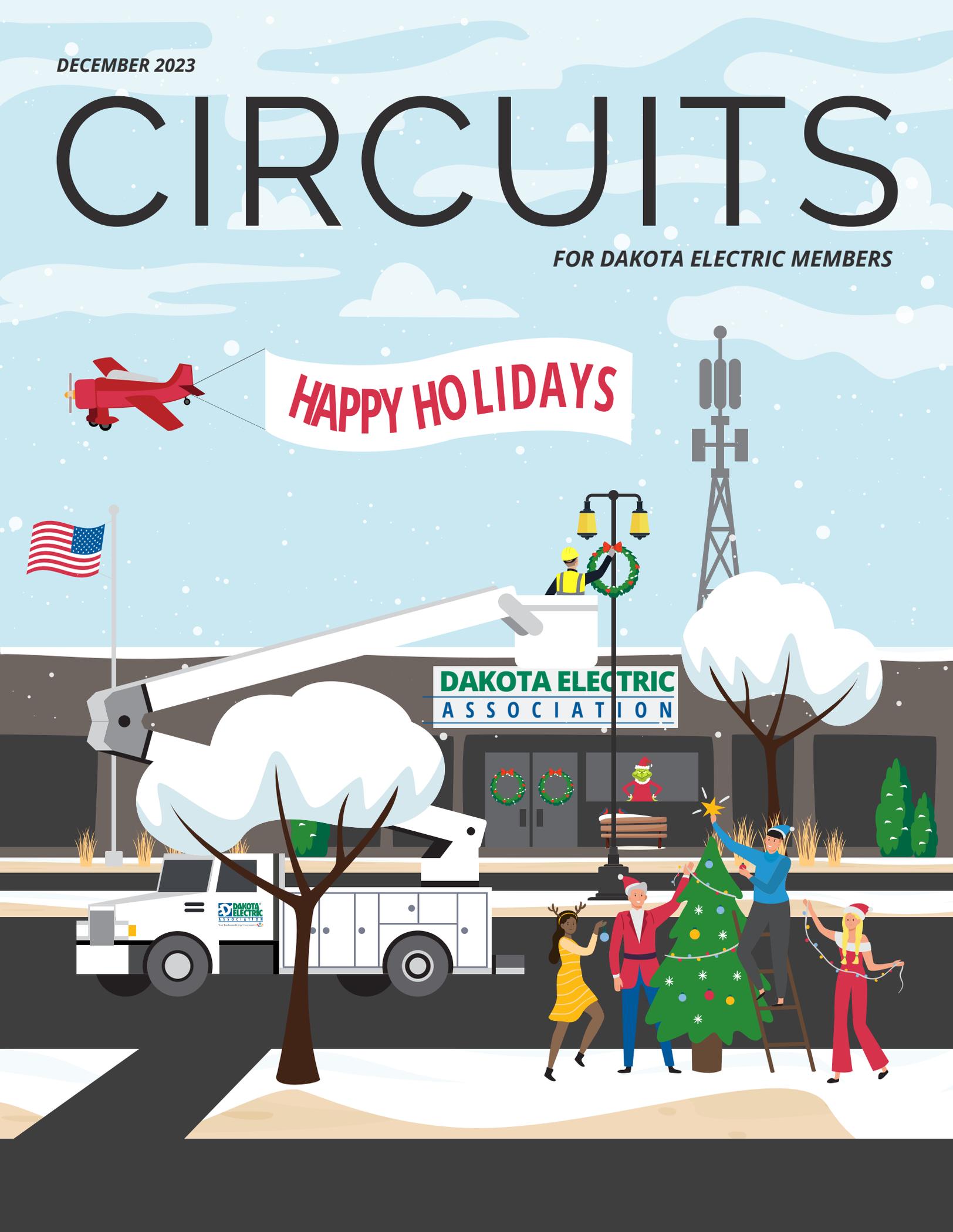


DECEMBER 2023

# CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

DAKOTA  
ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION  
Your Member's Best Connection

## CAREERS

### BE A PART OF OUR ENERGY

www.dakotaelectric.com/careers  
HResources@dakotaelectric.com  
651-463-6301

## CONTACT US

### Member Service & Drive-Up Window

7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday – Friday  
651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409  
Minnesota Relay Service 711  
customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

### Lobby - 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### 24-Hour Outage & Emergency Service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

### Underground Cable Locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or  
651-454-0002 or 1-800-252-1166  
www.gopherstateonecall.org

### New & Existing Services

651-460-7500

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/  
affirmative action employer.*

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota  
Electric® are registered service marks of the  
cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to  
change without notice. Funds are limited and  
available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

www.dakotaelectric.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe | *MREA Director*  
David Jones  
Gerald F. Pittman | *Treasurer*

### DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp  
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director | Vice Chair*  
Terry Donnelly | *Secretary*

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
Cyndee Fields  
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Chair*  
Stacy Miller  
Jenny Hoeft



# REFLECTING ON 2023

## A Message from Our CEO

*As we wrap up another year, we find ourselves reflecting on the events that have shaped our cooperative in 2023. A lot has happened over the past 12 months, and we want to take a moment to highlight some key points that may not have made headlines but are essential to our mission.*

### Safety First: RESAP and Thorough Safety Rule Review

At Dakota Electric, the safety of our team and our communities is paramount. In 2023, we initiated a new safety program called RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program). This program underscores our commitment to providing power in a manner that is not only reliable, efficient and affordable but, above all, safe.

In addition to RESAP, we embarked on a comprehensive review of all our safety rules to ensure that they meet the highest standards. This process demonstrates our dedication to continuously improving our safety protocols, making sure we can always provide you with dependable service while keeping safety at the forefront.

### Guarding Our Grid: Cyber Security

In today's digital age, the security of our grid is a critical concern. We acknowledge the ever-growing range of cyber threats and understand the importance of safeguarding your electricity supply. To address this challenge, we have assembled a dedicated team of professionals who work tirelessly to keep our environment safe. They are equipped to tackle potential cyber threats and ensure that your power remains reliable and secure.

### Carbon-Free Legislation: Leading the Way

Carbon-free legislation has become an increasingly pressing concern, with state law now requiring carbon-free generation by 2040. We are proud to announce that Dakota Electric, through our power supplier, Great River Energy, is in a strong position to meet this new standard. We are committed to minimizing our environmental impact while providing the energy you need to power your homes and businesses.

### Community Engagement: Serving You

Dakota Electric Association was created to serve our communities, and we value every opportunity to interact with you, our members. Whether it's our annual zoo event, where we come together for a night of fun, or the numerous other community engagement initiatives we've taken part in throughout the year, we always appreciate the chance to connect with you and hear your feedback.

### Thank You

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our members. Working at a co-op is something special, and it's a privilege to serve you. Your support and engagement with us are the driving force behind our mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power.

Thank you for being part of the Dakota Electric family. We look forward to another year of service and growth together.

# SLOPES & SAVINGS

## Buck Hill Unveils Cool Energy Efficient Upgrades

*As winter approaches, we're excited to share some positive news from one of our valued community partners—Buck Hill in Burnsville, Minnesota. Beyond being a local winter wonderland for skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts, Buck Hill has quietly been making strides in energy efficiency and sustainability over the past two years.*



### Smart Snowmaking and Lifts for a Better Experience

At the core of Buck Hill's winter operations lies the new pump house and modernized chair lift. These enhancements not only guarantee optimal conditions for winter sports but have also yielded substantial energy savings.

Buck Hill is also embracing international innovation with the addition of ten state-of-the-art snow guns from Italy. These cutting-edge machines are designed to guarantee excellent snow quality while minimizing environmental impact.

### Energy-Efficient Lighting Updates

Updates to lighting across the resort are making a substantial impact as well. The new lighting systems, both indoors and on the ski hill, enhance safety and visibility while being mindful of energy consumption. A total of 124 lights on the ski hill have moved from 1000W fixtures to more efficient 300W alternatives.

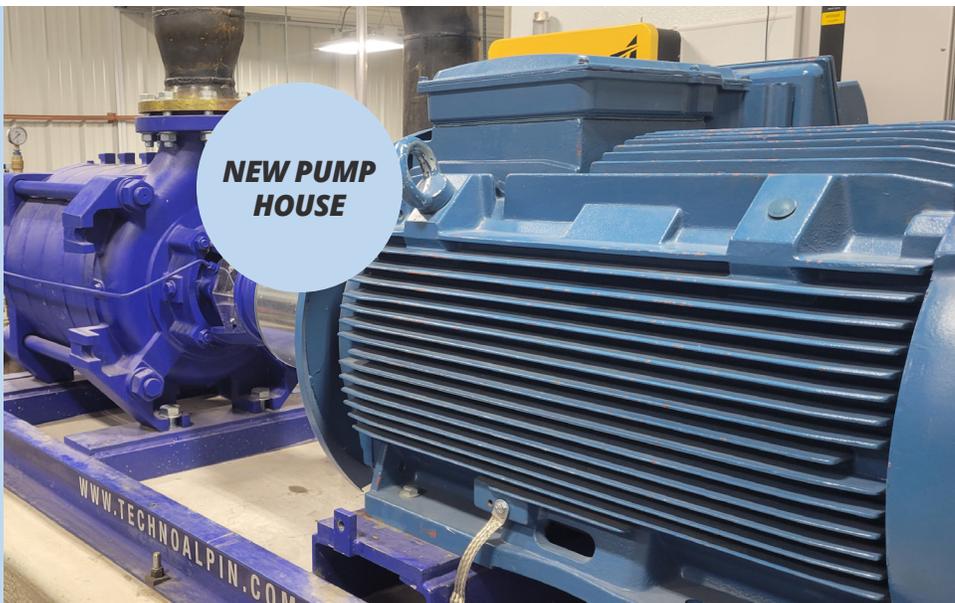
### Years of Commitment

Buck Hill's dedication to sustainability is not a recent endeavor — it has been making energy-efficient choices for years. In fact, Buck Hill holds the distinction of being the first commercial member of Dakota Electric to enroll in the Wellspring program. This forward-thinking initiative, available to all Dakota Electric members, provides both residential and business members with an opportunity to support sustainable energy.

### Quantifying the Impact: Substantial Savings

Over the past two years, Buck Hill reports a noteworthy 950,820 kWh in energy savings, thanks to these thoughtful improvements.

As you gear up for the winter season and hit the slopes, know that you're enjoying winter fun at a place that's taking significant steps to make a positive impact on our environment.



# CAPITAL CREDITS

*This year, the board of directors approved the retirement of \$2.6 million in capital credits to be paid back to members. Dakota Electric is returning the remaining 2002, 2003, and 2004 allocations, and 60% of the 2005 allocation.*

Capital credits in a cooperative like Dakota Electric represent members' ownership and are derived from annual profits. These credits are allocated based on electricity usage and reinvested to reduce borrowing, keeping rates low. The cooperative aims to retire these credits on a 15-year rotation by 2025, as approved by the board of directors.

Members who purchased electricity in 2002-05 will be mailed a check this month. Watch for your check arriving soon!

To learn more about capital credits, visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/capital-credits](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/capital-credits).

EST.  
**\$2.6M**  
RETURNED



## INTERESTED DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

In adherence with Dakota Electric bylaws and policies, an annual election is held each year for those seats up for election. There are twelve three-year term director seats on the Dakota Electric Board. Each year one seat in each of the four districts is up for election. Any eligible member may seek election in the district in which they reside.

Members interested in seeking election for a director seat should visit [www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election) for more information. All interested candidates must apply via the application link on the webpage.

The application link will be available on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Completed applications **must** be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. To be eligible for the ballot, all candidates are **required** to interview with the Nominating Committee on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. These interviews may take place early afternoon or early evening.

### Seats Up for Election

DISTRICT	TERM	INCUMBENT
1	3-year	Jerry Pittman
2	3-year	Clay Van De Bogart
3	3-year	Ken Danner
4	3-year	Jenny Hoelt

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dakota electric is **seeking interested members** to volunteer to help be part of our annual election process by serving on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee serves as an integral part of our annual election process by interviewing director candidate applicants and helping to determine those qualified to be placed on the election ballot for 2024.

Members interested in serving should **visit** [www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/annual-meeting-election) for more information. All interested volunteers must submit their request to serve via the application link on the webpage. The application link will be available on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. All requests to serve **must** be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. All volunteers must be available to interview director candidate applicants on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. These interviews may take place early afternoon or early evening, and all serving committee members are **required** to be available for all candidate interviews.

Committee appointments are selected at random. Two committee members and one alternate committee member will be appointed to represent each district. Member volunteers will be notified of the outcome following the board meeting held on January 25, 2024. Those who serve on the Nominating Committee will receive a stipend for their time.

*For election related questions, please contact Melissa Cherney at [mcherney@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:mcherney@dakotaelectric.com) or 651-463-6252.*

# COMMUNITY

## Township Leader Award

Dakota Electric recently awarded Steve Wheeler of Waterford Township the 2023 Township Outstanding Leader of the Year Award. Each year, Dakota Electric seeks to recognize outstanding rural leadership with the award.

Steve's dedication to the community has been outstanding, serving in various capacities:

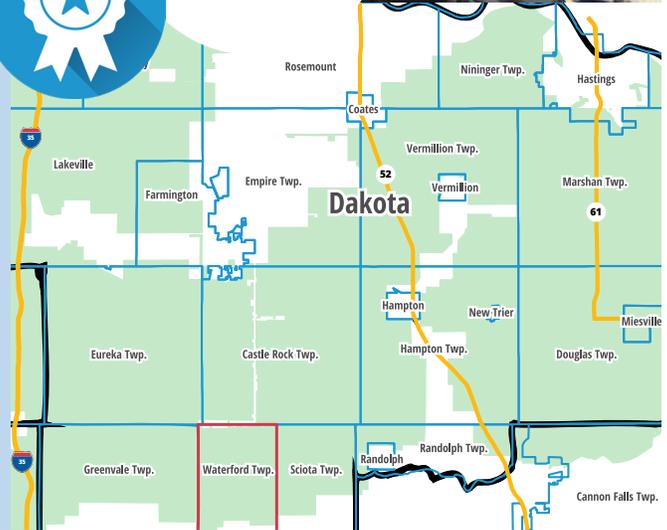
- **Road Steward (since 2019):** Ensuring the smooth operation of township roads.
- **Project Coordinator (since 2019):** Volunteering expertise for project development.
- **Township Weed Inspector (since fall of 2019):** Actively eradicating wild parsnip in the township.
- **Deputy Election Administrator:** Crucial role in election execution.
- **Township Treasurer (since 2021):** Stepping up to lead the township's financial matters.

Steve's versatile leadership and commitment make him a valuable asset to Waterford Township. Dakota Electric is proud to award a leader who embodies the spirit of community and excellence.

Along with the award, Dakota Electric donated \$250 to the Community Action Center in Northfield on Wheeler's behalf.



**STEVE  
WHEELER**



## Helping Neighbors®

Dakota Electric members who contribute to the Helping Neighbors Trust help local families pay utility bills when facing unexpected financial struggles.

Dakota Electric distributes Helping Neighbors funds to the local CAP Agency, Salvation Army and 360 Communities, each of which provide utility assistance to families

experiencing hardship. Please consider making a donation. Monthly donations can be added to your electric bill or you can make a one-time contribution.

To learn more about Helping Neighbors, call 651-463-6212 or sign up online by visiting [www.dakotaelectric.com/community/helping-neighbors-sign-up](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/community/helping-neighbors-sign-up).





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**  
Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m.
- **Office Closed**  
Dec. 25 & 26

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

### CONNECT WITH US!



# HOLIDAY LIGHTS COMPETITION

**DON'T FORGET To Light Up the Season With Dakota Electric's Holiday Glow-Off!**

## THREE CATEGORIES

**Apartment**  
(PRIZE: Robot Vacuum)

**Single Family Home**  
(PRIZE: Electric Snowblower)

**Small Business**  
(PRIZE: Feature in *Circuits*)

### HOW TO ENTER:

- Snap a photo of your holiday lights display.
- Share it on Twitter/X, Instagram or Facebook and indicate which category you are in.
- You **MUST** tag Dakota Electric **AND** include **#holidayglowoff** in your caption.
- You must be a Dakota Electric member.
- One entry per account.
- Most liked photo wins for each category.
- Winners will be shared on our social channels!

RUNS  
UNTIL  
**DEC. 15**