

1. What do you believe is the role of an electric cooperative in the community?

Dahms: Co-ops developed out of the necessity to electrify rural Minnesota. It is very expensive to build a reliable system in sparsely populated areas; that is why the for-profit investor owned utilities (IOUs) ignored these areas focusing on the more densely populated urban areas. The role of an electric co-op is to provide reliable, cost effective electricity to its members at reasonable rates. It has taken a tremendous amount of cooperation among distribution co-ops and their partner generation and transmission co-ops to provide the electricity needed to power our farms, homes, industrial and commercial customers. Co-ops have no profit motive; therefore, we should ensure that co-ops retain their autonomy of self-governance.

Kanne: