



JULY 2018

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Thank you!



The McKenzie Electric Cooperative directors, managers and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending our 73rd annual meeting on June 19. We appreciate the interest you continue to show in your electric cooperative.

To learn more about McKenzie Electric's 73rd annual meeting, read a complete summary in the August center pages of *North Dakota Living*.

[www.mckenzieelectric.com](http://www.mckenzieelectric.com)

McKenzie Electric Cooperative

Connections



## MEC offers quality service with improvements



**Theo Essandoh**, system engineer manager

**M**cKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) takes great pride in offering our members quality service each and every day. MEC works hard not only to keep the lights on, but also to make sure we keep our members' best interests in mind with every decision we make. Reliability upgrades, transmission improvements, technology and system upgrades, and communication network upgrades are enhancements that give MEC the power to provide quality and reliable electricity. MEC will be making upgrades to improve reliability and accommodate system growth for the area for years to come.

As a member, you may wonder how this benefits you. Say it's the middle of a beautiful day in July and you have been preparing a birthday supper for 35 guests, the power goes out and you begin to panic. There is no storm and you check your breakers, so you know that the power is out. You call the neighbors that are five miles away and they, too, are without power. Yikes! You have people coming in less than an hour and the meal is not fully cooked. You call MEC to let them know you've checked the breakers, which are fine, and checked with your neighbors and their power is out as well. A crew arrives and restores your power. There are multiple reasons your power can go out without a storm present, such as a faulty line. With MEC's new upgrades, we can be notified of a faulty line or bigger issues before the problem becomes out of control, allowing MEC to be proactive and fix the issue so that our members can continue to receive power without interruption.

Let's take a look at these new system upgrades.

Theo Essandoh leads and coordinates MEC's efforts with systemwide communications and remote monitoring and control through a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system. Substations are a critical

component for maintaining electrical supply and load control in low-to high-voltage distribution networks. The SCADA system operates with coded signals over communication channels to provide monitoring and control of equipment remotely.

Essandoh, a system engineer, said, "The system will allow us to know exactly what is going on in the field. It will allow us to be proactive rather than reactive."

Collecting such data can extend the life of substations and related equipment. Over time, historical data that has been provided by the SCADA system can improve preventive maintenance scheduling and cut associated costs.

"SCADA is used to monitor substations equipment status. We are able to monitor daily changes that occur within each substation and schedule maintenance activity if needed before a system goes down or an outage occurs," Essandoh explained.

MEC's Outage Management System (OMS) directs MEC to the areas that need improvement for reliability and has a fast outage recognition. MEC uses the OMS data for improvement projects such as repairing and rebuilding line.

Zane Frick, system planning and reliability engineer, said, "In some cases, MEC will be able to fix the problem before members know their power has been out."

Throughout MEC's seven-county territory, there are several areas of improvement. Frick's primary role as a reliability and system planning engineer is to identify and manage asset reliability for MEC's daily operations.

"We are always striving for better service and high reliability for member satisfaction," Frick said.

When an area has an unplanned outage, MEC relies on member notifications of an outage. Once an outage is identified, the OMS data can streamline the outage area so communication can be efficiently relayed and power can be turned back on. MEC would like to remind members that Facebook is a great tool to find out if there are current outages occurring. However, Facebook and messenger are not monitored 24 hours a day, so members are encouraged to call the office to inform us of an outage.

Familiar equipment such as poles, wires and transformers are all necessary components of power delivery. MEC maintains equipment regularly so power can be delivered effectively and efficiently to the members. Continual improvements to operational efficiency and technological advancements keep our members with what is important, electricity. MEC will always be dedicated to its members by providing electricity that's safe, reliable and affordable. ■



# Parade to Pie, small town Arnegard keeps July 4 tradition alive

BY JESSIE VEEDER SCOFIELD

Nikki Darrington has been attending the Fourth of July celebration in her hometown of Arnegard since she was a little girl. Now, the mother of three young children of her own, she hasn't missed one.

"Oh, that's not true," she laughed. "I have missed two! One last year and one the year we got married."

So Nikki Darrington has only missed two Fourth of July celebrations in Arnegard her entire life, which makes sense because she's a woman of tradition and nostalgia and Arnegard's Fourth of July celebration is rooted in both.

"There's nothing more American than a parade, pie, barbecue in the park, family, baseball and fireworks," Nikki said. "And we have it all in little old Arnegard."

Yes, Arnegard's Fourth of July has been a staple in the community so long that no one seems to know when it first officially started, so maybe it's been forever that the Lions Club dishes out the roast beef lunch, the Wilmington Lutheran Church women serve the pie and the rural fire

department puts on the fireworks show at sundown.

And in-between, families line the street for the parade, host reunions and catch up with friends, sitting in the line of shade that the trees create along the park border, passing babies from lap to lap and cheering on the kids in the gunny sack races and tractor pull before gathering together for a friendly game of baseball and finishing the evening laying in the bed of the pickup looking up at the sky.

At least that's how Nikki so fondly describes it, getting a little teary when she thinks of how she used to help her grandmother scoop strawberry pie. Now she watches her own kids run into the pie shack to grab a hug and an extra slice. Each year, waves of memories wash over her in that park as she and her children make more.

"It makes me emotional," said Nikki, who's noticed new faces in that park in recent years.

"It used to be you'd go down the food line and know every person. In the last few years, new blankets are thrown in different spots and new families are showing up," she said. "And it's great, because they may have had their own tradition at home and they're making our tradition their tradition."

And that's what it's about, according to Virginia Elliot, a longtime resident of Arnegard who has been a part of the celebration since 1985 when the city was still in charge of the festivities. Before the Booster Club was formed in the late 1990s, Virginia served on the city council and part of her duty was to serve as the chair of the Fourth of July celebration, organizing volunteers and activities.

During Virginia's time as organizer, the event featured a variety of different activities, including a demolition derby, craft vendor shows, pickup mud runs, and, Virginia's







personal favorite, a pig-wrestling event. But the things that stick year after year remain on Nikki's all American list – parade, pie, barbecue, baseball and fireworks.

The friendly and familiar faces help make the event special, like the man

who always serves you an extra scoop of beans, whether you want it or not.

"Jimmy Goodmundson has always cooked the beef," Virginia said. Since his passing, his wife, Gladys, is keeping the tradition alive by involving her grandchildren in the process.

It's the same torch that is being passed along to the Darrington family while her children watch and learn and fall in love with their community. Nikki's mother continues to take meals to the elderly residents, her dad, a Lions Club member, serves the meal, her husband took over planning the baseball game and her grandmother continues her important work in the pie shack.

"We don't set aside enough time anymore for getting together to visit," Virginia said. "That small-town atmosphere is still here and we need to keep these small-town traditions going and get the younger generation involved."

So maybe one day, it will be Nikki's



grandchildren running up to her for a hug and an extra slice. Nikki chokes up at the thought.

Contact the Arnegard Booster Club for more information at [jennifers79@live.com](mailto:jennifers79@live.com) or [facebook.com/arnegardboosterclub](https://www.facebook.com/arnegardboosterclub). ■

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# LIGHTNING PROTECTION PREVENTING A DIRECT STRIKE

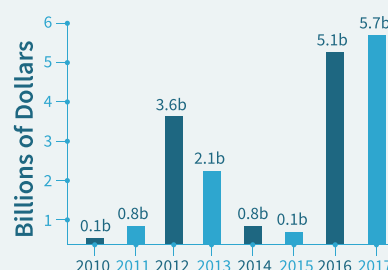
In the first quarter of 2017 alone, thunderstorms caused a record **\$5.7 billion** in losses, and lightning kills an average of **30 people a year**. Learn how to keep you, your family, and property safe from lightning.

## ► LIGHTNING IS DEADLY

# 22,600

An average of 22,600 fires were caused by **lightning** between 2007 and 2011.

According to Aon Benfield's Impact Forecasting, **insured losses** from lightning strikes are at an **all-time high**.



## ► LIGHTNING IS FAR REACHING

**1/3** of all lightning related injuries occur indoors – stay away from:



Corded phones



Electronics



Plumbing

# 10

Lightning can strike **10 miles** from a thunderstorm.

# 30

**people die a year** from lightning strikes according to the National Weather Service.



Lightning can strike **anywhere**, not just the tallest objects.

## ► LIGHTNING PROTECTION

Power surges caused by lightning can damage the electronics in your home.



Lightning protection systems **intercept lightning strikes** and provide a grounding path for dangerous electricity to **discharge safely**, leaving occupants and homes safe from harm.



Panel box surge protective devices (SPDs) serve as the **first line of defense** against harmful home electrical surges, limiting voltages by diverting currents at the electrical service entrance. Only a **qualified electrician** should install SPDs.



Point-of-use surge protective devices protect electronics plugged into the device from surges, must be **replaced** over time or after a major surge event.



Power strips **DO NOT** provide surge protection.



No surge device can handle a **direct lightning strike**. Unplug sensitive electronics **WELL** before a storm to prevent damage.

# Beat the Heat this summer

75°



Install and set a programmable thermostat. It could save up to 10 percent on heating and cooling costs a year.



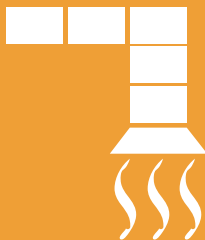
Use a fan. Ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat setting 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.



Insulate your attic and seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.



Don't heat your home with appliances. On a hot day, consider using an outdoor grill rather than an oven.



Insulate and seal ducts to prevent air loss.



Install energy-efficient window coverings that let natural light in and prevent solar heat gain.

As summer starts to heat up and temperatures rise, many of us are cranking up the air conditioners to stay cool. It should come as no surprise that air conditioners use about 5 percent of all the electricity produced in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

This summer, instead of blasting the air conditioner (and blowing your electricity bills through the roof), you can take simple actions that will help you beat the heat. For example, replacing

a dirty, clogged air filter with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent, while using a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.

With just a few small changes, you can relax in comfort this summer while saving some cold, hard cash.

Here are some tips from McKenzie Electric Cooperative:



# Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Information must be received by Nov. 30, 2018, to McKenzie Electric, P.O. Box 649, Watford City, ND 58854 or call toll-free 800-584-9239 or 701-444-9288. In December 2018, checks will be reissued with the updated information for the eligible members.

Amoco Pipeline Trucking	Felix, Hazel	Johnston, Darren	Portley, Sharon
Anderson, Susan	Ferrari, Shaleesha	Kaiser, Christopher	Precision Cleaning
Anheluk, Bob	Fort Berthold	Kerner, Clyde	Reed, Carol
Astral Co. LLC	Commodity Prog.	Kisse, Esther	Romero, Katherine
Bad Hawk, Emily	Fort Berthold	Kjorstad, Fabian	Sage, Joshua
Baker, Leonard	Development Corp.	Koch Service	Simon, Dotti
Bell, Adrianna	Freeman, Beaulah	Kummer, Stanley	Skolic, Larry
Bellet, Les	Geringer, C.C.	Lone Fight, Brenda	Solis, Christine
Benson, Lois	Good Bird, Ann	Long, Nikki	Standish, Leroy Sr.
Blekestad, Twila	Goodall, Darleen	Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas	Starr, Mavis
Borstad, Jerry	Grady, Calvin Sr.	Loyas, Jackie	Tarnavsky Brothers
Brown, Jim	Grady, Marty	Mandan, Adam	Taylor, Arland
Candrian, Kevin	Gwin, Alex	Martin, Monte	Thrams, Bryan
Carttier, Kip	Hale, Edward	Martinez, Kirk	Tipperary Petroleum Co
Chapin, Beaulah	Halliday Marine Club	Mead, Robert Jr.	Tschetter, Shawn
Costilla Energy Inc.	Haugen, Kenneth	Meredith, Loretta	Union Pacific Res
Cox, Robert L.	Heen, Debbie	Methodist Church (Grassy Butte )	White Body, Ardis
Crutcher, Michael	Hellman, Ben	Molzahn, Shannon	White Eagle, Wayne
Dillard, James C.	HUD	Motorola Inc	White Owl, Eugene Mrs.
Dohrmann, Josh	Hull, Ken	Nelson, Barbara	Wilkie, Jennifer
Dubray, Pernell	Iron Hawk-Lew, June	Nelson, Glendon	Winters, Glenn
Dubray, Rhonda	James, Jay	Northrop, Burton	Wolf, Francis
Duckett, Delores	Jensen, Rusty	Pelton, Patricia	Wolf, Gary
Duvall, Desri	Johnson Jim D.	Phelan, Ambrose	Young Bear, Curtis Sr.
Dvirnak, Elmer	Johnson, Barbra	Phonetel Technologies	
Edwards, Joann	Johnson, Eloise		

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In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including McKenzie Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

Tickets to the Medora Musical  
Pitchfork Steak Fondue  
Butly Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:  
✓ Badlands Motel  
✓ Elkhorn Quarters  
✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code (Touch2018) at the door. Advanced reservations are not available. Hotel rooms book fast, so please reserve your rooms as soon as possible.

Call 1-800-MEDORA-1 for reservations and provide the discount code (Touch2018) to receive your savings.

## May 30, 2018



Monsen



Thompson



Hanna



Houghton



Wasem



Wahlstrom



Sanford



Tescher



Link

The regular meeting of the McKenzie Electric Board of Directors was held at the Headquarters Building in Watford City, North Dakota. Directors present were: Clayton Monsen, Travis Thompson, Rondee Hanna, Cameron Wahlstrom, Ken Sanford, Chris Link, Glen Houghton, Tim Wasem and Ray Tescher. CEO John Skurupey, Attorney Dennis Johnson and staff personnel of McKenzie Electric were also present.

**PRELIMINARIES:** The agenda for the meeting and minutes of the previous board meeting were approved by the Board of Directors. Expenses were also approved.

**DIRECTOR DISCUSSIONS:** The Board and management discussed member concerns which had arisen from their director districts. The Board approved a management request for a summer Information Technology intern.

**ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS:** Director Tim Wasem reported there was no North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) meeting on which to report.

**POWER SUPPLY:** Director Travis Thompson reported on the Upper Missouri board meeting. Director Ray Tescher indicated there was no Mid-West Electric Consumers Association meeting on which to report.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Attorney Dennis Johnson discussed easement issues, a new bankruptcy filing, litigation and collection of delinquent accounts.

**CEO REPORT:** CEO John Skurupey reported on several items including recent Upper Missouri and Basin Electric manager advisory meetings, a joint Upper Missouri Power Cooperative and East River Electric managers meeting, RESCO board meeting and wholesale power issues.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** The Board reviewed the written report, noting

Curtis Samuelson's retirement after 31 years of service. Other administrative issues were shared with the Board.

**OFFICE REPORT:** Financial and statistical reports for April were reviewed with the Board along with a budget-to-date comparison, the capital projects report and the comparative cash report. The Board approved capital credit retirements as presented. The Board discussed a member request regarding billing procedures.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** The Board approved budget deviations for construction projects, purchase of additional meters, parking lot reconfiguration and HVAC system controls. Updates were provided on system outages, potential new loads, substations, SCADA, metering, meter data management, harmonics, demand waiver periods, cybersecurity and reclosures.

**OPERATIONS/CONTRACT MANAGEMENT/SAFETY REPORT:** Written reports provided updates on projects currently being worked on by MEC contractors and a work order progress report. An eight-mile line near Charlson to Elm Tree Substation has been completed. MEC crews are also busy working on outages, maintenance projects, work orders, meter changes, conversions, retirements and high loads. The written safety report was reviewed by the Board.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR:** An update was given on NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) compliance activities. Recent outages at Cherry Creek Substation, part of the Bulk Electric System, were reviewed with the Board. An update was also given on Member Service activities including annual meeting details. The Board appointed Mary Johnson, District 3A, to the Operation Round Up Board of Directors.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The next meeting date was set for June 26, 2018, at the Watford City Headquarters building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ■



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#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

Clayton Monsen, President  
Director, District 2B, Arnegard..... 586-3336  
Travis Thompson, V. President  
Director, District 1C, Charlson ..... 675-2373  
Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Director  
Rondee Hanna, Sec.-Treas.  
Director, District 2C, Watford City ..... 675-2516  
Glen Houghton, Director At Large  
Director, District 3B, Grassy Butte ..... 863-6606  
Tim Wasem, Statewide Director  
Director, District 3C, Halliday..... 938-4376  
Cameron Wahlstrom  
Director, District 1A, Alexander ..... 770-6631  
Ken Sanford  
Director, District 1B, Watford City ..... 842-2581  
Ray Tescher, Midwest Director  
Director, District 3A, Beach..... 565-2342  
Chris Link  
Director, District 2A, Alexander ..... 651-6524

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