

Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

**Attend
YOUR
annual meeting
Wednesday, June 9
Burke-Divide Electric
Cooperative headquarters,
Columbus**

MORE INSIDE:

Director elections set
Lineworker attains journeyman status
Zap those power surges
And more

DIRECTOR NOMINATING DISTRICTS



One more benefit of being a cooperative member:

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The board of directors of Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative is comprised of seven members elected from the membership of the cooperative. This is one of the distinct foundations of the cooperative way of business — the governance comes from the membership.



Lynn Jacobson
West District

Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative is overseen by a board of directors which is elected by you — the members and owners of the electric cooperative. Each director represents the members of the cooperative on the board, and each director is a cooperative member.



Kent Haugland
West District

This year, members will elect a director in the Central District, the East District and the West District to three-year terms. Those seats are currently held by David Sigloh in the East District and Kent Haugland in the West District. The Central District position is vacant due to Rolland Carlson's retirement. The districts include the following areas:

EAST DISTRICT

Comprised of the following townships in Renville County: Stafford, Rockford, Fairbanks, Grover, McKinney, Roosevelt, Grassland and Ivanhoe. The townships of Denmark, Elmdale, Kenmare, Sauk Prairie, Greenbush, Baden and Spencer in Ward County and the townships of North Star, Lake View, Minnesota and Bowbells in Burke County. Also the First Commissioner District in Burke County.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

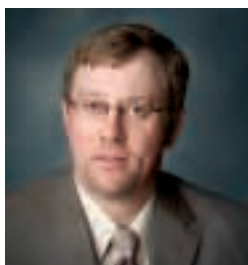
Comprised of the following townships in Burke County: Richland, Soo, Dale, Carter, Ward, Clayton, Foothills, Thorson, Cleary, Lucy, Diamond, Roseland, Kandiyohi, Vanville, Garness, Colville, Battlevue, Portal, Short Creek, Forthun, Keller, Fay, Vale, Leaf Mountain and Harmonious. The townships of Long Creek, Mentor, Blooming Valley and Coalfield in Divide County.

WEST DISTRICT

Comprised of the following townships in Divide County: Lincoln Valley, Alexandria, Writing Rock, Fertile Valley, Sioux Trail, Smoky Butte, Fillmore, Blooming Prairie, Ambrose, Twin Butte, Troy, Hawkeye, Upland, Border, Stoneview, Burg, Frazier, Plumer, Garnet, Frederick, Palmer and Hayland.



Perry Rosenquist
Central District



Steve Overlee
Central District



Rolland Carlson
Central District



Loren Johnson
East District



David Sigloh
East District

How to get on the ballot

Do you want to run for the board of directors? It is quite simple. You need to pick up a petition at the Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative headquarters in Columbus and secure 15 signatures of members from within your district. You can start circulating the petition 90 days before the annual meeting and not less than 30 days before the annual meeting. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting.

According to the bylaws, any member of Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative may circulate a petition to become a candidate for the board of directors. The directors shall be elected by the members at large, but must reside in the district in which they are being elected.


DIRECTOR DUTIES

Directors have a fiduciary responsibility to the cooperative. They exercise care, time and responsibility in reviewing cooperative matters. Directors treat cooperative business as if the business is their own.

Directors devote a certain amount of time to the cooperative. At a minimum, a director attends each monthly board meeting. Directors learn about the industry as a whole by reading other materials and by attending state and national meetings. An understanding of the issues facing the industry is vital.

To help directors with their responsibilities, training is offered through the electric cooperative's statewide association. Five courses must be completed to earn a certificate. Those courses cover director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships, strategic planning and financial decision-making.

Most directors currently serving their cooperative find the duty extremely rewarding.



Plan to attend!

Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 9

Burke-Divide Electric headquarters, Columbus

Don't miss YOUR co-op's annual meeting

5-6 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration• Backyard BBQ• Bucket truck rides• Entertainment by cowboy poet D.W. Groethe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business meeting• Door prizes

Mark your calendar, bring your family and take part in YOUR annual meeting!

BURKE-DIVIDE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the board of directors has called an annual meeting of the members of Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative to be held at the Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative headquarters, Columbus, N.D., at 6:30 p.m. June 9. A meal will be served at the headquarters at Columbus, starting at 5 p.m. The business session will begin at 6:30 p.m. to take action on the following:

1. To elect a director in the Central District, the East District and the West District each for a three-year term.

Central District-

East District-David Sigloh

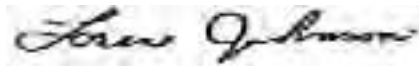
West District-Kent Haugland

Nominations for directors for each district may be made from the floor at the annual meeting. A candidate nominated from the floor of the meeting may be voted for by writing the name of such candidate beneath the name

of those candidates who filed a nomination petition listed on the ballot for that directorship. Space has been provided for this purpose. Each member personally present shall have one vote for each directorship being filled.

2. To pass upon reports and business for the preceding year.

3. To transact such other business as may come before this meeting.



Loren Johnson, secretary

Dated: May 2010

EMPLOYEE NEWS



This year's graduating apprentices include (front row from left to right) Tyson Brandt, North Central Electric Cooperative, Nick Shattuck, McKenzie Electric Cooperative, Lance Brown Otter, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, and Andrew Sonsalla, Slope Electric Cooperative, and (back row from left to right), Tyler Liebelt, North Central Electric, John Hunt, North Central Electric, Lex Lindbo, Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative, Tyler McCarthy, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, and Gerald Zink, KEM Electric Cooperative.

Lindbo achieves journeyman status

Lex Lindbo, a Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative apprentice lineworker, has reached a milestone in his career. He is among nine lineworkers from across North Dakota who have completed four years of training, both in the classroom and on the job, which moves them to a new level - journeyman lineworker.

The apprenticeship program, which electric cooperatives began offering to their workers in 1963, requires participants to complete 144 hours of coursework per year and 8,000 hours of supervised work over a four-year period.

More than 400 electric cooperative lineworkers have completed the coursework so far, according to Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Coordinator Sandy Leingang, who administers the program for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

Lindbo joined the line crew at Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative in 2007.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.



ZAP *those power surges*

A flash of light, a crack of thunder. You wake up with a start, realize that your family and house are safe, then go back to sleep, thinking everything is OK. But is it? You really won't know until the next day, when you might discover a power surge turned your electronics into a pile of fried microchips.

AN INSIDE JOB

As dangerous as lightning is, 80 percent of temporary power surges actually originate from inside the home. They're caused by motor-driven appliances like an air conditioner, dishwasher or refrigerator; or even something as small as a laser printer or coffee maker.

Three types of power surges can occur both inside and outside your home: destructive surges that "fry" your sensitive electronics; disruptive surges that cause you to have to reset or reprogram devices; and dissipative surges that degrade your sensitive electronic components over time.

The good news is that you can protect your home's sensitive electronics. A wide variety of surge protection devices are available to protect your valuable home electronics from these potentially destructive power surges. Protect your electronics with a surge protector to fit your needs, whether it is to protect the whole house or a few appliances.

Normally, a surge protector allows the electricity to flow through it to the appliance. Once a higher voltage is detected, the surge protector diverts excess voltage to a ground wire. The best surge suppressors can handle high-voltage surges and react instantly to protect the equipment.

Ordinary power strips don't provide adequate protection. Uninterruptible power supply systems are battery-backed devices that keep electricity flowing in the event of an outage. They are useful devices, but do not act as surge suppressors unless they are certified as such.

You need a true surge suppressor, which looks like a power strip but which

provides much greater protection.

Before buying a plug-in surge protector, make sure it follows these criteria:

1) The highest Joule rating. A suppressor rated for use with a computer will have at least 750 Joules capacity, and can be rated into the thousands of Joules. This indicates how much energy the suppressor can absorb before passing a transient to your equipment.

2) Clamping response time of one nanosecond or less. The faster the surge suppressor responds, the better.

3) Voltage clamping level of 330 volts or less. The lower the amplitude of transient voltages reaching your equipment, the lower the chances of damage.

Separate suppressors are recommended for your cable and phone lines. Those will protect your phones, TVs and fax machines, since phone or cable lines can carry a voltage spike into your home just as easily as a power line.

Whole-home surge protectors are also available. The system should be hard-wired into your electrical system by a licensed electrician.

If you have questions about protecting your electronic equipment from power surges, contact your local electric cooperative.

It's best to unplug televisions, computers and other appliances when a nearby storm threatens, but with surge suppression in place, you can rest easier knowing that your home will be protected. You might even sleep better at nights. Except for the thunder, of course.

Protect yourself from lightning

According to the National Weather Service, lightning kills an average of 62 people each year in the United States. In 2008, 27 people died from a “bolt out of the blue.”

Follow these tips to keep you and your family safe from lightning this summer:

- Seek shelter immediately if you hear thunder; lightning is not far away.
- Find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed vehicle with the windows rolled up.
- Do not seek shelter under trees, picnic or rain structures, or in open-frame vehicles. Avoid objects like electric wires or metal fences.
- If you cannot find shelter in a building or closed-frame vehicle, keep your feet together and crouch on the ground using the “lightning crouch:” feet together, squat low, tuck head and cover ears.
- Do not use corded telephones – phone use is the number one cause of indoor lightning injuries in the United States. Avoid contact with other electrical equipment like computers.
- Avoid contact with water, pipes, washers or dryers.



PHOTOS BY JERRY WALTER



How much is TOO much?

You’ve had your fridge forever. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it’s in good shape and keeps your food cool. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

Some homeowners forget the impact inefficient appliances have on a home’s monthly power bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, Energy Star-rated model could knock between \$65-\$100 off your electricity bill each year.

When evaluating older appliances, how much energy use is too much? To estimate the energy use of an appliance, use this formula:

$$\text{Wattage X Hours used per day X Days used per year} \div 1,000 = \text{Kilowatt-hours (KWH) used annually}$$

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the KWH per year by your electric cooperative’s rate per KWH used.

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since some appliances have a range of settings, the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:	
Clothes washer	350-500 watts
Clothes dryer	1,800-5,000 watts
Dishwasher	1,200-2,400 watts
Hair dryer	1,200-1,875 watts
Microwave oven	750-1,100 watts
Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet)	725 watts

Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models.

Don’t want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? The Web site, www.togetherwesave.com, demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the Web site, you can walk through a typical home’s kitchen, living room and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you’re shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill!



Remember Memorial Day!

So Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative employees can celebrate the holiday with their families, our office will be closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 31.

If you experience an outage, please call the cooperative's office at (701) 939-6671 or (800) 472-2983. Your call will be routed to the proper contacts and lineworkers will be dispatched.



Congratulations to all area high school graduates!

Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative wishes you well in your future endeavors!

I THOUGHT I WAS TIGHT WITH MY MONEY. NOW I'M AIRTIGHT.

All it took was a tube of caulk and half an afternoon. Now, I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks around the house. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at togetherwesave.com.

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BURKE-DIVIDE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Box 6 - 9549 Hwy. 5
Columbus, N.D.
58727-0006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Sigloh, Pres.Kenmare
Kent Haugland, V. Pres.Crosby
Loren Johnson, Sec.-Treas.Kenmare
Steven OverleeMcGregor
Lynn JacobsonAlamo
Perry RosenquistNoonan
Rolland CarlsonColumbus

EMPLOYEES-COLUMBUS

Jason BrothenGeneral Manager
Tori KlingOffice Manager
Erin FagerbakkeAdministrative Assistant
Heidi RobbinsMember Services Coordinator
Teresa GlaspeyBilling Coordinator
Roxi IversonPlant Accountant
Cory MarschnerEnergy Management Supervisor
Keith ThelenLine Superintendent
Darin HansenLine Foreman
Troy NelsonLineman
Lex LindboLineman
Richard ThomasLineman
Jim SmithbergElectrician
Michael PowellWarehouse/Groundskeeper

KENMARE

Mark MatternLine Foreman
Curt HelmersEnergy Management Supervisor
Tom RasmussonLineman
Jason BrunerLineman
Brad KjoesElectrician
Pete StroklundElectrician

Office Hours Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Toll-Free-Day or Night: Phone
(800) 472-2983

Local calls during office hours only—
939-6671

e-mail: bdec@bdec.coop

Information concerning accounts, payments and bills is available only during the office hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday,

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative