

# KILOWATT

## INDUSTRY GENEROSITY IGNITES NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE SERVICE COURSE AT RIDGEWATER

As demand grows for electric vehicles (EV) across Minnesota and the entire country, the importance of having a trained workforce of electric vehicle service technicians also increases. Thanks to an innovative partnership, Ridgewater College will be at the forefront of training the next generation of electric vehicle service technicians.

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative (KPC) and Great River Energy have joined efforts with Ridgewater's Automotive Service Technology program to expand training to better service this expanding line of vehicles. According to Kelley Blue Book's website, an estimated 1 million electric vehicles were sold in 2023, the most ever sold in a single year in the United States.

The industry donation of \$85,408 includes \$73,408 from KPC in unclaimed capital credits from over several decades, and a \$12,000 contribution from Great River Energy. The combined support was instrumental in obtaining an EV training simulator and in the development of its software and a new automotive Ridgewater course. KPC's CEO, Ryan Nelson explained how the decision to donate was driven by the cooperative members. "We have heard different concerns from member-owners over the push to drive electric," he said. "One of those concerns is about who is going to work on these cars for owners, which is a valid concern. Workforce development is a critical, but an often-overlooked piece to the electric vehicle transition. If the dollars we donate alleviate some of these concerns and help students in our community, I consider that a good investment."

Ridgewater Automotive Service instructor Jon Friton agreed. "Our current curriculum includes some electric vehicle safety and system operation, but this industry donation will provide an electric vehicle simulator for students to troubleshoot hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles, as well as fuel cell



vehicles." Friton chose a simulator that can be adapted for nearly any model of EVs on the roads today. The donation will also provide instructor training, battery packs, controllers, and electric motors to be used in classes.

To maximize the focus on safely maintaining and repairing electric vehicles, Ridgewater has created a new, one-credit course that will begin this February. The course will run four afternoons in February and March. "This class will be voluntary and open to current and past students to dive deeper into the exciting and advanced

world of electric vehicles," Friton explained. So far, nearly half of the program's current students are planning to take the training, but it is also open to Ridgewater alumni during this first semester.

Great River Energy, a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers including Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, has a long history of helping its member-owners navigate the sometimes-murky waters of the EV adoption.

"We think it's important to support members and their communities when it comes to the ramifications of emerging technologies," said Rodney De Fouw, Great River Energy Member Electrification Strategist. "Providing this donation is a way we can provide resources that will produce tangible results that will positively impact our member-owners and the communities they live and work in."

"We hope this training simulator provides a cost-effective way for local students to work on all different types of electric drivetrains safely and effectively," Nelson added. "We would love to see Ridgewater become one of Minnesota's top schools for EV Maintenance and Repair."

**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

**Annual Meeting  
April 23, 2024**

## MEMBERS TO VOTE ON BYLAW AMENDMENTS FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board of Directors is asking the Cooperative's members to approve proposed amendments to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is governed by a series of documents, including Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, that were first established when the Cooperative was founded in 1935. These documents provide a framework for governing and conducting business. As time passes, the energy industry changes, technology advances, and member needs and expectations grow, it is important to periodically review and amend the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws in order to remain relevant and effective.

Over the last year, the Board of Directors, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative staff, an attorney, and independent communications consultant conducted a review of the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The purpose of this review was to ensure that these documents are current, compliant with changes in law, and reflect best practices in the industry. After reviewing these documents line by line and comparing them to Cooperative business procedures, future needs, and industry advancements, necessary alterations were identified and suggested. Alterations are intended to modernize archaic language, increase clarity, simplify where possible, and facilitate the more efficient operation of the Cooperative.

While the proposed amendments have been approved by the current Board of Directors, they cannot be placed into effect without approval by a majority vote of the members that participate in the voting process. This membership vote will take place in conjunction with the Director elections for the Annual Meeting.

Before your ballot package arrives, we want to ensure that you feel educated to place your vote. While the bulk of changes proposed reflect an update in language and/or grammar to make the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws easier to under-

stand, the following summaries reflect the most significant amendments:

**Removal of Outdated Language and Practices:** Any language related to practices that have been discontinued over time by the Cooperative has been removed.

**Accounts for Modern Technology, Procedures, Legislation and More:** Since the Bylaws were last reviewed or modified over 10 years ago, significant changes in technology, procedures, legislation, and more have occurred. The language pertaining to Board of Director meetings, member communication, and member votes has been revised to incorporate modern practices, including the option of utilizing electronic methods. This update not only aligns with current technological advancements but also ensures that the organization remains adaptable to evolving procedures, legislation, and other relevant aspects, fostering efficiency and compliance with contemporary standards.

**Better Defines Requirements and Responsibilities of Membership:** New language reinforces that any entity receiving electric service from Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is considered a member of the Cooperative and therefore bound to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and afforded the benefit of voting rights and the return of patronage capital (also known as capital credits). The requirements and the responsibilities of membership are also clarified.

**Better Defines Director Qualifications:** Proposed changes provide a clearer delineation of qualifications for directors, ensuring a more transparent and informed selection process. By specifying the qualifications more explicitly, the amendment aims to provide a comprehensive framework that aligns with the organization's goals, values, and the skills necessary for effective governance. This enhancement not only strengthens the criteria for directorship but also contributes to fostering a board with diverse expertise and a better

understanding of the organization's mission.

**Changes to How Director Vacancies Are Filled:** To enhance the democratic principles proposed changes eliminate the board of directors' authority to unilaterally appoint a new board member in the event of a mid-term vacancy. Instead, this crucial decision would be reinstated to the hands of the membership, fostering a more transparent and inclusive process that allows the entire membership to participate in the selection of a new board member through a democratic vote. This shift aims to promote accountability, representation, and collective decision-making within the organization's governance structure.

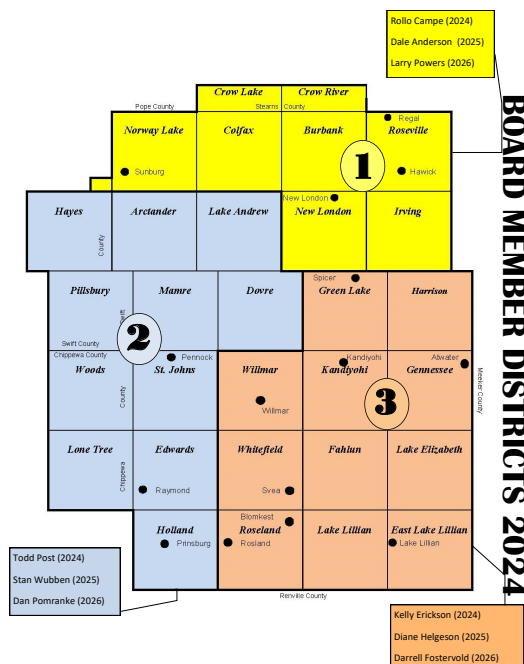
A summary and complete text of the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws recommended by the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board of Directors will be available on our website by February 15, 2024. In addition, each member will receive this information as part of their ballot package. Ballots must be returned by April 22, 2024. We are confident these changes will result in increased clarity, more efficient operations at the Cooperative, and better engage our members in the election process. We realize there is a lot of information presented here, so don't hesitate to reach out to us during business hours at 800-551-4951 if you have questions or comments regarding the proposed amendments.

### CO-OP PRINCIPLE #2: DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

*Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. You exercise your member-owner rights by voting on bylaw changes and for board members. Your participation and input is vital not only to the success of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, but also ensures we meet your needs and expectations.*

## DIRECTOR FILINGS NOW OPEN FOR DISTRICTS 1, 2 AND 3

Would you like to serve as a Director on the Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board? Director filings are now open for Directors in Districts 1, 2 and 3. Please call the KPC office at 800-551-4951, email at [khanson@kpcoop.com](mailto:khanson@kpcoop.com), or stop by our office to request a director packet. The packets contain the Cooperative's Bylaws as well as the qualifications to become a director. As a Board Director you will serve a 3-year term and must reside within the district for which you are filing. Filings are due at the KPC office by 4:00 pm on March 4, 2024. Election results will be announced at KPC's Annual Meeting, April 23, 2024.



**KPC**  
KANDIYOH POWER  
COOPERATIVE

**BOARD MEETING  
SUMMARY**  
January 24, 2024

The Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting. There were eight directors present. Chairman, Dale Anderson called the meeting to order.

Additions made to the regular agenda: None.

The following reports were given:

- CEO Report
  - IJIA Consortium, Topic 3: Innovative Regional Grid and New ERA Grant.
  - NISC GRIP Grant Proposal.
  - CEO Close-Up Conference Update.
  - Annual Meeting Speaker.
  - UCAP / Old Headquarters Building Update.
  - GRE MMG.
  - Ridgewater EV Repair and Maintenance Course.
- Member Services/Communications
  - Youth Tour Update.
  - MPCA and generators update.
  - EV Trainer at Ridgewater.
  - 2024 Rebates on KPC website.
  - Capital Credit Discussion.
  - Insights and Analytics.
  - Auto Pay Metrics.
- Engineering Report
  - One-hundred new services connected; fourteen retired; nine renewables on file in 2023.
  - Current projects: line patrol and various position specific training.
  - Safety review for 2023..
  - All equipment operational.
- Finance Report
  - Year-End Reporting Requirements.
  - 2023 Audit.
  - Sales & Use Tax Refund Update.
  - 2023 year-end financials update.
  - Vender Check Register: discussed UCAP check.
  - Reviewed write offs this month.
  - Reviewed variances and discrepancies in December financials.
  - GRE update and discussion.

Articles & Bylaws Project Update

Operation Round Up Recap  
by Director Dan Pomranke

MREA Annual Meeting

Great River Energy (GRE) Director's Report  
by Chair Anderson

Motions made and approved by the Board:

- Regular Agenda.
- Consent Agenda.
- Capital Credits Payout to Uncollectable Account.
- January Write Offs.
- Proposed revisions to KPC's Articles and Bylaws.
- MREA Annual Meeting Director Attendees.
- Adjourn meeting.

Meeting Adjourned Next regular board meeting is February 28, 2024.

## ACCESS FEE INCREASE FOR 2024

On the February billing, you will see an access fee increase. For members in the City of Kandiyohi, the Access Fee will increase \$1.00 and the rest of the membership will see an increase of \$0.50. What is the Access Fee? The Access Fee is a fixed fee and is on all member bills, regardless of how much or how little energy is used each month. The Access Fee is the cost to deliver energy to your location. This fee recovers a portion of the cost to maintain the electrical service at your home or location, including poles, meters, lines, substations, equipment, plant improvements, operations, maintenance, and administration.

## MAKE YOUR ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION NOW!

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is holding their Annual Meeting April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Little Crow Event Center. The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. sharp with brunch to follow.

Due to limited space, we ask that you please RSVP NO LATER than April 12<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending the Annual Meeting.

Contact us at 1-800-551-4951 or by email to [contactus@kpcoop.com](mailto:contactus@kpcoop.com) to make your reservation.

We hope that you will be able to join us and take this opportunity to visit with your Board Directors and hear what is happening at your cooperative. As always, we will have a welcome gift and prize drawing.



### January's \$25 Winner: Kim and Debbie Baker

Enroll in our Auto Pay program to be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25.00 bill credit. Save time and money!

Must be on Auto Pay to be eligible to win. You can also select email as your only delivery option. You will then receive an email instead of a paper bill when your bill is ready for payment.





8605 47th Street NE, Spicer, MN 56288  
www.kpcoop.com

**Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am – 4pm**  
**Phone: 1-800-551-4951**  
**Fax: 320-796-0620**

**Tom McCormick**  
**Electric Inspector: 320-221-2809**

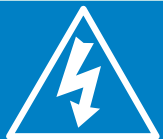
Drop boxes available for your convenience  
at Cash Wise and our headquarters  
building near flag pole.

Ryan Nelson, CEO	320-796-1160
Michele Scheffler, Member/Communications	320-796-0982
Brent Hatlestad, Line Superintendent	320-796-1163
Patrick Krueger, CFO	320-796-0991

<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS:</b>	<b>District</b>
Dale Anderson, Chair - 320-894-1687	1
Rollo Campe - 320-894-1601	1
Larry Powers - 320-212-7960	1
Dan Pomranke - 320-894-7113	2
Todd Post, VC - 320-212-1119	2
Stan Wubben, Secretary - 320-905-8325	2
Kelly Erickson - 320-894-2930	3
Diane Helgeson - 320-220-3745	3
Darrell Fostervold - 320-212-4824	3

**KILOWATT STAFF:**  
Michele Scheffler, Editor

*Equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**24-HOUR  
OUTAGE  
NUMBER**

When your lights go out, so do we.

Call us if your power goes out even if you think your neighbors  
already did. Leave one light on so you know when power has  
been restored and make sure you have an emergency kit ready.

**1-800-551-4951**

The Cooperative will attempt to furnish continuous  
service but will not guarantee uninterrupted service.



## APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

**JUNE 18 TO 23, 2024**  
AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kandiyo Power Cooperative is currently accepting applications from eligible high school sophomores and juniors for an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for the 2024 Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, June 18-23. You and your parents or guardian must be served by Kandiyo Power Cooperative to be eligible. Spend six days in our nation's capital visiting famous museums and historical sites and chatting with politicians.

Every year, 40 bright, enthusiastic, and passionate high schoolers are chosen to represent Minnesota on the Rural Electric Youth Tour. But we're not the only ones there. Youth Tour is a national sensation!

Over 1,900 student delegates from all over the country visit D.C. on this tour! They visit with their congressional representatives, tour some of the most famous museums in the world and make memories and friends that will last a lifetime. Make 2024 the year you experience the monuments that are dedicated to our country's leaders. Let your voice be heard and get your questions answered.



This tour is coordinated by the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18 through Sunday, June 23.

Visit our website [www.kpcoop.com/youth-tour](http://www.kpcoop.com/youth-tour) for the complete Youth Tour Contest Rules and how to apply. Or call 800-551-4951 for information. Application deadline is February 19, 2024. Additional information on the National Youth Tour can be found at <http://youthtour.coop>.

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.KPCOOP.COM](http://WWW.KPCOOP.COM)



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