

# CONNECTIONS

CORNHUSKER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT • DECEMBER 2023



## *Merry Christmas*

Griffin Babb • Todd Backman • Jim Baumert • Adam Becker • Corey Boryca  
Wayne Colegrove • Joe Czarnick • Andy Daniels • Brad Dudek • Jacque Finkral  
Charles Fox • Lawrence Franzen • Galen Frenzen • Diana Gartrell • Jon Gehring  
Clay Gibbs • Butch Gray • Derek Hanson • Jenny Hoefler • Parker Hughes  
Michael Jacobi • Dustin Kula • Jessica Kurpgeweit • Terry Ludden • Marty McKay  
Cameron Menke • Scott Miller • Bryan Mohnsen • Ryan Mohr • Brian Mueller  
Troy Norman • Neal Olmer • Brett Olson • Mark Palmer • Denise Pandorf • Marc Pelster  
Glen Pfeifer • Mason Proski • Jon Ramaekers • Riley Reeder • Bill Robinson  
Karla Rohwer • Travis Settles • Mike Siefken • Keith Staab • Mike Stockwell  
Brian Strong • Bryce Theilen • Judy Timm • Austin Urkoski • Diane Vrba • Jay Wemhoff  
Clint Williams • Russ Yosten • Paul Yrkoski • Keaton Zarek



## Cornhusker Public Power District Service Anniversaries

Cornhusker Public Power District employees are truly the “face” of the District. They are talented, hardworking, loyal people who provide excellent service Cornhusker Public Power District customers have come to expect. Many work behind the scenes making sure the job gets done and the electric power is delivered efficiently and safely.

Cornhusker Public Power District has made a commitment to the people we serve, and our employees enable the District to fulfill that commitment.



**Jacquie Hamilton Finkral**, HR/Benefits Director



**Riley Reeder**, Journey Line Technician



**Wayne Colegrove**, Assistant Groundcrew Foreman



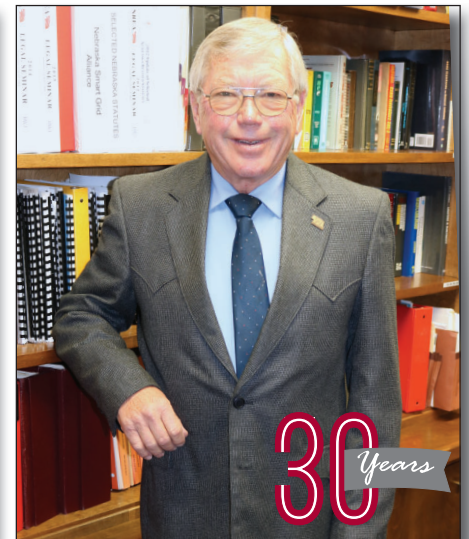
**Brett Olson**, IT/Communication Supervisor



**Clay Gibbs**, CEO/GM



**Todd Backman**, Crew Foreman



**Galen Frenzen**, Board Director - Subdivision four

# firing up one **PORTABLE GENERATOR** is like starting **HUNDREDS OF CARS**



**F**iring up one fuel-powered portable generator produces as much carbon monoxide (CO) as hundreds of combustion-engine cars, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Using a portable generator in a home, garage or too close to an enclosed area is like starting a parking lot full of cars and letting the CO poison seep into the area. The devastating result is almost immediate: The CO from one generator can kill in minutes.

CO is colorless and odorless.

Poisoning can happen so quickly, exposed persons may become unconscious before recognizing any symptoms.

Always use a portable generator at least 20 feet away from your home, shed, cabin, camper or trailer. Never operate one inside a home, on a porch or near windows and doors. Operate it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot pool underneath.

When shopping for a generator, look for one that gives off reduced emissions and will shut off automatically when high levels of CO are present.

## CO deaths associated with **PORTABLE GENERATORS**

Approximately **85** individuals die in the U.S. each year.

**81%** of deaths occur in residential locations.



Ensure CO detectors are installed on every level of your home and near or in bedrooms. Test CO alarms monthly; also track their age. They need to be replaced every seven years.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and movable. A generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator will be able to create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

There are also standby generators. The standby versions are attached directly to the house and are powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

To prevent feeding power back into the power grid and endangering electric line crews and others, standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Never plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system for the same reason.

For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Give the gift of Tech

**T**his holiday season, give the gift of tech! If you're searching for the latest gadgets and electronics, we've got you covered.

**Gifts for those on the go:** A portable charger (or power bank) can keep smartphones and tablets juiced, and the good news is this gift won't drain your wallet. A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift. Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast.

**Gifts for the chef:** Every foodie knows temperature matters when mastering the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious (and safe-to-eat) meal. Just download the associated app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smartphone or tablet.

**Gifts for the "smart" one:** Many smart devices reduce home energy use, which can put a little more jingle in your pocket. Smart thermostats learn users' schedules and the temperatures they prefer to keep their home. Smart

thermostats also feature apps that let family members change the temperature from anywhere in the world using a phone or other mobile device.

Smart lighting, such as lightbulbs, last longer and use less power. Smart lighting systems also have scheduled timers and allow you to remotely turn the lights off.

Smart power strips and surge protectors are a less expensive option to gain some smart technology without upgrading all appliances and devices to smart models. The strips can detect when a device is in standby mode and cut its power supply. Using smart power strips can reduce a home's overall energy usage, which equates to savings on your energy bill.

With so many electronics available today, you're sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones.





## COLFAX COUNTY Goodwill Fund Trustee needed

The Goodwill Fund Trustees are looking for a person from Colfax County to serve as a representative on the Goodwill Fund Trustee board. Two 3-year terms expired for current trustee Randy Hrouda. The District must serve the applicant's home. Trustees meet quarterly in the evening. The applicant must be available to present checks during the day to recipients of the Goodwill Fund. Contact Jessica at 402 564 2821 for an application by January 5, 2024.



### 4th Quarter Results

*Thank you to all customers who round-up their bill to the next highest dollar.*

Amount	Organization/Agency	Purpose
\$100	Reason for the Season	Gifts
\$200	Cedar Valley Community Foundation	Welcome sign
\$200	CASA Connection	Presents
\$200	City of Columbus	Playground & outdoor musical equipment
\$600	Columbus Community Hospital Foundation	Two Game Ready GRPro 2.1 systems
\$200	Columbus Friends of Music	Educational programs
\$200	Columbus Public Library	Books for Teen Book Bags
\$100	Knotty Ladies of Immanuel Lutheran	Batting
\$200	St. John's Lutheran School	Upgraded furniture
\$200	TeamMates Mentoring of Columbus	Training manuals
\$200	UNL Platte County Extension 4-H	STEM material
\$100	Howells Historical Society	Magnets
\$200	Leigh Community Schools	Benches
\$100	Lindsay Blood Drive	Food
\$100	Grace Lutheran Church	Batting
\$200	Spalding Nutrition Center	Abantel restaurant style hotplate

Next applications are due on January 19, 2024. Apply at [cornhusker-power.com](http://cornhusker-power.com).

### Featured Employee



**Jim Baumert**  
Crew Foreman  
27 Years

*Our office will be closed on  
December 25 and 26 for  
Christmas & January 1, 2024,  
for the New Year.*



CEO/GM  
Clay Gibbs

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Glen Pfeifer, Lindsay  
President

Jon Gehring, Platte Center  
Vice-President

Mark Palmer, St. Edward  
Secretary

Russell Yosten, Clarkson  
Treasurer

Andy Daniels, Columbus

Lawrence Franzen, Leigh

Galen Frenzen, Fullerton

Robert Gray, Jr., Albion

William Robinson, Cedar Rapids

Milan Siefken, Columbus

Board meetings held the third Monday of each month at 9 AM. Agenda available during business hours.

### EDITOR

Jessica Kurpgeweit

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Closed weekends and holidays

### SERVICE CENTERS

ALBION, NE AND FULLERTON, NE

[cornhusker-power.com](http://cornhusker-power.com)

CORNHUSKER  
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT  
PO BOX 9 COLUMBUS NE 68602

OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS  
(402) 564 2821

SERVING IN PLATTE, COLFAX,  
BOONE, NANCE, GREELEY AND  
WHEELER COUNTIES