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## NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

District 1 Kevin Nelson 724-3202  
District 2 Sam Gundermann 724-3405  
District 3 Rick Molvig **Vice Pres.** 367-5328  
District 4 Chris Christensen 364-2367  
District 5  
District 6 Ron Reddig **President** 392-5257  
District 7 Rocky Kittleson **S/T** 367-5366

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Opportunity to Serve

NorVal's Board elections will be held in October. At that time, we will be seeking individuals to fill District 1 & 3 seats.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We're looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our Board meets regularly, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help Board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our Board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good tangibly, we hope you'll consider running for a Board position. 

## Are You Ready to Serve?

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our Board members. NorVal's Board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our Board is made up of farmers, educators, business owners, etc. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.



We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That's why when we're seeking new directors, we want folks with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. We're seeking local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors. Above all else, we're looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

### What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on NorVal's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the Board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, NorVal Electric's Board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- Budgets
- Co-op goals and direction
- Co-op's community/charitable contributions
- Capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- Renewable investments and energy mix
- Co-op's role and involvement in economic development

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is driving change. NorVal is facing big decisions, and Board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within the community. 

# Manager's Update

I know we have had very cold weather this winter, but with that, there has been little to no rain or snow for a long time. This has also carried over to the mountains. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is doing a rate study and hinting that there will be a drought adder to our power bill starting January 1, 2023.

There are a few variables that will determine if one is needed. The major one is if Montana gets a lot of snow between now and April 15. WAPA uses this date as a gauge as to how much water they will have through during the summer. If we get snow after that, it still is good; but then it will depend on where it happens, and its effects on other businesses. We will keep you informed as WAPA goes through the rate study. 📢

## Happy Retirement, Mitch



In February, we announced and celebrated the retirement of Mitch Griebel. Mitch has dedicated 31 long years of his life to our Cooperative. He began his career with us as a Lineman in 1990 under Valley Electric Cooperative. It's impossible to overstate how valuable he has been to our team! He will always be remembered for his hard work and humor throughout the years. We hope he gets to experience all the adventures possible in retirement and enjoy retired life to the fullest. We want to thank him for all of his dedication to our co-op members and community. He will be sorely missed! 📢



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Nick's Notes

**By Nick Dulaney  
Line Superintendent**

After a long couple of weeks, we finished annual meter reads. The crew was working along side the office staff to correct any billing mistakes making sure that all of our meters are running the way they should.

Crews are also working diligently to retire lines that that can be removed from our system and clearing right of ways of trees and brush. As the weather warms up, we will be starting the Wagner Road re conductor project.

Times are changing and supplies are becoming limited, we wanted to mention we are getting word from our suppliers about record long lead times for materials. We have heard of lead times for transformers are up two years if not longer. If you have a project in mind that are going to require some of these materials, please stop in or give us a call so we can give you an estimated timeline for you as to when the material will be available.

As always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at (406) 228-9351. We are always happy to hear from you, our valued members. 📢



## SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



### REMEMBER:

Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy

