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Mark Your Calendar

Jan 1	<i>Office Closed, New Year's Day</i>
Jan 15	<i>Electric Bills Due</i>
Jan 27	<i>Board Meeting</i>

District Meetings

Jan 27	<i>Districts 1,2,3, & 6</i> Traverse Electric Office at Noon
Jan 28	<i>Districts 7,8,&9</i> Rosholt Community Center, Rosholt, SD @ Noon
Feb 2	<i>Districts 4 & 5</i> Rascals Bar & Grill, Beardsley, MN @ Noon



Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by February 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.



Traverse Electric Members Receive Capital Credit Return

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK

General Manager

Traverse Electric members will see a special credit printed on their December billing statement after Traverse Electric's board of directors approved a retirement of \$588,676.38 and \$49,432.73 to estates, in member equity. This will fully retire out the year 2009; and brings our total capital credit retirement to over \$12.3 million returned over the years.

Capital credits build over time and represent member ownership in the co-op. Before returning the margins back to members, electric cooperatives use the capital to help offset the cost of debt for equipment and materials used for the construction and maintenance of the electric distribution system. Active members will see a credit on their December 2025 billing statement. Inactive members (those who have moved off the co-op system) will be mailed a check to their last known mailing address

Happy New Year,

Jeremy

1. Members pay their electric bills, and we track their business with us each month.

2. The co-op pays operating expenses throughout the year and allocates any leftover operating revenue as capital credits.

3. When financial conditions permit, the co-op board votes to retire (pay) capital credits to the members.

4. We send members their share of capital credits as a bill credit or check.

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit and operate at cost. Capital credits are a financial benefit of co-op membership.

Win a Trip to Washington DC:



Delegates from Minnesota will join more than 1,800 students from across the country in Washington, D.C., June 15-20, 2026.

All expenses—travel, lodging, meals, and program costs—are covered by Traverse Electric

Cooperative. Traverse Electric will send one area youth to the 2026 Youth Tour to Washington DC. To be eligible, applicants should be a high school sophomore, junior, or senior, between the ages of 16-18, and a child or dependent of a current Traverse Electric member.

Each Entrant must submit an essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the following topic: "If chosen as a youth tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of, and what would you have contributed?" **2026**

All essays must be typed and include a cover sheet that states the title of the essay, the entrant's name and address, name of parent or guardian, and the name of your school. The winner will be announced by March 1, 2026. Deadline to submit the essay is February 9, 2026.

Mail completed essay and cover letter to Traverse Electric Co-op Inc., PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296, or they can be dropped off at Traverse Electric's office or emailed to klupkes@traverseelectric.com.

For details, visit our website at www.traverseelectric.com or check out our Facebook page. ▶

Scholar of the Week

Ellie Whaley, a student at Wheaton Area High School, was selected as the November 23-29, Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. Ellie is the daughter of Tyler and Suzanne Whaley. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Dakota News Now have joined together to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. "Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week" has been celebrating the achievements of high school seniors since 2002.

Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and a Commitment to Community. In recognition of being elected, Ellie was presented with a \$250 check by Traverse Electric's General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock.



Ellie Whaley & Jeremy Huhnstock

Scholarships Offered to Local Students

Traverse Electric will award one \$1,500 and one \$1,000 Basin Electric scholarship and \$500 Traverse Electric scholarships to students entering a postsecondary education institution in the Fall of 2026. Applicants should be a dependent of a current Traverse Electric member. The scholarship application can be found on our website at www.traverseelectric.com, picked up from our office, or it can be mailed or emailed upon request. Submit completed applications to Traverse Electric's office or by mail, addressed to: Karen Lupkes, Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296. Applications may also be emailed to klupkes@traverseelectric.com. Application deadline is **February 17, 2026**. ▶

District Meetings Notice

Districts 1, 4, & 7 Now Open for Director Nominations

This year, District 1 (Kaley Thoennes), District 4 (Doug Diekmann), and District 7 (Jared Hamling) director terms are up for a 3 year term. All nomination committee meetings shown below will begin at noon with a light lunch provided.

If you are unable to make the District Meeting to be nominated and are interested in becoming a director, you can also be placed on the ballot for your district by petition (obtain ten (10) signatures from members who reside within your district). Directors from these three districts are elected at our annual meeting held March 19, 2026. Please call our office if you are interested in more information on becoming a director, or if you are unsure of what district you reside in.

- **Districts 1, 2, 3, & 6:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 @ Noon at Traverse Electric's Office, 6590 St Hwy 27, Wheaton, MN
- **Districts 7, 8 & 9:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 @ Noon at the Rosholt Community Center, Rosholt, SD
- **Districts 4 & 5:** Monday, February 2, 2026 @ Noon @ Rascals Bar and Grill, Beardsley, MN

The cooperative's bylaws state the following:
Section 3. Nominations and Election.

(a) Each year and at least 30 days before the annual meeting of the members, a meeting of the members shall be held in each district which a vacancy will exist on the Board of Directors at the next annual meeting. Such a meeting shall be called at the time and place within the district as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Notice of the district meetings shall be given by the Secretary of the Cooperative by mailing a notice thereof to each and every member residing within the district not less than seven (7) days previous to the day of such meeting. At least five (5) members, who reside within the district, present in person, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Board of Directors shall appoint a director to act as temporary chairman of the meeting and until a chairman and secretary have been elected by the members present. The members from said district present at such meeting shall nominate one or more members from the district as candidates for the Board of Directors. Nominations may not be closed until all the members present have had an opportunity to nominate. A list of nominations for directors shall be immediately prepared, signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and posted at the principal place of business of the Cooperative.

(b) Nominations by petition. Any ten (10) or more members from any district

in which a vacancy will exist on the Board of Directors at the next annual meeting may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not later than 25 days before the annual meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the district meetings is posted.

(c) A ballot marked "Ballot for Directors, District Number" shall be prepared for each district in which a vacancy will exist on the Board of Directors at the next annual meeting, which ballot shall contain the number of the district, the names of all nominees from the district so posted, alphabetically arranged, and be distinctive from the ballots for the other districts by color, which ballot shall be delivered to the members of said district, either by mailing or otherwise before the annual meeting or given to said members at the annual meeting. In every election, the nominee from each district in which a vacancy exists receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected to the Board of Directors. In case of a tie vote for director, the incumbent shall remain on the board until the next annual meeting, and the procedure for nomination and election shall be repeated and a director elected at the following annual meeting for the balance of the three-year term. If there is a tie vote and no incumbent, the vacancy can be filled by the directors for the period until the next annual meeting. To notwithstanding anything in this Section contained, failure to comply

with any of the provisions of this Section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors. Members may not nominate from the floor of an annual or special meeting of the members an individual to run for election as a director candidate.

(d) Uncontested Elections. Notwithstanding anything in these bylaws or applicable procedural rules to the contrary, if for any director election there is only one nominee for a board position so that the nominee is running unopposed, ballots need not be provided by mail to the members in that district, and the election shall be made by the chairperson of the member meeting entertaining a motion to elect the single candidate by a voice vote, show of hands, or other appropriate means.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.

BOARD REPORT

November 2025 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The November regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 8 AM.

- Absent: None.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- President Diekmann called the meeting to order.
- The agenda was approved.
- The minutes of the October regular board meeting were approved.
- The October check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: *The Use of Executive Session*.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- Thoenes reported on the East River New Director Orientation.
- Monson reported on the South Dakota Legislative Dinner.
- Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:
 - ◊ Provided a Basin Electric update.
 - ◊ Provided an East River update.
 - ◊ REED Fund review.
 - ◊ NRECA update.
 - ◊ MREA and MN legislative update.
 - ◊ SDREA and SD legislative update.
 - ◊ Other matters of interest.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
 - ◊ October 31, 2025 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
 - ◊ No energy assistance funds have been released in MN due to the government shutdown.
 - ◊ Reported on enrollment in auto pay and SmartHub.
 - ◊ Ellie Whaley was selected as a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week.
 - ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
 - ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the October 2025 Financial Report.

- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
 - ◊ Provided a crew update.
 - ◊ Reviewed upcoming projects for this Fall and for 2026, and completed projects.
 - ◊ Crews continue to work on plowing projects.
 - ◊ We will be going through RESAP certification in 2026 with an unannounced inspection.
 - ◊ Reported that he would like Traverse Electric to go through NRECA's Commitment to Zero program.
 - ◊ Carr's completed tree trimming for this year.
 - ◊ Provide an update on the digestor services.
 - ◊ Reviewed projects our contractors are working on.
 - ◊ Our plow's backhoe needs repairs.
 - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the 2026 Basin Load Forecast.
- Reviewed and approved the 2026 Budget and Capital Budget.
- Approved a Revenue Deferral Resolution.
- Approved 2026 Rate Schedules.
- Approved a total capital credit retirement of \$638,109.11 for general retirement of \$588,676.38 from 2009 and \$49,432.73 to Estates.
- Approved applying capital credits to bad debt and writing off bad debt.
- Adopted Board Policy 505.1 and approved revisions to Policy 505.
- Selected SDREA voting delegates.
- Reviewed the 2026 district meetings schedule and the March 19, 2026 annual meeting.
- Committed to send 1 Youth to the 2026 Youth Tour.
- Approved offering one \$1,500 and one \$1,000 Basin Scholarship in 2026.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▶

TEC October 2025 Financials

Oct 2024 Oct 2025 YTD 2025

Total Revenue.	\$1,436,158.47	\$1,648,906.89	\$12,746,483.01
Cost of Power.	\$857,570.21	\$803,488.09	\$7,177,613.61
Total Cost of Service.	\$1,246,719.44	\$1,280,632.60	\$11,659,703.88
Operating Margins	\$189,439.03	\$368,274.29	\$1,086,779.13
Total Margins	\$210,696.85	\$360,909.23	\$1,519,638.87
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	13,984,847	14,327,930	112,843,430
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales . . .	13,376,430	13,726,656	107,671,086
Line Loss.	4%	5%	4%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
Vice-President: Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
Kaley Thoenes, Chokio, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager
Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
Melissa Przymus – Accountant
Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
Isaac Hoverson – Journeyman Lineworker
Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker
Tayden George – Apprentice Lineworker
Jordan Pearson – Apprentice Lineworker
Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055
jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz
– Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox	320-808-5309
Big Stone County	Grant County
Stevens County	Traverse County

Brent Piekarski 651-420-0855
Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nick Helseth 605-280-2188
Marshall County Roberts County

In case of a power outage, call
(800) 927-5443

6590 State Highway 27

P.O. Box 66

Wheaton, MN 56296 USA

Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443

Local phone: (320) 563-8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
October 1–April 30

Web site: www.traverseelectric.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.