

Cooperative Connections



**Electric Co-op
Leaders Get
Involved
Locally**

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**Rounding Up
for a Cause**

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Extreme Cold Impacts Electric Demand & Generation



Ken Schlimgen

General Manager

Throughout the month of January, your cooperative hosted seven of our eight District Meetings. The polar vortex that hit our area the last few days in January caused us to reschedule our Buffalo County District Meeting for February 19th. That same polar vortex also had two unique impacts on our electricity demand and generation resources.

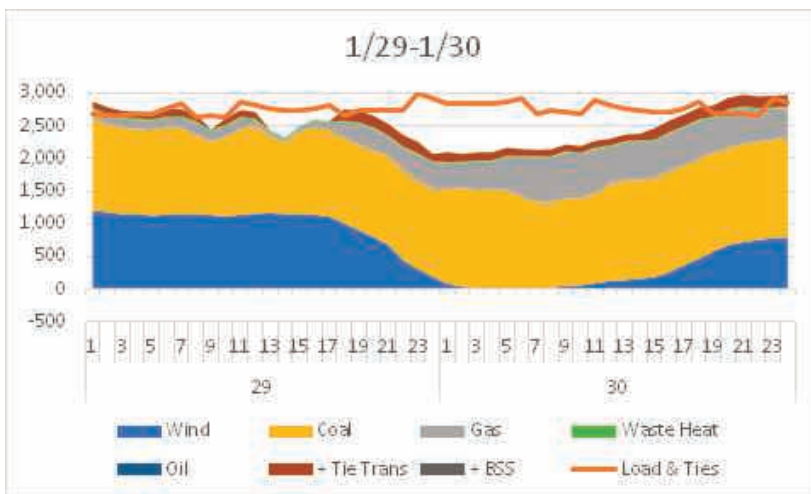
New All-Time Peak

On Tuesday, January 29 around 10:30 PM, East River Electric (our wholesale power supplier) reach an all-time peak of 727 MW in demand. (Demand equals the rate at which energy is used, much like miles per hour on your car). This new peak of 727 MW was the equivalent of 727 million watts being used or “demanded” over a 15-minute time frame, or approximately 727,000 hair dryers (1 hair dryer = 1,000 watts).

The previous all-time peak was set in January 2018 at 696.3 MW.

Why is demand significant? Approximately 50% of the cost of wholesale electric energy purchased by Central Electric is due to electrical demand. Demand costs are related to the amount and size of generators and power lines that are built and maintained to provide enough electricity now and in the future.

Members can manage their demand costs by managing how much electrical equipment is operating during a 15-minute time period. Members can also help manage the overall demand costs incurred by the cooperative by voluntary participation in the cooperative’s load management programs. Members who allow the cooperative to remotely turn off water heaters, air conditioners, irrigation systems, and industrial loads have allowed the cooperative to avoid over \$1 million in additional monthly demand costs in 2018 and helped keep electric rates lower.



The graph reflects the type of Basin Electric Resources that were used on an hourly basis during January 29-30. The top light brown line reflects the total electric load, the yellow shaded area represents coal, the blue shaded area represents wind, and the grey shaded area represents natural gas. As the temperatures dropped the evening of January 29, wind generation sources needed to be powered off. Natural gas and coal were major sources of generation during this time. The white area below the brown line shows the power purchased from the grid.

Shift in Generation Resources

Basin Electric Power Cooperative also experienced a unique phenomenon during the extreme cold temperatures. As the temperatures dropped, it became too cold to operate Basin Electric Power Cooperative’s wind resources, and the wind turbines were shut down. Once this happened, natural gas generation increased and additional generation needed to be purchased off the grid in order to meet the members’ load needs. As you can also see from the graph, our coal generation resources played an important role in keeping the lights on.

Thanks to years of planning, foresight, and capital investment, your cooperative, East River Electric, and Basin Electric were able to keep the power on during the extreme conditions. This is expected and required of electric companies, and service to our members is what we hang our hat on.

To learn more about your electric power generation, I encourage you to sign up for this year’s Basin Electric Bus Tour held July 17-19, 2019 (see page 14). Contact our office or visit www.centralec.coop for more information.

Until Next Month – Be Safe



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

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CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at www.centralec.coop.

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Office Information

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
800-477-2892 or
605-996-7516
www.centralec.coop



Mission Statement

Provide Reliable Energy & Services with a Commitment to Safety and Member Satisfaction

Save the Date:

Central Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting
April 2, 2019 • Mitchell Corn Palace



Deadlines Approaching

Youth Tour - March 1

Available to high school juniors who permanently reside within Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Jerauld, Sanborn, Miner, Davison, or Hanson counties of South Dakota or are the dependent of a Central Electric member.



Empower Youth - March 1

Available to high school freshmen or sophomores who permanently reside within Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Jerauld, Sanborn, Miner, Davison, or Hanson counties of South Dakota or are the dependent of a Central Electric member.



Additional information is available at www.centralec.coop.

Employee Years of Service

Norton Truman

March 1 - 13 years

Lindsey Wilson

March 2 - 4 years

Thank you for your service to the cooperative!

Protecting Your Home and Business

Every year, electrical equipment, wiring, appliances and tools cause injuries and fires at both homes and workplaces. Paying close attention to the condition of electrical equipment and taking appropriate and prompt action to correct electrical problems can help to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. Below are guidelines to help identify and reduce electrical hazards.

Electrical Outlet Safety

- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances and ensure that electrical loads are appropriate for the circuits.
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use to conserve energy as well as minimize the opportunities for electric shock or fire.
- Use outlets instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. Consider having additional permanent outlets installed where needed.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in wet/damp areas like kitchens, bathrooms and outdoors.



Electrical Cord Safety

- Inspect electrical cords to ensure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged.
- Do not place electrical cords in high traffic areas, under carpets or across doorways where they pose a potential tripping hazard or could be easily damaged.

Certification and Awareness

- Ensure that all electrical products and equipment are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and read the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Allow only trained and qualified electrical workers to perform work on electrical equipment.
- Be aware of signs of electrical problems such as flickering lights and/or buzzing, sizzling or humming sounds from electrical systems.

Source: www.acadiainsurance.com

Ladder Safety and How It Affects Everyone

THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES



ladder injuries every day*



deaths caused by falls each year*



The **most common ladder falls** happen between 6 and 10 feet off the ground

WHETHER YOU'RE USING A LADDER AT HOME OR AT WORK, THESE NUMBERS AFFECT YOU.

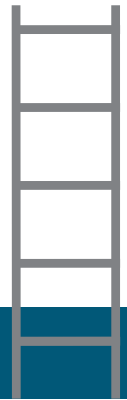
2 most **common ladder accidents** include**:

1. **Missing the last step when climbing down**
2. **Overreaching**

**National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) 2017 Data Highlights*, 2017, CPSC

***ALI Ladder Safety Training and Citation Report* - United States, 2018, American Ladder Institute

Take safety into your own hands by taking ladder safety seriously. Visit www.LadderSafetyMonth.com to learn more.



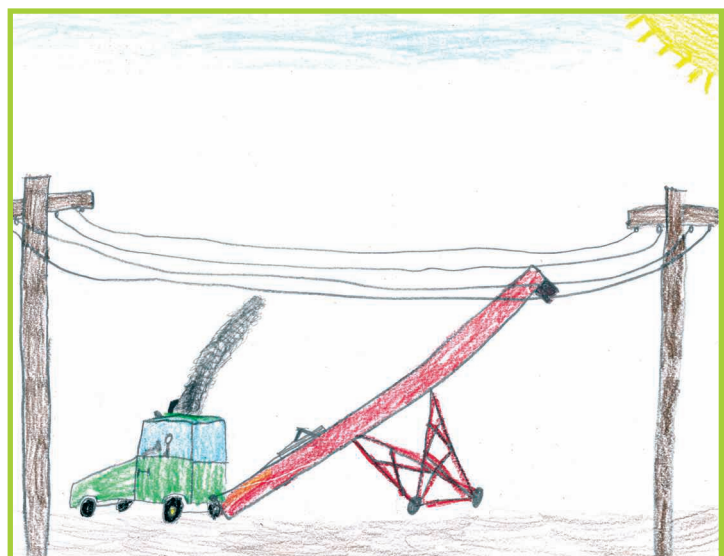
National Ladder Safety Month is presented by



Thank you to our Top Cap sponsor



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Be careful with farm equipment around power lines."

Carson Lee, 10 years old

Carson is the son of Chris and Marisa Lee, Fairfax, Minn. They are members of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, Danube, Minn.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Seafood Sensations

Clam Chowder Dip

- 2 slices bacon, chopped
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1 pkg. McCormick® Original Country Gravy Mix
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup shredded white Cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 (6.5 oz.) can chopped clams, drained
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Parsley Flakes

Cook bacon in large skillet on medium-high heat until crisp. Remove bacon, reserving drippings in pan. Add onion; cook and stir 2 to 3 minutes or until translucent. Stir in gravy mix, milk and 1/2 cup shredded cheese. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 2 minutes or until gravy starts to thicken. Remove from heat. Stir in clams. Pour into 9-inch glass pie plate. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Sprinkle with bacon and parsley. Serve with toasted baguette slices or crackers. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 94, Total Fat 6g, Saturated Fat 3g, Protein 4g, Cholesterol 9mg, Sodium 278mg, Fiber 1g, Carbohydrates 6g,

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Shrimp Lover Squares

- 1 (8. oz) tube refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 (8. oz) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/2 tsp. dill weed
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup seafood sauce
- 24 medium shrimp, cooked
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

In a greased 9x13-inch pan, unroll the crescent dough; seal seams. Bake at 375°F. for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, sour cream, dill weed and salt until smooth. Spread over crust. Top with seafood sauce, shrimp, green pepper, onion and cheese. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. Cut into squares. Makes 2 dozen.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Crab Quiche

- 4 beaten eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground thyme
- 1 T. diced pimento
- 1-1/2 cups chopped broccoli
- 1 cup chopped imitation crab
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 T. minced onion
- 1 unbaked 10-inch pie shell

Mix together first 5 ingredients; set aside. Combine broccoli, crab, cheeses and onion; spread in piecrust. Pour liquid mixture over all. Bake at 350°F. for 50 to 55 minutes. Let cool 10 to 15 minutes before cutting.

Barbara Angerhofer, Hendricks, MN

Tilapia Parmesan

- 2 lbs. tilapia fillets
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 T. mayonnaise
- 4 T. butter, room temperature
- 3 T. finely chopped onions
- 1/4 tsp. dried basil

In a buttered 9x13-inch baking dish, lay fish fillets in a single layer. Do not stack fillets. Brush with juice. Bake at 350°F. for 10 to 20 minutes or until fish flakes. Meanwhile, combine cheese, mayonnaise, butter, onions and basil. Spread cheese mixture on fish fillets and bake an additional 5 minutes or until golden brown.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, SD

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

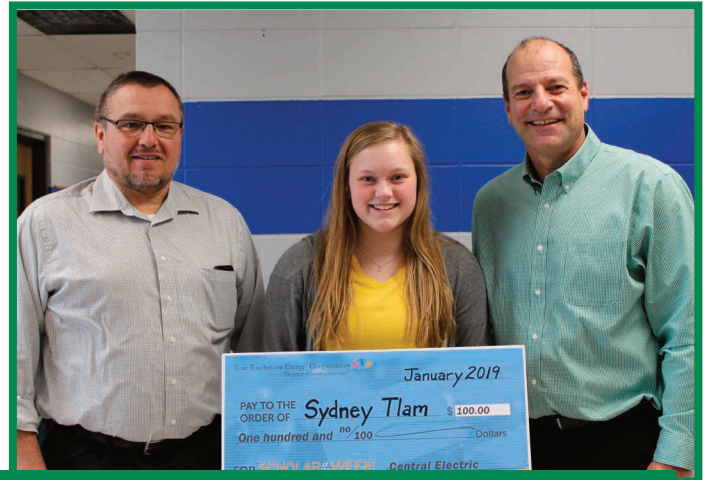
THE TOUCHSTONE ENERGY SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Sydney Tlam

Sydney Tlam was named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week for the week of January 6-12, 2019. Tlam is the daughter of Dale and Amy Tlam and is currently a senior at Mount Vernon High School.

In addition to being a three-season athlete and scholar, Sydney is involved in numerous organizations including 4-H, FFA, student council, attended Girls State, and other leadership conferences. She hopes to attend South Dakota State University for animal science.

“She knows what she wants. I think she’s mature for her age. She has an understanding of what she wants to do in her future and what it’s going to take to get to that point,” Patrick Mikkonen, Superintendent and K-12 Principal, said. “She’s seeing the fruits of her labor now and that’s put her in a good position to move forward.”



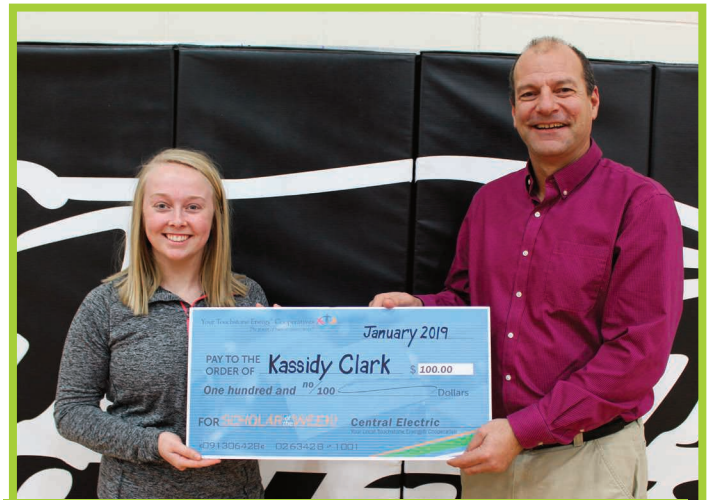
Manager Schlimgen and Superintendent/K-12 Principal Mikkonen presented a \$100 scholarship to Tlam.

Kassidy Clark

Kassidy Clark was named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week for the week of January 13-19, 2019. Clark is the daughter of Travis and Kristie Clark and is currently a senior at Corsica-Stickney High School.

Clark is an excellent role model and leader for her school with numerous years in 4-H, plus involvement in volleyball, basketball, FCCLA, student council, one-act play, school play, national honor society and more. She plans to attend Mitchell Technical Institute in the fall for radiology.

“She ranks right up there with the best of them,” math teach Jacque Boyle said. “She works really hard, and you can tell with her work ethic in the classroom that she’s there with the rest of them too, she wants to do well. She’s got a smile she carries through the halls. Other teachers see it. She’s talking to all ages, it’s nice to see that in the students as well.”



Manager Schlimgen presented a \$100 scholarship to Clark.

About the Program

Central Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, awarded a \$100 scholarship each to Tlam and Clark. Central Electric Manager Ken Schlimgen visited their schools to recognize them and present the award. Both Tlam and Clark were featured on KSFY TV news for their achievements, and the interviews can be viewed at www.ksfy.com.

The Scholar of the Week scholarship was created by KSFY and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to recognize outstanding students across the state who set an example of hard work and high academic standards. Area school principals and faculty nominate students for this award, based on excellence in the classroom, service in the community and extracurricular participation. The KSFY staff makes weekly selections throughout the school year.

Welcome, Brandon!



Brandon Auch began with Central Electric on February 4 as the Appliance Repair Technician. He previously worked at Muth Electric for 11 years as an electrician and project superintendent. He attended Mitchell Technical Institute for his education.

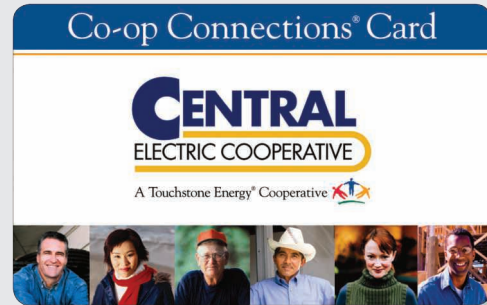
Auch is originally from Lesterville, SD, and his family currently lives in Mitchell. His wife, Jenna, is a registered nurse for the Office of Family and Community Health, and they also have three sons. In his spare time, Auch enjoys hunting and fishing.

Auch will be in charge of appliance sales and service, including the full line of GE appliances and Speed Queen laundry. Central Electric also offers 24 hour service to all makes and models and appliances. We look forward to having Auch as part of the cooperative and continuing this service to our members!



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

Local Discounts with your Co-op Connections® Card



Your cooperative membership earns you discounts at local participating businesses.

Simply show your Co-op Connections Discount Card and save.

- 1) Gene's Photography, Mitchell, SD;**
1/2 price on session fees.
- 2) Genieve's Print*Art*Design, Wessington Springs, SD;**
15% off labor for services.
- 3) Graham's Interstate Mobil, Mitchell, SD;**
7 cents off gallon gas/fuel.
- 4) Hair Expressions Salon, Chamberlain, SD;**
\$25 off 1st set of eyelash extension; \$20 off spa facial with microdermabrasion.
- 5) Ken's Service, Gann Valley, SD;**
10% off tire repair services.
- 6) M & H, Mitchell, SD;**
5 cents off per gallon of gas.
- 7) Mega Wash, Mitchell, SD;**
\$1.00 off automatic car wash at 800 East Kay; 1911 N Main St; or 601 E. Spruce. Discount only valid when attendants are on duty. Cannot be combined with any other discounts.

For a full list of ways to save, visit www.connections.coop.

To request a card or become a participating business, visit www.centralec.coop or call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.





Rushmore Electric's Mike Bowers, fifth from left, is one of 17 members of the Rapid City YMCA board of directors.

LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Co-op Leaders Contribute to Local Boards, Youth Programs and More

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

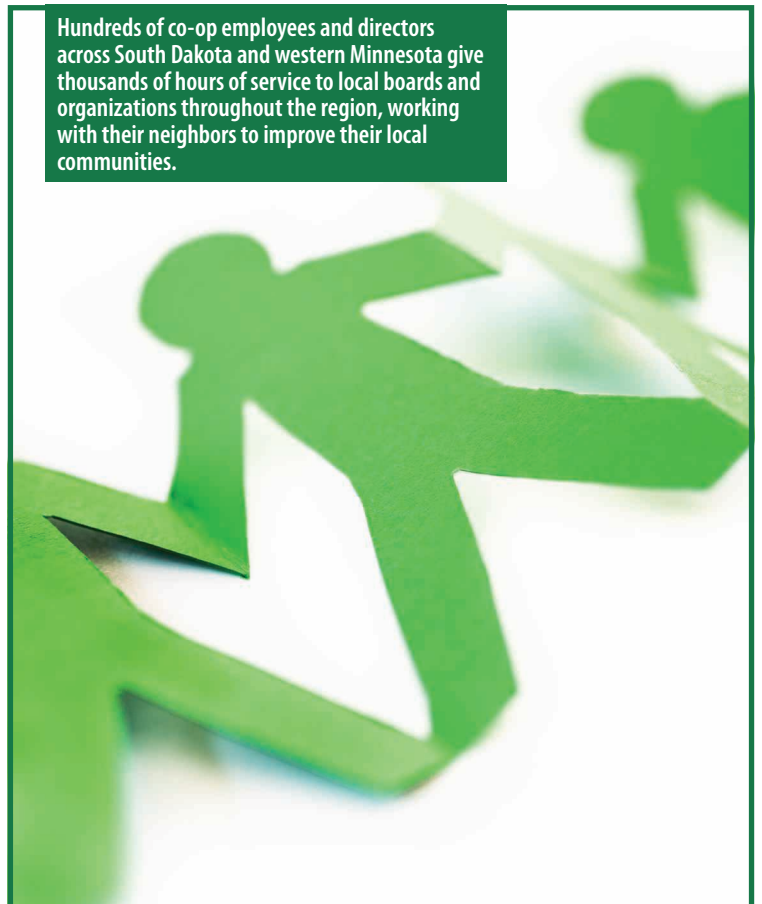
When cooperatives say they are committed to their communities, it's not just lip service. It's service rooted in fact.

From city councils, township boards and county commissions to school boards, church boards and other community organizations, co-op employees and directors are answering the call to serve on boards of various shapes and sizes.

Some specialize, focusing their involvement in one arena. Others are generalists, taking the skills and lessons they've learned through their roll at their local electric cooperative and translating it to benefit their local community through involvement on several boards and groups.

For much of his co-op career, Mike Bowers has also served on boards associated with the Rapid City YMCA. Bowers, the manager of Rushmore Engineering, a part of Rushmore

Hundreds of co-op employees and directors across South Dakota and western Minnesota give thousands of hours of service to local boards and organizations throughout the region, working with their neighbors to improve their local communities.



Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, has spent 20 years on the YMCA building committee. He's also been a part of the YMCA board of directors for 10 years, serving as secretary and board chairman.

But, his Y involvement has even deeper roots.

"I grew up with the Y," said the Wisconsin native. "I've been a Y member here for 42 years. I joined the Y the first month I was in town and never looked back."

Bowers said the YMCA's commitment to people in the community is appealing and resonates well with the work of electric cooperatives.

"Both invest in the community, absolutely," Bowers said. "The YMCA is very much a cooperative structure; not-for-profit, open to all and every member is an owner, if you stop to think about it."

The Rapid City YMCA and the Rapid City Area Schools are in the midst of a \$10 million renovation of a 68,000 square foot building in downtown Rapid City that once housed an electric and gas utility company. When completed, the facility will house YMCA early childhood development and also provide

infant childcare as well as hold school district administrative offices.

The facility, which is slated to open in August, will be known as the Rapid City Education Center. It recently secured \$1.1 million in funding from the Rapid City Vision Fund.

We all need to be involved and give back to the community.

"The Rapid City Education Center will more than double our capacity for childcare," Bowers said.

Bowers sums up his work with the YMCA succinctly.

"This is the way I want to be involved and give back," said Bowers.

Bowers is not alone in his commitment to his local community.

From youth wrestling, basketball, baseball and football programs to coaching varsity-level sports and serving as

referees, co-op employees and directors are working alongside their neighbors to ensure these programs succeed.

You'll also find co-op employees and directors setting aside their co-op hats to take on the work of members of school boards at several districts across the state.

Dozens of co-op employees serve as trustees and council members of towns and communities across the state. More than a dozen township boards are comprised of officers who work for electric cooperatives or who serve as a director for an electric cooperative. County commissions from Custer County in the west to Grant County in the northeast – and a few counties in between – have co-op employees and directors serving on their governing boards.

And, the work doesn't stop there. You'll find co-op directors and employees in service organizations like Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis, on in veteran's organizations like the American Legion and VFW, church boards, airport, library and transportation boards.

As Bowers notes, "We all need to be involved and give back to the community."



Chris Larson, General Manager of Clay-Union Electric Corporation in Vermillion, moderates the District 17 Legislative Public Forum held in October. Larson is member of the VDCD Governmental Affairs Committee, which hosted the candidate forum. Candidates present were, from left, Gregory Baldwin, Ray Ring, John Gors and Howard Grinager. Arthur Rusch attended by phone.

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

The following list includes names of former members who have unclaimed capital credits with our office and who we are unable to reach. If you have updated contact information for any of the following, please contact our office at 605-996-7516, billinggroup@centralec.coop or www.centralec.coop.

Andersen Farms Inc	Fier, Tom	Koster, Kay	Round Head, Vera
Andersen, Vicky	Fischer, Melerine	Laible, Kathleen or Goetz, Cynthia	Rupnow, Eric W
Anderson, Mary	Flemming, Jamie	Larsen, Viola	Sargeant, Mary
Anderson, Phillip L	Fluery, Rachel or John	Larson, David W	James Scheele Real
Anton, Lori	Flute, Margaret	Larson, Lewis R	Schuh, Schane
Backlund, Homer	Fuerst Brothers	Lee Brothers	Shottenkirk Cattle Co
Bad Moccasin, Dawn or Glyndon	Gehring, Betty	Lefdal, Edwin	Simpson, Rick
Bad Moccasin, Glyndon	Gillick, Thomas F	Lehman, Clyde W	Sioux Falls Construction
Balster, Brian - Sunshine Bible ACD	Goldammer, Clarence	Life Roofing or Flaws, Lorraine	Sonne, Jean
Bauer, Ronald	Green, Robert H	Long Crow, Barbara	Spider, Bobbi
Beckmann, Dalphene	Grey Owl, Brandon	Maznio, Joe	Spider, Richard
Bishop, Diane	Grey Owl, Douglas	McCannel, Luann	St John, Anna
Bonanza Sign or Koehler, James	Hall, Fred S	McLaughlin & Schulz	St John, Crystal
Boomgaarden, Lloyd	Harmon, Ronald & Sandra	Medicine Crow, Eileen	St John, Tyler
Boys & Girls Club of American - Jerry Barnett Exec Director	Hasselbring, Martin or Marken, Shirley	Medicine Crow, Maureen	Storm, Gerhardt
Cahill Oil Company - J L Dode Cahill	Hattie-Elroy Kelly	Metcalf, Kally	Strotkamp, Andrew
Campbell, Kimberly R	Hawk, Garrett	Metcalf, Leonard JR	Stulken, Kevin
Carda, Chad	Hawk Wing, Owen	Metzgerville Church	Surrounded, Arthur
Center Township Hall	Heinzman, Dale	Mickelson, Orval or Ruby	Swartz, Tracy
Chamberlain KOA - Waltman, Gary	Henrichs, David R	Miller, Tony	Thin Elk, Mae
Charging Crow, Tashina	Herrick, Howard L	Moline, Robert or Violet	Thomas, Chad
Charging Whirl Wi, Lynette or Penny Black Bull	Hofer, Gary	Ness Construction	Thompson, Terra
Christensen, Borge or Frances	Hohn, Irene	Nolz, Teresa	Toft, Jim or Andrew Spaans
Christensen Simmental or John Christensen	Houska, Iner or Edna Mae Houska	Oakley, Leonard	Vasquez, Robert
Church of God the Father	Housman, Aileen or Jim	Olson, Arvid	Villbrandt, Wesley W
Cramer, Grant	Howe, Royce	Olverson, Maggie	Voice, Erick
Crazy Bull, Josephine	Ihnen, Randy	Peters, Anthony	Walking Bull, Arnold
Crowe, Ethel or Angelita Hamilton Attorney	Irwin, Viola M	Peterson, Charolette	Walz, Richard
Drapeau, Bonnie or Dawn Drapeaux	Johnson, Dick Mrs	Pickner, Brenda	Warren TWP Hall
Dykstra, Jennie	Johnson, Lisa	Picker, Ralph or Pickner, Shirley M	Weber, Cameron
Estes, Georgia	Jones, Mary	Platt, Jason	Wells, Kim
Farm Credit Agency - Gary Jackson	Juhnke, Dennis	Pleasant Grove School	White Lake Motel & RV Park -Craig, Steve
	Kahle, Cheryl	Pretty Sounding, Stella	Williams, Terry
	Kayser, Lawrence J or Mrs Agatha Kayser	Rabbit, James	Wind, Monica
	Kerkman, Brady	Reynolds, Dick	Wolfcale, Al
	Klatt, K J	Rock Valley Elevator Co	Wolter, Julie
		Roden, Debra	Ziebart, Emmaline or Luken, Jan

Central Electric Recognized at SDREA Annual Meeting

The South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) Annual Meeting was held on January 10-11 in Pierre, SD. Central Electric Cooperative had several highlights from the event:

Former General Manager Loren Noess was awarded the Legacy of Leadership Award for his 46-year career with cooperatives. The award recognizes co-op leaders who have made a difference in their co-op and communities. Brad Schardin, General Manager of Southeastern Cooperative, was also a recipient.

Staking Technician Tim Johnson was recognized for 40 years of service. Fifty-one other employees and directors

across South Dakota were also recognized for 25+ years of service milestones.

Central Electric Cooperative was recognized for its safety accomplishment, having completed the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) again in 2018. RESAP includes unannounced on-site crew visits with an extensive safety review. RESAP is designed for cooperatives to create a culture of safety in their organization.

Donita Loudner, director for Buffalo county, was seated on SDREA's board to represent Central Electric.



SDREA Loss Control Professional Travis Denison presents General Manager Ken Schlimgen a Certificate of Safety Achievement for Central Electric's completion of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program.



Former General Manager Loren Noess (left) and General Manager of Southeastern Electric, Brad Schardin (right), were recipients of the Legacy of Leadership Award for their contributions to cooperatives and their communities.

District Meetings Held



2018 Youth Tour alum Collin Powell presents at the Brule County meeting on his Youth Tour experience.

Central Electric Cooperative hosted seven of our eight districts meetings in January. The Buffalo County meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, February 19th due to the weather.

District meetings are an opportunity for members to engage in the cooperative's democratic process and learn more about current issues. The cooperative ended 2018 in financially sound condition. Our end of year operating margins (margins produced by your cooperative's operations) were over \$1 million dollars as compared to our budgeted goal of around \$400,000. When we add the capital credits your cooperative is allocated from Basin Electric and East River Electric for 2018, our end of year financial statement will reflect margins over \$3.4 million. We also shared information on the line and meter replacements, programs available to our members, and change in our facility charges for 2019.

There were director elections in three counties for 2019. Mark Reindl was unanimously re-elected to serve Jerauld County, Bernetta Burghardt was unanimously re-elected to serve Miner County, and Todd VanWalleghen was unanimously re-elected to serve Sanborn County. Directors serve on the board of directors for three-year terms.

The following 2018 Youth Tour alumni attended their local district meetings to present on their Youth Tour experience: Isaac Kolousek in Jerauld County, Anna Schwader in Miner County, Shaina Determan in Hanson County, and Collin Powell in Brule County.

Kimball School received \$1,000 from Central Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program to update their former playground for safety, entertainment and school pride.



MAKING CHANGE

Contributions by Co-op Members Add Up for Good

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sirea.coop

Thirty years ago, South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative conceived of an idea to benefit residents in the three counties it serves. By having members round up their monthly electric bills, co-op members could have a lasting impact on charitable groups in the area.

Since that beginning in 1989, Operation Round Up® has been an incredibly successful way in which the co-op and its members have been able to help the less fortunate in their community. Through Operation Round Up, Palmetto Electric automatically rounds up a participating member's electric bills to the next highest dollar. For example, a consumer's monthly bill of \$52.73 would be automatically rounded up to \$53, with the additional 27 cents going to the Operation Round Up fund. On an annual basis, the co-op is able to donate roughly \$6 for each participating customer – and that pool of money is then allocated to a variety of worthy causes throughout their service area.

The concept spread nationwide and today, several cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota have the program.



Central Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program awarded \$2,300 to Helping with Horsepower, a therapeutic riding program at Reclamation Ranch outside of Mitchell, S.D., for a lift that allows wheelchair-bound clients to ride horses.

Since 2000, members at Sioux Valley Energy have awarded more than \$1.5 million to community groups, including funding more than \$10,000 in scholarships each year to members and their children.

Across the border at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn., their Operation Round Up board funds grant requests ranging from fire department requests to school and other educational requests.

Danube, Minn.-based Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association is launching its Operation Round Up in June.

“All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including “Concern for Community.” The Operation Round Up® program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle,” said Lenae Wordes, Renville-Sibley’s communications manager. “The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with nearly 1,900 of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power member accounts, it adds up to make an impact.”

“Renville-Sibley’s program will operate



with a board of trustees that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op. This allows a group of members to focus on the mission of representing our communities,” said Wordes.

In the Watertown, S.D., area, Codington-Clark Electric’s Operation Round Up has helped 4-H clubs, a child hunger group and a local living history fair.

Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., awarded \$12,500 to 10 groups in November 2018. Among the groups receiving funding were community improvement associations and community centers, speed meters for two cities, 4-H, Habitat for Humanity and other groups. Since launching the program in 2015, the program has made \$72,500 in awards.

“Applications typically come from volunteers in your community who feel strongly about a project and making a difference,” said Courtney Deinert, Central’s manager of communications.

For the past 10 years, members of Oahe Electric Cooperative in Blunt, S.D., have distributed more than \$92,000 to groups and organizations in Hughes and Sully counties. The money raised has helped volunteer fire departments, animal rescue shelters and other groups selected by the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees.

At Elk Point, S.D., Union County Electric Cooperative started its program in 2018. This year, it awarded \$4,000 to four organizations including the local historical society, the Boys and Girls Club, an animal rescue and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars group.

Co-op members at West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D., are also involved. In 2018, the Operation Round Up fund awarded more than \$8,200 to groups ranging from rodeo booster clubs and cemetery associations to ambulance services, athletic groups and pre-school and community groups. One award helped purchase a heater for the New Underwood city pool.

Contact your local cooperative to find out what ways they are involved in their communities and how to participate.



The Letcher, S.D., 4-H “Kids Kountry Club” breaks ground on their new playground area after receiving a \$3,500 Operation Round Up grant from Central Electric Cooperative members.

Join us for the Basin Electric Tour set for July 17-19, 2019

Hop on the Bus



Patrick Soukup

Manager of Member Services & Marketing

For just \$25 per person, you will receive round-trip transportation, a two-night stay in Bismarck, ND, and meals.

I'm looking for members to join me on the 2019 Basin Electric Bus Tour! Want to know where your electricity really comes from? Heard about the games, prizes and movies while on a bus to North Dakota? Well, this three-day trip could be just the mini-vacation that you need.

This is a great opportunity to tour our power supply operations, including the Oahe Dam, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a coal gasification plant, and a working coal mine at Beulah, ND. I do my best to make sure the trip is fun and entertaining on top of the educational materials!

It is open to members of Central Electric Cooperative for a small fee. For just \$25 per person, you will receive round-trip transportation, a two-night stay in Bismarck, ND, and meals.

Members who have never participated in Central Electric's bus tour will be given first priority to participate in 2019. Registrations for participants will be accepted until June 1st or until the bus is filled. After the seats are filled with first-time participants, seats will be filled with members who previously participated in the bus tour. They will be selected based on how many years have passed since their participation.

Each member is limited to two seats on the bus tour, and all participants must be at least 18 years of age.

If you are interested in participating in the tour, please give Patrick Soukup a call at 605-996-7516 or 1-800-477-2892 or find the application at www.centralec.coop. You will be asked to complete and return the application with your \$25 per person fee.



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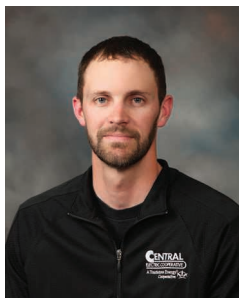
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December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

February 21-23

Sno Jam Comedy Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxfallssnojamcomedyfest@gmail.com

February 22-23

State Wrestling Tournaments, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 23

Annual Outhouse Races and Chili Cook-off Contest, Nemo, SD, 605-578-2708

March 1-2

Mardi Gras Weekend, Main Street, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

March 9-10

2019 Gun Show, American Legion Hall, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. MST, Philip, SD, 605-441-8466 or 605-441-1216

March 9-10

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Davison County 4-H Grounds, Mitchell, SD, 605-630-2199

March 9-12

Summit League Basketball Championship, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

March 14-16

SD State Class A Boys Basketball Tournament, Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD

March 14-16

SD State Class AA Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD



March 15-16
28 Below Fatbike Race,
Lead, SD, 605-584-3435

Photo courtesy: travelouthdakota.com

March 14-16

SD State Class B Boys Basketball Tournament, Barnett Center, Aberdeen, SD

March 16-17

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Codington City Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 605-793-2347

March 22-23, 29-30

Mystery Dinner Theater, Legion Hall, Faulkton, SD, 605-380-1556

March 23

Ag Day, Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 29-30, April 5-6

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 29-31

Black Hills Home Builders Home Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-7850

March 30-31

29th Annual Hats Off to the Artist Art Show, Community Center, Faulkton, SD, 605-598-4482

April 4

McCrossan Banquet Auction featuring Loop Rawlins and the PBR, 5:30 p.m., Arena, Sioux Falls, SD, Tickets: \$75 each, 605-339-1203, www.mccrossan.org

April 4-5

Holiday Arts Spring Craft Show, Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

April 5-6

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

April 5-7, 11-14

Green Earth Players presents Drinking Habits, Palace Theatre, Luverne, MN, 507-283-9226

April 5-7

Professional Bull Riders Unleash the Beast Tour, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

April 7

Unni Bokspasp from Norway in Concert, 2 p.m., Riggs Theater, Pierre, SD, 605-222-1992

April 13-14

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Rushmore Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-270-0764

April 18

John Mellencamp, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Fine Arts Theatre, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

May 1-5

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.