnie Hardy .....	\$2,500.00
Village Family Service Center.....	Furniture for the office .....	\$1,000.00
American Legion Post 195 .....	Anne's Room .....	\$1,000.00
Dakota Clay Busters.....	Concrete, electrical and range equipment .....	\$1,000.00
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America/ Oak Valley Lutheran Church.....	Pay off loan for roof on church .....	\$500.00
Full Steam Ahead .....	LEGO prime kits .....	\$2,399.70
Harvey Ambulance Service Inc.....	Sapphire IV infusion pump .....	\$2,323.67
Little Hands Loving Hearts Child Development Center .....	Bathroom renovation .....	\$500.00
Local Motives .....	Portable basketball hoop .....	\$2,000.00
Matthew 25 Project .....	Promotional video .....	\$1,000.00
Minot Area Council of the Arts Inc.....	Equipment and maintenance for Carnegie Center .....	\$500.00
Minot Public School Foundation .....	Hug a Hero/Flat parent program .....	\$2,500.00
Minot Young Mens Christian Association-YMCA .....	LED lights in north gymnasium .....	1,000.00
Souris Valley Humane Society Inc.....	Repair septic system .....	1,275.00
The Welcome table-Lords Cupboard.....	Handicap accessible doors .....	2,500.00
Velva Area History Museum.....	Adjustable display on rollers and switchfile organizers .....	1,000.00
Velva Bulls .....	Wrestling mats .....	2,500.00



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

## JUNE 13, 2024

The 85th 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 13, 2024.

## REGISTRATION AND CALL TO ORDER

President Blaine Bruner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. After the presentation of colors and singing of the National Anthem by Dr. Emerson Eads, he announced that a quorum was present. President Bruner 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 8, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes.

## INTRODUCTIONS

President Bruner recognized those serving as Sergeant of Arms and the Resolutions Committee. President Bruner also welcomed Brad Doll as the new manager.

## 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 Blaine Bruner and his wife, Kim, Drake; Vice President Karen Hennessy and her husband, Jay, Des Lacs; Secretary-Treasurer Shawn Kaylor, Velva; 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; Clint Gjellstad and his wife, Jamie, Velva; Bob Hargrave and his wife, Marlene, Rice Lake.

## DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Bruner reported on the caucus and petition board nominations that Jon Hansen was nominated at the Western District caucus, Shawn Kaylor was nominated



Operation Round Up board members (left to right): Treasurer **Annette Thompson**, Surrey; Board Member **Laurie Dannewitz**, Minot; Secretary **Sandy Hanretty**, Towner; President **Amanda Zietz**, Minot and Vice President **Kristi Howe**, Velva.

at the Central District caucus and Ken Schild was nominated at the Eastern District caucus. Bruner 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 Jon Hansen, Shawn Kaylor, and Ken Schild 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 Burgum, Senators Hoeven and Cramer and Congressman Kelly Armstrong. 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.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Doll introduced Christel Laskowski, VEC Business Manager, to give the financial report for the year 2023.

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 2023 totaled \$53 million, which is a slight increase from 2022. Operating expenses for 2023 totaled \$51.5 million. Our largest expense is power cost totaling \$36 million, which represents 69% of total expenses.

The operating margin was \$1.4 million. Margins allocated by Central Power Electric Cooperative, VEC's power supplier, and others totaled \$3.5 million. These are non cash allocations. Non-operating income totaled \$1.8 million. Our 2023 net margins are

\$6.8 million, meeting all RUS mortgage requirements.

Total assets for 2023 were \$181 million. Our distribution plant is the cooperative's largest asset totaling \$110

million, which comprises 61% of total assets. Ownership in Basin Electric and Central Power Electric Cooperative totals \$37 million, which comprises 20% of total assets. The remaining 19% of our assets are comprised of short-term investments, accounts receivable, materials and other totals \$35 million. Total liabilities for 2023 are \$113 million. Total equity is \$68 million.

## MANAGEMENT REPORTS

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

VEC's theme this year is "Power for Tomorrow." VEC's total margins were approximately \$6.8 million in 2023.

Bruner reported the cooperative was in good financial condition and met all of our financial ratios by RUS.

VEC is retiring capital credits of over \$2 million. The capital credit checks were mailed at the end of May. Bruner reported on the investments by VEC in infrastructure.

Bruner 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

\$69,890 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, Ty Hughes, received the scholarship. Ty graduated from Des Lac-Burlington High School and plans to attend Minot State University. His parents are Sara and Todd Hughes.

From the Central District, Isabel Helde, daughter of Florence and Slade Helde, received the scholarship. Isabel graduated from Nedrose High School and plans to attend Mayville State University.

From the Eastern District, Andrew Seibel, son of Ann and Mike Seibel, received the scholarship. Andrew graduated from Harvey High School and plans to attend Bethel University.

## YOUTH TOUR WINNER

Manager Doll announced Gracie Rauschenberger as the Youth Tour Winner to receive a trip to Washington, DC. Gracie is the daughter of Gabe and Karlee Rauschenberger.

## RESOLUTIONS

President Bruner called on Fred Beuchler, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee. Beuchler introduced the other members of the committee: Karen Hennessy, and Adam Ritchie.

On behalf of the committee, Beuchler moved for the adoption of Continuing Resolutions 1 through 9 as printed and distributed to the members:

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 Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) Initiative
  7. Net Metering
  8. Electric Vehicles
  9. Supporting Investment in Reliability and Efficiency from Federal Bills
- The motion was seconded and carried.

Beuchler then read Current Resolution Number 1, "Property Taxation for Electric Co-ops". Beuchler moved the adoption of Current Resolution 1, which was seconded and carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

President Bruner called for old business. There was none.

## NEW BUSINESS

President Bruner called for new business. There was none.

## MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

## PRIZE DRAWINGS

President Bruner outlined requirements for the member to be present and registered to win the \$3,000 grand prize. Don Wible, Velva, was drawn. He was not in attendance. A consolation drawing was made from the members registered for a \$2,000 cash prize. The first name drawn was Cody Hiller, Minot, who was in attendance and the winner.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, without objection, President Bruner adjourned the annual meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Scott M. Knudsvig, Recording Secretary

Shawn Kaylor, Secretary

ATTEST:

Clint Gjellstad, President





Visit the registration desk at the annual meeting to register for the meeting, get your free paring knife and cutting board, and register for the chance to win prizes.

# PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS 2025

## 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.



Verendrye Electric presented the Makoti Park Board with a \$7,500 donation to make improvements to the park and repairs to their pool. The funds are part of a matching program from Verendrye's lender CoBank and its power producer Basin Electric Power Cooperative. From left are Makoti Park Board member **Mike Larson**, Verendrye Manager **Brad Doll** and Verendrye board members **Jon Hansen** and **Bob Hargrave**.

## 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 12, 2025.

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 12th 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  
**Blaine Bruner**, Drake

Central District  
**Clint Gjellstad**, Velva

Western District  
**Karen Hennessy**, Des Lacs

## 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!**



## PLEASE BRING THIS CARD TO THE MEETING

Detach this registration card and bring it to your annual meeting June 12, 2025.  
This is your official registration card for Verendrye Electric Cooperative's annual membership meeting.

## 86TH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

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