



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2024

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 33, Number 2

## PUBLIC POWER = LOCAL CONTROL

From the GM - Mark Johnson

With 2024 being an election year, it's a great time to highlight the importance of the Board of Directors. One of the defining features of Public Power is its local, democratic control. As you can see from the graphic "How Public Power Works", the whole process starts with you. When you cast a vote for the individuals you would like to see on the Elkhorn Board of Directors, you are taking part in the democratic process of electing a strong leadership team. Directors are responsible for the governance of our organization and make decisions that determine our strategic direction.

Local control is a cornerstone of what makes public power so unique and valuable. Our directors live and work in the district. They actively participate in our communities which gives them valuable local perspective. They are directly impacted by the decisions that they make. Our directors are motivated to serve you, our customers, and not shareholders or stockholders outside of the district or state.

ERPPD has nine directors from three sub-divisions (see map on page 2) that serve for 6-year terms. Each director's term starts when they are sworn in at the January board meeting following the election.

continued on page 2

### HOW PUBLIC POWER WORKS



People  
are the  
Power!

### CONTEST ALERT!

Comment on our People are the Power Facebook posts for your chance to be entered in a drawing for \$50 off your electric bill in December. Share your thoughts on each Facebook post published in February, May, August, and November.

The best comment from each posting will be published in the next month's edition of *The Wire* and that month's winner will receive some ERPPD swag!

Don't have Facebook? Mail or E-mail your response. Email: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto:erppd@erppd.com)

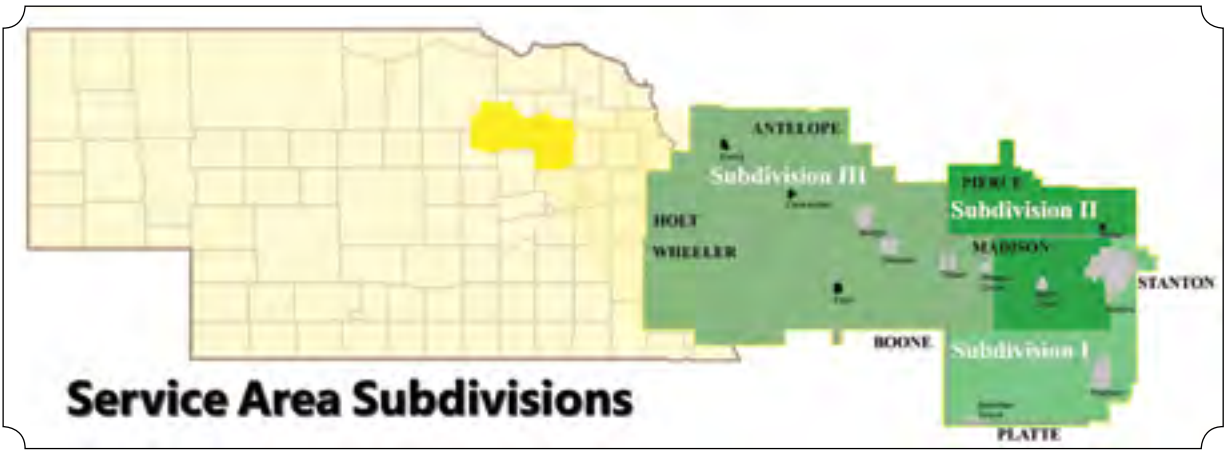
February post will ask: What is your favorite thing to do on a snow day?

# LOCAL CONTROL CONT.

Eligibility to be a director on the board is dictated by state statute 70-619, you must be “a registered voter residing within the charter territory or subdivision as defined by the charter of the district or a retail customer duly certified in accordance with subsection (3) of section 70-604.03”. Anyone with those qualifications can run in a general election for a board seat. If there is a vacancy on the board, applications are taken and the position is appointed by the board, until the next election cycle, where that person can choose to run for the seat. After election or appointment, board members

are given information on board duties and responsibilities, fiduciary duties, and any goals that the board is currently working on. Being a director is a commitment of time and resources. They, like our employees, have the fulfilling responsibility of serving our customers. At all levels of our organization, we do this by focusing on the ERPPD mission to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to all customers. All the policies governing the ERPPD board of directors are available on

the website. If you are interested in knowing more about serving on the board or being more active in our organization, you can contact me at the office or set up an appointment to meet. As the energy industry faces unprecedented transformation, public power districts are rising to the challenge. I am thankful for the dedication and knowledge Elkhorn’s directors bring to our organization as they lead us into the future.



**THE PEOPLE OF PUBLIC POWER IN NEBRASKA**

I believed public power was the way to ensure every citizen is provided with reliable electric service at a reasonable price! In 1936, I lead the charge to have the Rural Electrification Act passed. This act stipulated that power generation and delivery systems are to be owned by the public and for the public good.

Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

SENATOR GEORGE W. NORRIS

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

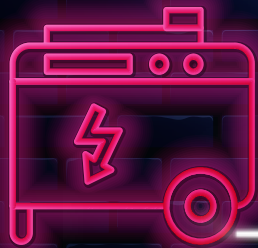
# WHAT IS backfeed?

Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.

Backfeed happens when a person connects their portable generator to a wall outlet, which allows power to flow in reverse – that is, the alternate power source feeds energy back through their home’s electrical system, their meter and back into the power lines.

Potentially deadly backfeed can also happen with permanently installed generators that are not used or installed correctly. They should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, who will install either an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator. The job of this switch is to transfer a power source safely from its primary source to a backup source.

To keep utility crews safe, never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system, and ensure transfer switches are professionally installed and working properly. Electric lineworkers thank you in advance.



Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)



**BEST BETS FOR Winter Savings**

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

**UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE**

Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

**ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS**

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.

**USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER**

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

**MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT**

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

**LOWER THE THERMOSTAT**

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



# CELEBRATING SERVICE



**Blak Papik**  
Journeyman Line Tech  
Battle Creek  
5 years



**Kevin Zohner**  
IT Specialist  
Battle Creek  
20 years



**Marc Ahlers**  
SCADA Field Tech,  
Neligh  
25 years



**Chris Tillotson**  
Journeyman Lineman,  
Battle Creek  
25 years

## Board of Directors



**Hunter Frisch**  
Director  
5 years

## Safety Committee



**Travis Wiebelhaus**  
Foreman, Neligh  
2 years



**Quinton Reis**  
Apprentice Line Tech  
Fulfilling Term

*Pictured above are the staff and directors that were recognized for their milestone service anniversaries for 2023 at the annual Awards Banquet held in January. Those serving on the safety committee were also recognized. The dedication and service of the employees and directors is greatly appreciated!*

 <p><b>206 N 4TH ST</b> <b>PO Box 310</b> <b>Battle Creek, NE</b> <b>68715</b></p> <p>Office Hours: M - F 8:00AM - 4:30 PM</p>	 <p><b>General Manager:</b> Mark Johnson <b>CFO/Office Manager:</b> Carmen Christensen <b>Operations Manager:</b> Todd Knutson</p> <p>Connect with us Online:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>www.erpdp.com    SCAN ME</p> <p><b>Customer Service: 402-675-2185</b> <b>For Outages: 1-800-675-2185</b></p>	<p><b>Board of Directors</b></p> <p><b>Subdivision I</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Miller, President</li> <li>• Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer</li> <li>• Hunter Frisch, Director</li> </ul> <p><b>Subdivision II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Means, Secretary</li> <li>• Jerrell Dolesh, Director</li> <li>• Rod Zohner, Director</li> </ul> <p><b>Subdivision III</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joe Thiele, Vice President</li> <li>• David Hoefer, Director</li> <li>• Raymond Payne, Director</li> </ul>
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