



Photo: Kristina Motzko, May Calendar Photo Contest Winner

NEWSLETTER

May 2026

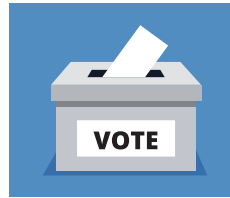
2026 Annual Meeting Of Agralite Electric Cooperative

Agralite Electric Cooperative is pleased to invite you to the 87th Annual Meeting of the Cooperative. This is your opportunity to take part in the governing of your electric cooperative. This year, District 5, District 6, and District 7 seats are up for election. In District 5, Orvin Gronseth has announced that he will be retiring after serving on the co-op board for 33 years, and Dave Barrett and Craig Wentzel will be running for election. In District 6, Andrea Thomson is up for election for another term. Andrea has served on the Board of Directors for the cooperative since 2014. Clay Molden is also running for election in District 6. In District 7, Warren Rau is up for election for another term. Warren has served on the Board of Directors for the cooperative since 2010, and has been President since 2023. See more information about the Director candidates on page 3.

Mailed separately, you will find the 2025 Annual Report for the cooperative, as well as the financial reports. Join us May 27th and enjoy some good food, great music, and partake in the proceeding of your electric cooperative!

How To Vote

All voting will be done by either delivering it by hand or depositing it in the U.S. Mail. The ballot shall be enclosed in a sealed official envelope bearing **your name and address**, and addressed to the secretary. **Ballots are due to the Agralite office no later than 3:00 p.m. May 27th.** Ballots will not be accepted at the meeting.



2026 Agralite Electric Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting



SAVE THE DATE

May 27th, 2026
@ Benson High School

5:30 PM – 6:45 PM:

Registration and steak supper grilled by the West Central Cattlemen's Association

7:00 PM:

Business meeting

- * Hundreds of dollars in door prizes
- * Each registered member will receive a gift

EMPOWERING communities

with innovative
and sustainable
energy solutions

FOR OVER

85 YEARS

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Agralite Electric Co-op
We're member-owned!

320 US-12, Benson, MN
(320) 843-4150
1-800-950-8375
www.agralite.coop

 Like us on Facebook



Office Hours:

8:00AM – 4:30PM

CLOSED Mon., May 25
For Memorial Day

Office Hours Change Tues., May 26
To 7:00 AM -3:30 PM



Touchstone Energy®

Agralite is a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative.



Find your account number and win a \$100 credit!

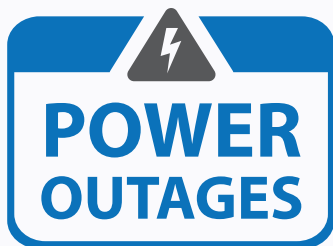
If your account number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) is one of the [four account numbers](#) hidden in this issue, give our office a call by the end of the month and you will receive a \$100 bill credit. If more than one member finds their account number in a single issue, \$100 will be split equally amongst them.

Energy Saving Tip:



As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around your windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during the winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping, and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov



Call Day or Night
1.888.884.3887

[Do not call the office for outages](#)

May Energy Payment
is due June 20.*

*We accept Visa, Discover, and Mastercard.

Join Fellow Co-op Members At The 2026 Annual Meeting

by *Jenny Stryhn, General Manager*

It's that time of year again! Agralite Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2026 Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Benson High School on May 27th.

The Annual Meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your new board members. 1706600 Agralite employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know the food and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

Did you know the Annual Meeting is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our cooperative? This is an opportunity to learn more about the topics that impact you and talk about what we as a community can do to address our most pressing challenges and take advantage of available opportunities.

Your Annual Meeting is also the occasion to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's Board of Directors.

Your electric cooperative is not owned by far-away investors, and it is not run by an appointed Board of Directors. Your electric cooperative is run by a democratically elected board that is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

So, at this year's Annual Meeting, not only will you have a good time (*and maybe win a prize!*), but you will feel good knowing that you had a voice in a very important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources—electricity.

From all of your friends at Agralite Electric Cooperative, we hope to see you in a couple of weeks at the Annual Meeting!

It's All About The Energy:

Join Agralite Electric Cooperative For An Energy Tour Bus Trip

Join us: June 10-12 / \$200 per person / 24 seats available. We're excited to invite you to join us for our 2026 Energy Tour from June 10-12! This three-day luxury coach tour will take you through North Dakota's coal country. We will be touring the lignite coal Freedom Mine and the Antelope Valley Station in Beulah, ND. These energy complexes are owned by Basin Electric Power, a wholesale power provider for Agralite. The group will also tour and learn about North Dakota's rich history along the way. The cost for members is \$200 per person and includes motor-coach transportation, 2 nights lodging at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, ND, a banquet style dinner with a presentation from a representative from Basin Electric Power and guided tours. All meals are provided except for lunch on the return trip home on Friday, June 12th. This is a fun and educational trip for our members to be able to explore and learn more about how energy is generated and what it takes to be able to flip on a light switch at a moment's notice.

The tour includes visits to:

- The Coteau Properties Freedom Coal Mine
- Basin Electric Powers Antelope Valley Power Station near Beulah, ND
- Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center/Ft. Mandan in Washburn, ND
- The North Dakota History Center

This trip promises to be both fun and educational, and we hope you'll join us for this exciting opportunity. Sign up by May 20th by calling our office at 320-843-4150.





Dave Barrett *District 5 Board Nominee*

1. Please tell Agralite Members a little bit about yourself.

My wife Terri and I moved to our hobby farm in Kerkhoven Township in 2005 from the Sunburg/New London areas. Our son and daughter attend KMS High School as a Freshman and Senior and we enjoy their school involvement. I served in the Air Force Reserve as an aircraft electrical/environmental technician for 20 years. As the Swift County

Veterans Service Officer, I have been fortunate to serve our area veterans and get to know the community. I am also the clerk for Kerkhoven Township and an active member of Benson VFW Post 1403 as the Senior Benefits Advisor and Honor Guard member.

2. Why do you want to be a Director?

Our electric cooperative is crucial to our area families and businesses and I would like to have a hand in shaping its future. I am invested in our area and would like to serve the needs of our friends and neighbors through this board. I am interested in learning more about the cooperative model and how it can best meet the needs of its owner-members.

3. What aspects of the director’s job do you consider the most crucial?

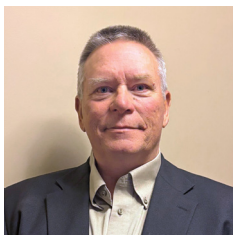
Ensuring reliable and affordable energy is available, while considering all options to make that a reality is what I consider the most crucial part of a director’s role. I believe that the best solutions are multi-faceted and considering input from varying sources is key. Understanding how the cooperative works and the needs of its stakeholders is a good place to start.

4. What work experience or other board experience do you have that will help you be an effective Director?

As the township clerk, I have learned how our local governing board operates and makes decisions in the interest of its residents. I have also interacted with the Swift County Board and public on a regular basis through my position at the county. The last part of my time in the Air Force, I held a Flight Chief position overseeing three aircraft maintenance shops. This brought with it a wide variety of problem solving, from aircraft generation to personnel issues, all of which required level-headed decision making. I feel that these positions and experiences have prepared me to be an effective director.

5. What challenges do you see for Agralite Electric Cooperative in the future and how does the cooperative meet these challenges?

I believe balancing affordable power with up-to-date and reliable infrastructure will always be a top challenge. Our rural population has declined or stagnated making for less end-users while requiring a stronger network to deliver power. Planning out improvements years in advance can go a long way in reducing unscheduled repair costs. New technologies and regulations will continue to be a challenge to the cooperative model and will require a collective effort to find solutions for those that it serves.



Craig Wentzel *District 5 Board Nominee*

1. Please tell Agralite Members a little bit about yourself.

My wife and I live north of Murdock. We have three sons and six grandchildren. We farm with my brother Todd and our son Adam. We farm corn, soybeans, edible beans, and wheat.

2. Why do you want to be a Director?

I want to be a director to be a part of decision making and to learn more about the Agralite co-op.

3. What aspects of the director’s job do you consider the most critical?

Helping to keep costs down for our customers and help with decision making.

2026 Agralite Board Nominees Q & A continues on page 4

May is Military Appreciation Month



We hope you'll join us in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made for our great country—and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community.

Veterans, including Agralite's
Electrician – Jack Hoeke,
Meter Tech – Jon Dale,
Lineman – Ryan Hanson,

We salute you!



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Thank You For
Your Service

33
YEARS

Orvin Gronseth



Thank you to Orvin Gronseth for his dedicated service as a Board Director.

Orvin served as Director, representing District 5 on the board, for the past 33 years. Orvin served as Secretary/Treasurer, President and Vice President throughout his years of service. Orvin has been a dedicated advocate for Agralite and its members over the years, and he has been an invaluable contributor to helping Agralite grow over the last 33 years.

We are grateful for his service and we congratulate him on his retirement!

“Thank you for allowing me to be Director of Agralite Electric Cooperative for the past 33 years. Due to medical reasons, I have made the difficult decision to retire from the Board. I would like to thank all of the past and present Board of Directors at Agralite. I have been very appreciative of my years as Director.”

- Orvin Gronseth



Getting Ahead Of Wildfires

To mitigate risk of wildfires and protect electrical systems and communities, co-ops:

- Use sensors and imaging cameras to detect fires or conditions that can lead to them.
- Proactively manage trees and shrubs around equipment to limit fuel for fires.
- Advocate for smarter land management policies to better maintain powerlines on public lands to reduce fire risk.

2026 AGRALITE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD NOMINEES Q & A

Craig Wentzel *District 5 Board Nominee, Continued*

4. What work experience or other board experience do you have that will help you be an effective Director?

I have been on Kildare Township Board for 10 years. Previously, I was on the Farm Bureau board. I have been a full-time farmer for 24 years. Previous to farming, I worked for Glacial Plains Co-op for 20 years. I have been a Kerkhoven Fire Department member for 20 years.

5. What challenges do you see for Agralite Electric Cooperative in the future and how does the cooperative meet these challenges?

The growing demand for electricity. The upcoming transition to carbon-free laws. Trying to maintain the lowest rates possible. Advocating for amendments to clean energy laws. Helping members reduce their electricity consumption.



Andrea Thomson *District 6 Board Nominee*

1. Please tell Agralite Members a little bit about yourself.

I was born and raised in Benson, MN. I left the area for 15 years and returned in 1997 with my husband and 4 children. Our family has since grown to 16 adding 7 grandchildren and 3 in-law children. I have worked as a financial advisor with Edward Jones since 2004. I was elected to the Agralite board of directors in 2014.

2. Why do you want to be a Director?

I was elected for my first term as an Agralite Board Director in 2014. I want to serve as a bridge between the co-op and our members, listening to concerns, communicating decisions clearly, and upholding transparency. I look forward to using all I have learned over the past 9 years to serve District 6 making a difference to our members and supporting our community.

3. What aspects of the director's job do you consider the most critical?

Being a rural electric cooperative board director carries a unique responsibility rooted in service, stewardship, and community trust. Being a director means you must always act in the best interests of the people you serve—neighbors, farmers, and local businesses. This role requires balancing long-term strategic planning with day-to-day oversight, ensuring safe, reliable, affordable power while adapting to evolving technologies, regulations, and energy demands.

As a director, you must also hire and support a competent general manager—policy setting, not operational control, is the board's duty. Strong board leadership means staying informed, thinking strategically, and working collaboratively to ensure the cooperative remains reliable, forward-looking, and true to its member-focused mission.

4. What work experience or other board experience do you have that will help you be an effective Director?

I have worked in the financial industry for 22 years, which prepares me for the director's fiduciary duty: making sound financial decisions, maintaining system integrity, and safeguarding the cooperative's assets. I have participated in the ongoing director education programs. I have visited with your state legislators to keep them up to date with all the latest state laws and regulations. I have served on numerous boards in the community. I currently serve on the Agralite Electric Cooperative Board, I serve as the President on the Operation Roundup Board and Vice President on our Church Women's Board. I also was a past board member of The Benson Area Community Foundation.

5. What challenges do you see for Agralite Electric Cooperative in the future and how does the cooperative meet these challenges?

The energy landscape is changing rapidly, with issues like renewable integration, grid resilience, cybersecurity, and regulatory shifts becoming increasingly complex.

2026 Agralite Board Nominees Q & A continues on page 5



Clay Molden *District 6 Board Nominee*

1. Please tell Agralite Members a little bit about yourself.

My name is Clay Molden. I'm 25 years old, and I have a girlfriend Alexys and a daughter Presley. We live in Six Mile Grove Township just outside of Danvers. I am employed by Molden Concrete Construction.

2. Why do you want to be a Director?

I want to be a director because I think it is smart to have diversity in age to see all perspectives in life and be someone that can relate to other young members of Agralite. I also want to encourage other young members to possibly run!

3. What aspects of the director's job do you consider the most critical?

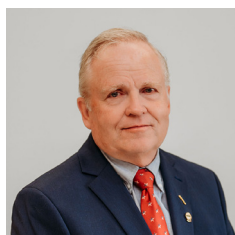
Advocating for members in your area. 1277801 You are the voice of the people and not being a yes man that agrees to everything if you don't believe it's in the best interest for the members.

4. What work experience or other board experience do you have that will help you be an effective Director?

Work experience that I think will help me is leading workers on a daily basis and listening to ideas and solutions they might have and, in the end, ultimately making the final decision with consideration of their input.

5. What challenges do you see for Agralite Electric Cooperative in the future and how does the cooperative meet these challenges?

Rising energy costs. Agralite can offer incentives to customers that use alternative power, like buying back excess power to customers that install solar.



Warren Rau *District 7 Board Nominee*

1. Please tell Agralite Members a little bit about yourself.

I am a retired farmer since 2018. I live with my wife, Elaine, by Lake Oliver in Hegbert Township, Swift County. We have one son who lives with his family in Savage, MN. I enjoy fishing, some hunting, spending time outdoors, traveling, and reading.

2. Why do you want to be a Director?

I have been a director for a number of years and feel I have gained a fairly good understanding of the electrical industry and what is needed to maintain safe, reliable power at an affordable cost.

3. What aspects of the director's job do you consider the most critical?

Balancing the wants and needs of our owners with what we as a distribution co-op are able to provide, legally and financially.

4. What work experience or other board experience do you have that will help you be an effective Director?

I have served on several boards over the years, including Township Board, Church Board, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, Hospital Board, and MN Rural Electric Association State Wide.

5. What challenges do you see for Agralite Electric Cooperative in the future and how does the cooperative meet these challenges?

There are always new challenges to face. I think the best way to handle these challenges is to hire and retain smart, dedicated, hard working people who know and understand the co-op principles.

2025 Capital Credit Allocation and Retirement

Agralite Electric Cooperative is pleased to share capital credit allocations for 2025 were completed in March 2026.

These allocations reflect each member's share of the cooperative's margins based on their usage during the year. You can find your allocation amount printed on your April billing statement. 1619500

At April's board meeting, the cooperative's Board of Directors reviewed the financial position of the cooperative and approved the retirement of capital credits. Payments are being issued in May, either as a check or as a credit applied directly to your electric bill.

Capital credits are normally retained by the cooperative for a number of years and used as operating capital. Once the Board of Directors deems appropriate, they approve the refund of these capital credits.

As a perk of being a member-owner of Agralite Electric Cooperative, you get money back. That's the power of the cooperative membership!



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you receive a call from someone stating that you have overpaid your energy bill and that you should provide your banking information or a credit card number to receive a refund, hang up; it is likely a scam.

If you overpay your bill, your utility will apply an overpayment credit to your account balance or mail a check. They will not call and request your banking information to issue the refund.



Source: Utilities United Against Scams

CURRENT AGRALITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Draeger, Clinton
District 1

Jeff Hufford, Morris
District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer

Bennett Zierke, Hancock
District 3

Steve Nelson, Starbuck
District 4

Orvin Gronseth, Murdock
District 5 - Vice President

Andrea Thomson, Benson
District 6

Warren Rau, Appleton
District 7 - President

MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 2026

Board Chairman Warren Rau called a meeting of the Board of Directors of Agralite Electric Cooperative to order at 8:30 a.m., March 26, 2026. All members of the Board were present, except Director Draeger. Director Gronseth joined the meeting via Zoom. The agenda, minutes of the last meeting, the monthly disbursements, the payment of capital credits of deceased members, Work Order #597, and February Special Equipment were approved.

Jonathan Messner, Manager of Member Services, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed load control for the month. He gave an update on the scholarship program and Youth Tour applications. He discussed the new rates effective April 1, and the Board approved the updated rate policies.

Stephanie Wroblewski, Manager of Finance/CFO, reported on activities of her department for the month. She discussed margins for the month of February and patronage received. She gave an update on cybersecurity. She brought forth 2025 Capital Credit Allocations and the Board approved it.

The financials were given by Stephanie with a PowerPoint presentation.

National Electrical Safety Month

From Star Energy Services Newsletter
May 2026 - Vol. 13, Issue 5



May is National Electrical Safety Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the hazards of electricity and promoting safe practices at home, work, and outdoors.

Downed power lines are one of the most serious electrical dangers. Knowing how to respond and keeping a safe distance protects both you and others until trained utility professionals arrive. The tips below provide essential guidance for staying safe around downed power lines.

Safety Tips Around Downed Power Lines

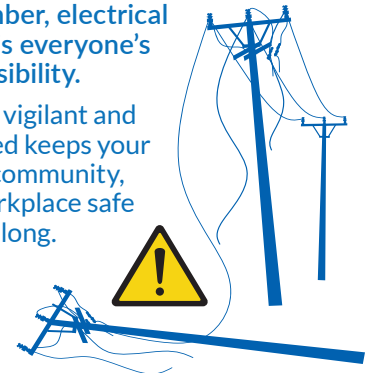
- Always assume a downed power line is live and dangerous. Even if it isn't sparking or moving, electricity can still be present.
- Keep at least 30-50 feet away from a downed power line and instruct others to stay back to help reduce the risk of injury.
- Stay far away from anything the downed line may be touching like trees, fences, vehicles, or puddles. Electricity can travel through nearby objects and the ground.
- Call 911 immediately to report the downed line so trained professionals can secure the area safely.
- Don't touch or move a downed power line or anything in contact with it because materials like wood or cloth can still transmit an electrical current under certain conditions.
- Don't touch someone who is in contact with a downed power line. You could become part of the electrical path and be seriously injured.
- If you see electrical workers working on downed power lines, slow down, stay alert, and drive with caution.

Vehicle Safety And Downed Power Lines

- Warn others to stay away.
- Contact emergency personnel.
- Stay inside, with windows up, until help arrives.
- If you must exit due to immediate danger, jump clear of the vehicle while making sure not to touch both the vehicle and ground simultaneously.
- Shuffle away with feet close together and on the ground at all times.
- Never drive over a downed power line.

Remember, electrical safety is everyone's responsibility.

Staying vigilant and informed keeps your home, community, and workplace safe all year long.



Tom Hoffman, Manager of Engineering & Operations, reported on activities of his department for the month. He discussed line crew projects and outages for the month. He gave an update on the Darnen substation. Tom gave a PowerPoint presentation on Agralite's Wildfire Mitigation Plan and the Board adopted the plan.

Tom gave the safety report.

Director Zierke reported on the Board Leadership class that he attended.

Jenny Stryhn, General Manager/CEO, reviewed her report to the board. She discussed recent meetings she attended including the East River REED & Managers Meeting, NRECA Power Xchange, MREA

Annual Meeting, and the GRE Managers Meeting. 126600 The 2026 Agralite Annual Meeting was discussed. Director Gronseth announced that he will be retiring from the Board and not seeking reelection.

The CoBank 2026 Bylaws Ballot Form was discussed and the Board voted for the bylaws amendment.

A roundtable was held discussing the MREA Annual Meeting and upcoming Open House, NRECA Power Xchange, renewables, and East River.

The April board meeting was set for the 30th. Being no further business came before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.