



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2024

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 33, Number 12

POLITICS AND PUBLIC POWER



From the GM,
Mark Johnson

As I write this article, we're about a week away from the election. The importance of developing and

maintaining strong connections with our elected officials is at the top of my mind. Our partnerships with policy makers at the local, state, and federal levels are essential in ensuring we can serve our customers effectively and adapt to the evolving demands of the energy industry.

One of the primary reasons for engaging with our elected officials is to advocate for policies that protect and enhance public power. Legislative decisions around energy regulations, environmental standards, safety requirements, etc. can have a direct impact on

our organization and the customers we serve. Political regulations seem to be a constant threat to our industry's ability to generate and deliver affordable and reliable electricity. By working with our representatives, we strive to ensure they have the technical insights and community perspective necessary to make well-informed decisions. This communication helps them consider the unique challenges and strengths of public power and understand the impacts their decisions have on the communities we serve.

Each year, our board passes a political action plan that identifies key topic areas of legislation to monitor and engage with if necessary and lays out initiatives that guide our organization's interactions with elected officials. Included in the political action plan are the board's yearly trip to Lincoln to meet with our state senators, inviting elected officials to our

board meetings, educating the public concerning legislation that affects them, and much more.

In addition to direct communication with lawmakers, ERPPD benefits immensely from our involvement with our national and state associations—the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA). These associations play a vital role in amplifying our voice on a broader level, providing critical support, and promoting the value of public power. Through our associations,

continued on page 2

\$50 CREDIT WINNER

Thank you to everyone that participated in our People are the Power campaign!

We have had a lot of fun celebrating the things that make public power great and unique - like our customers.

We congratulate our grand prize winner - **Denise Pilcher** - who received a \$50 credit on her electric bill for December.

Please read the comments from our November Facebook prompt: "Tell Us About Your Favorite Veteran" on page four.



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
will be closed
Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25
in observance of **Christmas**
and
Wednesday, January 1, 2025
in observance of **New Year's Day**



DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

Thank you to those that took the time to vote in the November general election.

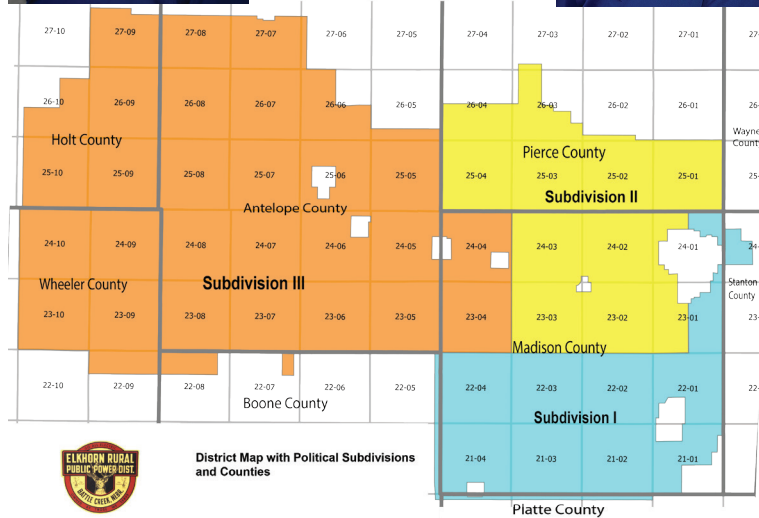
We congratulate Dennis Kuchar, Subdivision I, Rod Zohner, Subdivision II, and Ray Payne, Subdivision III, who were all re-elected to the board for six-year terms.

Voting is an integral part of the public power model. The public power process starts with you, our customer, taking the time to vote for your representatives on the board of directors.

Your vote and voice matters to ERPPD. Local control means that the board of directors are customers like you: your neighbors, living and working in your communities, willing to take leadership roles, and run for the board positions.

Because they live and work in your communities, they understand the effect rates, policies, and infrastructure have on you, your families, and business. They weigh the options they have to make good decisions for the district.

The newly re-elected board members along with the other six board members: Jerry Dolesh, Hunter Frisch, James Geyer, Dave Hoefer, Tim Means, and Joe Thiele, as well as all the ERPPD staff, work hard to fulfill the mission to bring you safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity.



District Map with Political Subdivisions and Counties

Pictured clockwise from top: Ray Payne, Subdivision III Director; Rod Zohner, Subdivision II Director; and Dennis Kuchar, Subdivision I Director. All were elected in November to serve six-year terms on the ERPPD board of directors. Congratulations!



Politics continued from page 1

we participate in advocacy efforts that keep our concerns front and center, providing collective representation that allows public power providers to impact policy more effectively than we could alone.

At ERPPD, we prioritize transparency and non-partisan, open communication, both with our customers and our policy makers. By engaging with elected officials through regular visits, updates, and community discussions, we ensure our district's needs are well represented. Our partnerships with policy makers and our associations are

vital assets in fulfilling our mission at ERPPD. By working together, we can strengthen public power by advocating for policies that support reliability and affordability. Our goal is always rooted in our responsibility to create a brighter future for our communities.

Congratulations to our tractor bag winners. Pictured right, clockwise: Doug Siegert, Glen Cheatum and Monica Talbott. Not pictured is Julie Filipi.

The tractor bag is a reminder to look up and out for power lines.



Community Development Fund Giving

Thank you to our customers that round up their bills and make our communities better! Small change makes a big difference!



Big Bang Boom Fest - Troy Uhlir



Birthright - Needs for Moms and Infants - Patsy Wasson



Washington Elementary School - Book Vending Machine



St. Vincent DePaul - Dan Harrison



Giving in 2024:
 Total Amount Given Out: \$37,280
 Total Applications: 52
 Communities Helped: Battle Creek, Clearwater, Elgin, Ewing, Madison, Meadow Grove, Norfolk, Orchard, and Tilden.



Girl Scout Project - Dog Waste Station - Leah Gomes, Heath Mettler and Jaylann Schmidt



Summerland School - Brogan Billings, Preslie Robinson and Ruby Ahlers

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards November 2024

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek Heritage Park Revitalization Committee	Tool Shed	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Battle Creek Public Schools	Trailblazers/Blaze Days	Battle Creek	\$500.00
Elgin Community Center	Interior Renovations	Elgin	\$500.00
Panther Partners	Books, Games, Toys, T-shirt etc.	Norfolk	\$750.00
S.M.I.L.E.	Scholarships, Horses & Ponies	Madison	\$1,000.00
St. Vincent DePaul	Assistance to the Poor and Homeless	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Teammates of Summerland	Program Fees and Group Activities	Ewing	\$750.00
Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Library	Crowd Control Stanchions	Tilden	\$500.00
Toys for Tots	Purchase of Toys	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
		TOTAL	\$7,000.00

First Quarter	Application Deadline	Board Meeting Date:
	January 20, 2025	February 3, 2025

BY THE NUMBERS:

\$221,156 - Total funds collected since the beginning of the program to September 2024.

\$217,134 - Total funds distributed from August 2018 to November 4, 2024.

93 - total number of organizations helped since 2018.

283 - total number of project applications submitted for funding since 2018.

PEOPLE ARE THE POWER - FAVORITE VETERAN

Below are the heartfelt responses to the November Facebook prompt: "Tell us about your favorite veteran." They were all so good that the posts are being shared just as they appeared on Facebook.



Marlene Timm

My favorite veteran is my boss, Roy Urbanec. He served in the air force and has many stories about that experience. I admire his unwavering patriotism for the United States of America. When the withdrawal took place in Afghanistan and 13 servicemen and women died, he was devastated. He has each of their pictures posted in his place of business so our community doesn't forget the ultimate sacrifice they made for this country. He is proud to be a veteran and has educated and strengthened my belief and pride in our country and the armed services that protect us.



Chet Bickley

My uncle, Arthur 'Art' Bickley, is my favorite United States Air Force Veteran. Uncle Art served during the Vietnam War. He came home a changed man, not just from the atrocious of war, but also for the way he was treated by the general public. Despite the physical and emotional baggage he carries to this day from his time served, he has been a good husband, father and grandfather. He was a good brother to my late father. Art is a great brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many.



Angie Hupp

Picking just one is so hard, but I'd have to say my paternal grandma Virginia Wood. Not only did we share a birthday, but she was in the Women's Army/Air Core during WWII.

My second favorite would be my grandpa Robert Wood, who was in the Army Air, later turned Air Force, as a radio operator and waistgunner in a B-26 bomber in the Philippines during WWII.

After that would be both my brothers. Brett Wood spent seven years as a bomb tech and Ethan Wood spent five years as a physicist, both in the Air Force.

I have so much respect for those who choose to serve, and even more for those who served when they didn't have a choice. Thank you will never be enough to convey the esteem, gratitude and love I have for them.



Top fan

Meghan Beckman

Ok, I just HAVE to answer this one. I was taught very early on about the respect we are to have for our veterans. My favorite veteran is my dad! He's probably the most quiet person you'll ever meet... but he says what needs to be said. He helps me whenever I need it, offers the most sensible advice, and is such an honest, good person. (I respect him so much that I even named one of my boys after him!) Serving in Vietnam took a major toll on his body and his health, but despite that, he keeps moving forward and never surrenders. I really love my dad.



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Todd Knutson

Connect with us Online:



WWW.ERPPD.COM



SCAN ME

Customer Service: 402-675-2185
For Outages: 1-800-675-2185

Board of Directors

Subdivision I

- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director
- James Geyer, Director

Subdivision II

- Tim Means, Secretary
- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zohner, Director

Subdivision III

- Joe Thiele, President
- David Hoefler, Director
- Raymond Payne, Vice President