

Cooperative Connections

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Cooperative to host first-ever "drive-through" event

Adapting Our Annual Meeting



Ken Schlimgen

General Manager

We will be conducting a drive-through annual meeting at our facilities, located west of Mitchell on Betts Road.

When we adjourned our last Annual Meeting in April 2019, who would have imagined that one year later we would be dealing with a worldwide pandemic? Over the past several months, I have reflected several times on how fortunate we are to live in South Dakota and to have the support of our neighbors, families and friends.

The pandemic has created many hardships and concerns for our communities. One of the concerns that keeps me awake at night is the health and safety of our employees. Our employees are crucial to our cooperative. Keeping them healthy and able to perform the essential work of keeping the lights on is a priority.

One cautionary step we have taken is closing our offices to the public. Starting this month, we are taking a small step to return to normal and will allow members to make appointments and enter the Mitchell building. Keep in mind that those entering the building will follow safety precautions, and this is subject to an ever-changing environment surrounding COVID-19.

We normally host our annual meeting in April, but due to the pandemic, it was postponed. This month, on September 29, Central Electric will host the cooperative's annual meeting to review the 2019 year of operations and ask members to approve of several minor changes to the Bylaws.

As we make plans for the annual meeting, we find ourselves breaking new ground. The pandemic has forced us to adapt, and we will be conducting a drive-through annual meeting at our facilities, located west of Mitchell on Betts Road.

We appreciate your understanding of this change and hope that you will take the evening to plan an enjoyable ride to our facilities and cast a vote, all in an effort to support your cooperative. We do have a quorum requirement to meet so your support will be greatly appreciated and

rewarded with an attendance gift. You can find instructions and more information on pages 14-15 of this newsletter.

Included in this newsletter is an explanation of the recommended changes to the Bylaws. These changes were fully explained at the District Meetings held earlier this year and were also inserted in the April newsletter. I would describe the changes as mostly housekeeping and necessary updates. Please take a few moments and familiarize yourself with the recommendations so you can confidently cast a vote on the 29th.

Financially, 2019 was a good year for your cooperative. The cooperative did not make any changes in electric rates. Revenues for the cooperative were very close to budget but slightly behind 2018. At the same time, expenses were also below budget resulting in \$1.3 million in operating margins. As a cooperative, members share in the margins when they are allocated and retired as capital credits. In December of 2019, Central Electric retired over \$850,000 in capital credits to our membership.

The operations department launched our accelerated line replacement plan in 2019. It was the first year of many where the cooperative has a goal to replace an average of 70 miles of overhead line each year. We were very pleased that we achieved our goal, given the wet conditions we were challenged with.

A video report from Board President Duane Wolbrink and myself will be available on our website and social media in lieu of our normal annual meeting presentations. I know we all would have preferred a face-to-face meeting and an enjoyable hot meal. We are planning for that in 2021.

Please remember to mark September 29th on your calendar to attend your cooperative's annual meeting. Watch your mail for individual notice and invitation.

Until next month, take care and be safe!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

Duane Wolbrink - President
 Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President
 Bernetta Burghardt - Secretary
 Mark Reindl - Treasurer
 Mark Hofer - NRECA
 Roger Campbell
 Donita Loudner - SDREA
 Darwin "Butch" Morrison
 Jim Headley

General Manager: Ken Schlimgen

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 courtneyd@centralec.coop

Assistant Editor: Patrick Soukup

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Address all other correspondence to: Cooperative Connections, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301 Telephone: (605)996-7516; Fax: (605) 996-0869; e-mail: cec@centralec.coop; website: www.centralec.coop.

Office Information

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

Our office is currently open by appointment.

Mission Statement

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

Board Meeting Summary

The board of directors met on August 17, 2020 at the Betts Road Service Center for the regular board meeting.

The board approved the July meeting minutes and safety meeting minutes. The board then reviewed monthly reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, service department, financials, and information technology.

Board Report

Manager Schlimgen updated the board on the following:

- East River Electric and Basin Electric updates.
- Local and statewide COVID-19 statistics.
- Procedures for upcoming East River Electric Annual Meeting and proposed Bylaws changes.
- Reviewed the cooperative outage map and SDREA outage map.
- Local economic development opportunities.
- Approval of a REED loan for a local entity.
- Schlimgen will present during an upcoming national economic development webinar regarding housing.
- Individual member concern.
- Strategic planning session review.
- Upcoming annual meeting on September 29.

- Reviewed SD Culture of Safety Strategy Lab Report.

- Reviewed modifications in REED Fund Conflict of Interest policy.

Directors Reindl, Headley, Hofer, and Loudner reported on the SDREA Board Leadership Training.

Director Wolbrink reported on the East River Electric board meeting.

All directors reviewed director expenses for the month.

Board Action

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

- Approved hosting the annual meeting via a drive-through format due to the safety of the employees, members, and uncertainty amid COVID-19.
- Approved amended Policy 602 Energy Efficiency Incentives.
- Approved Director Loudner as delegate and Director Hofer as alternate for the NRECA Regional Meeting.
- Approved Inventory of Work Orders No. 233 and 233-1.

The next board of directors meeting will be held September 21, 2020 at the Betts Road Service Center.

Please contact the cooperative office for more information regarding the board meeting.

Financial Report	July 2020	Year-to-Date
kWh Sales	28,025,512 kWhs	191,442,016 kWhs
Electric Revenues	\$ 2,854,586	\$ 19,198,489
Total Cost of Service	\$ 2,656,891	\$ 18,230,627
Operating Margins	\$ 197,696	\$ 967,862

Use Safety as Your Guide When Planting Trees

If the trees in your yard have grown so tall that they touch overhead power lines, they can cause all kinds of trouble. Branches that sway in the wind and rain can snap an electric line, sending a live wire to the ground, where it can electrocute anyone who touches it.

Plus, power lines that are broken by fallen trees will cause you and your neighbors to lose electricity and require a costly trip from your electric cooperative.

That's why any tree that poses a danger—even an old or favorite tree—could be slated for removal by your electric cooperative.

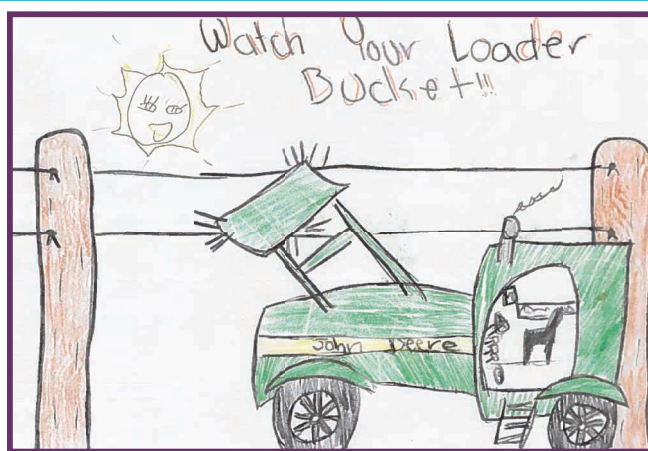
You can prevent problems on the front end by planting smart.

Here are a few tips:

- Do some research and learn all you can about the particular type of tree you want to plant. Learn how tall it will grow when it matures and how wide the full span of its mature branches will become. Use those dimensions to determine how far away from an existing power line you should plant it. Some trees are safe only when they grow 30 feet or more away from a line.
- If the landscape design you like requires you to plant trees in close proximity to electric lines, choose a low-growing variety that will never be tall enough to pose a hazard.
- Before digging any holes to plant trees, call 811, the state's "call before you dig" service. If you don't call and hit underground utility lines, you could be liable for damages.
- Avoid planting in the right-of-way on the edge of your yard or personal property. Your local electric cooperative and other utility companies must maintain that space and could wind up trimming trees out of the way of power lines, possibly leaving the tree looking lopsided.
- Don't plant shrubs too close to your home's outdoor air conditioning unit. AC units require breathing room and should never be crowded by shrubbery or debris.
- If your yard is already home to trees that are close to power lines, keep the trees trimmed so they don't touch any overhead wires. Hire a professional tree trimmer with the proper tools and training to provide this service for you. Don't risk doing it yourself.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Watch Your Loader Bucket!"

Adalin Homola, 11 years old

Adalin Homola is the daughter of Joe and Sonja Homola from Lake Nordin. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

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.

People-Pleasing Pasta

Pasta Florentine

16 oz. penne pasta	1 zucchini, cut in thin strips
1 red pepper, thin cut	2 cans mushrooms, drained
1 onion, chopped	1/8 cup butter
1 cup tomatoes, chopped	1/4 cup flour
1 cup skim milk	1 cup chicken broth
1/2 tsp. nutmeg	1/2 tsp. pepper
1 pkg. frozen spinach, thawed, drained	1/4 cup Parmesan

Prepare pasta, cooking 7 minutes. Drain. Spoon into greased 9x13 baking dish. Cook and stir zucchini, peppers, mushrooms, and onions for 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in tomatoes. Spoon mixture over pasta and gently mix. Whisk flour with drippings in skillet. Whisk in milk. Add broth, nutmeg and pepper. Cook over medium heat and stir until mixture comes to boil and thickens. Add spinach and cheese. Pour sauce over casserole. Cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

Glen and Linda Erickson, Chester, SD

One Pan Chicken Alfredo

3 tablespoons olive oil	1/2 lb. penne pasta, or any bite-sized shape pasta, uncooked
1/4 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts	2 c. freshly shredded real parmesan cheese
2 cloves garlic, minced	Salt and pepper
2 c. low sodium chicken broth	Flat leaf parsley for garnish
1 c. heavy cream or half and half	

Cut chicken breasts into half-inch and 1-inch pieces. Season with salt/pepper. Brown chicken in olive oil over medium heat. It will finish cooking as it simmers. Add minced garlic and saute for 1 minute. Add broth, cream or half and half and uncooked pasta and stir. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce to a simmer. Keep pan covered while simmering. Simmer for 15-20 minutes or until pasta is tender. Remove from heat, stir in shredded parmesan cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

Judy Mendel, Doland, SD

Pizza Hot Dish

2 lb. hamburger - brown, sprinkle with onion and garlic salt	1/2 cup water
1 10-oz. can pizza sauce	1/2 tsp. salt
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce	1/4 tsp. pepper
	1 tsp. oregano

Simmer above ingredients 20 minutes. Add 1-1/2 cup grated American cheese (Velveeta) and 8-oz. package of wide noodles, cooked. Put 1/2 of sauce in 9x13 cake pan. Top with noodles. Add rest of sauce. Top with mozzarella cheese and sprinkle generously with parmesan cheese. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees.

Shirley Miller, Winfred, SD

Shrimp Scampi

8 ounces pasta linguine	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons butter	1 dash crushed red pepper flakes
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil	1-1/2 pounds large or extra-large Aqua Star shrimp, shelled
4 garlic cloves, minced	1/3 cup parsley, chopped
1/2 cup dry white wine or seafood broth	1/2 lemon, juice only
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt	

Cook pasta according to package directions. In large skillet, melt butter and oil. Add garlic and saute until fragrant. Add wine or broth, salt, red pepper flakes and black pepper. Bring to simmer and reduce by half. Add shrimp and saute until shrimp turn pink and opaque, approximately 2-4 minutes depending on size. Stir in parsley, lemon juice and cooked pasta. Provided by www.aquastar.com.

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



UNCLAIMED CREDITS

In search of forwarding information for the following former co-op members

The following list of former members have unclaimed capital credits from Central Electric Cooperative.

If you have an updated phone number or address for any of the following people, please contact our office at 800-477-2892, 605-996-7516 or cec@centralec.coop.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>A</p> <p>Abbink, Brad
Alink, David
Anderson, Doris J
Ashes, Kyle
Aslakson, Eugene
Azure, Charlene</p> <p>B</p> <p>Bait, Buster or Miller, Roger
Bartel, Gene
Bartscher, Jerry
Beck, Kassie
Bezpaletz, Grant
Boyer, Brandi
Bradwisch, Robert
Breukelman, Nettie or Carl</p> | <p>Bussey, Diane</p> <p>C</p> <p>Cerney, Richard J
Charging Crow, Tashina
Chapman, Robert
Chase, Neil E Sr
Chmela, Leon
Christensen, Bruce
Clark, Lawrence E
Crawford, Gerry
Culver, Ben</p> <p>D</p> <p>Dean, Hazel
Dierks Angus or Dierks, Duane
Drappeaux, Dawn</p> | <p>E</p> <p>Engel, Arthur</p> <p>F</p> <p>Farrell, Chester G IV
Feller, Jeremy
Flannery Oil Co
Fossum, Doug
Fox, Dean
Fritza, Odean or Shirley</p> <p>G</p> <p>Gaetze, Lori
Giesler, Amy
Gillen, Dane
Goode, Tim
Graves, Russell D
Gunderson, Keith</p> | <p>H</p> <p>Hackett, Karla
Hallman, Mike
Halverson, Scot
Hanson, Kenneth J
Hawk, Velsworth
Heckenliable, Kurt
Hemeyer, Martha Mrs.
Herman, Christine
Hillson Farms or Alfson, Genva
Hinrichs, Allen
His Law, Nathan
His Law, Sandra
Heth, Kimberly
Hockenberry, Jim Jr or Andrews, Greg
Hotchkiss, Harold
Hrdlicka, Dan</p> |
|---|--|--|--|

Hunkpati Oyate Lodge

I

Iron Moccasin, Crystal

J

Janda, Daniel

Jarding, Steve

J&J Pitstop

J L Healy Construction Co

Jorgenson, Jerald

Juhnke, Janice

K

Keepers, Tom

Kelly, Robert W

Kerkow, Sherri

Kimball, Kenneth

Kirkie, Myron

Kirkpatrick, Ryan

Koranda, Ed

L

Lange, Brenda

Lanners, Kevin J

Larson, Aleck

Larson, Charlie

Lecompte, Denise

Lehrman, Jeremy

Loudner, Emery

M

Machovsky, Dennis

Maeschen, Lynette K

Dennis McDonald Enterprises or McDonald, Dennis

Mehlhoff, John

Meier, Theodore F

Menter, Susan A

Messer, Irene

Michels Pipe Line Construction

Minahan, Ken

Miranda, Tom

N

Nedved, Evelyn

Ness, Mark E

Nightingale, Ervin

P

Payer, Lisa

Peterson, Todd

Plooster, Duane & Alexandria

Priebe, Kenneth E & Dolly

Propst, John

R

Ramsey, Clay

Reimer, Larry

Reinesch, William

Reis, Stanley or Laura

Richter, Roger

Rome TWP Hall

Ross, Linda or Hospitality Foundation

Ruml, Luke

S

Schaar, Jerome

Schanthorst, Bryan

Schultz, Irene

Schmid, Grace E

Scott, Gene

Sedivy, Adam

Sharping, James

Sokota Dairy

South, Ron

Soyk, Kenneth

Spaans, Rosalie

Stahnke, Julie

Strong, Kenneth

St Pierre, Dominique

Suess, Charolette

Svihovec, Travis

Swenson, Kent

T

Thompson, Annie or Erick

Thompson, Leroy Sr

V

Vandenhul, Herman

Verhage, Kendall

Volness, A C

W

Wagner, Rick

Weber, Kevin

Webster, Gene or Eileen

Welker, Richard

Wells, Wendy

Wiese, Ila M

Wieztema, Sievert

Williams, Mike

Wilson, Harold A Jr

Wilson, Terrie

Withorn, Margaret

Y

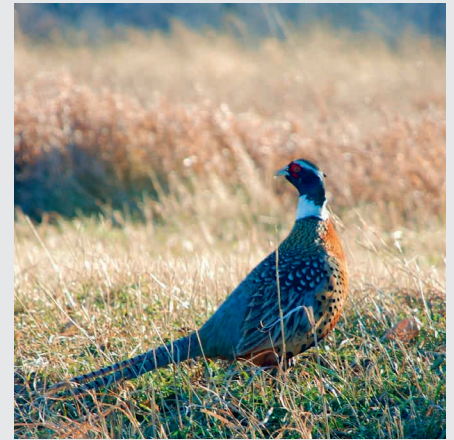
Younie, Abbie

Z

Zell, Shirley

Zimmerman, Douglas

Preparing for Hunters



Expecting hunters to arrive soon?

Be sure to check any water heaters, heating and cooling systems, and security lights before they arrive.

By checking the equipment ahead of time, you can avoid inconvenient, costly emergency repairs and ensure maximum comfort for your guests.

For any issues, give Central Electric a call at 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516, and our team of technicians can help.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



While the ag markets have experienced shifts and changes, rural South Dakota continues to offer a favorable business climate for many industry sectors.

S.D. IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

REED Fund supports business growth in rural areas

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

The old adage about making hay while the sun is shining is not lost on the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

During the summer months, the department launched an aggressive regional advertising campaign called "South Dakota Means Business," aimed at encouraging companies from surrounding states to relocate to a more business-friendly environment.

The timing of this marketing strategy was intended to take advantage of the favorable national publicity the state has received for its response to COVID-19 and also to lure disaffected businesses weary of increasingly onerous and burdensome regulatory policies in other states.

The promotional initiative was based on a long list of advantages that make it easier in South Dakota for companies to maximize positive margins and plan for future growth.

The campaign featured Gov. Kristi Noem emphasizing the fact that South Dakota has been ranked best in the nation in several categories: lowest business costs; most accessible financing; two-year college graduation rates; lowest regulatory restrictions; lowest state tax revenue volatility; and more.

"We hear over and over from business owners in other states that increased government regulations are making it difficult to earn a profit and plan for growth," said Commissioner Steve Westra. "We want to get the word out that it doesn't have to be this way."

"As out-of-state businesses become more frustrated with

Dakota Style is a thriving business that has received REED funding through Codington-Clark Electric.



overreach by their state governments, they're turning to South Dakota," said Gov. Noem. "The number of new businesses interested in moving to South Dakota has increased dramatically. We're ready to show these businesses what South Dakota can do for them."

While Gov. Noem pushes to attract more businesses to South Dakota, the state's rural electric cooperatives continue to be engaged in efforts to spark community development. Twenty of the state's electric cooperatives collaborate with five western-Minnesota co-ops to support local business growth through the Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund. The non-profit corporation provides financing in all or parts of roughly 70 counties in the two states.

The REED Fund was created in 1997 to boost business growth in small communities and has issued nearly 400 loans totaling more

than \$102 million. That financial support has resulted in more than 9,000 jobs.

While the fund is used by rural electric cooperatives to boost economic activity in their service areas, it is not restricted to co-ops. Many loans have gone to retail entities, manufacturing facilities, agriculture processing and marketing and support services. The fund has also been used to support rural health care, education, recreation, arts, public safety, community infrastructure, housing and office space.

The fund is supported by state and federal government entities, including the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, and also private groups such as Dakota Resources, Basin Electric Cooperative and banking institutions.

The REED Fund had a record year in 2019, with \$12.8 million in new loans. REED and Avera Health also signed a new workforce housing development financing partnership as Avera committed to a \$2 million investment in the fund. This investment, along with an additional \$1 million pledge from SDN Communications and another \$1 million from First Bank & Trust, will expand efforts to finance workforce housing.

Two loans issued in August went to Lesterville Fire and Rescue from Bon Homme Yankton Electric, and to 605 Sires, LLC, from Southeastern Electric.

Bon Homme Electric Manager Stephanie Horst said the money would go toward the purchase of new air packs and a new building addition for the local volunteer fire department.

"A big part of our guiding principles as locally-owned, locally-controlled electric cooperatives is to do whatever we can to improve the quality of life in our service areas and to expand the range of economic opportunities available to our members and our communities," Horst said. "It's very gratifying for us to know we're making a positive impact."

She noted that more than 80 percent of the REED Fund's lending is established in communities of fewer than 4,000 people and 98 percent of REED-financed projects have local ownership.

At Southeastern Electric, General Manager Brad Schardin said 605 Sires, LLC, used its financing to expand its family-owned, full-service bull collection and donor facility. The company opened in 2017 and delivers its products to customers both domestically and internationally.

According to Schardin, "Delivering electrical power that is safe, affordable, reliable and accessible is a tall order in itself. But our commitment goes beyond providing electricity. We also have an obligation to enhance and improve the communities we serve. The REED Fund is an excellent resource to help us fulfill that commitment."

For more information on the REED Fund, visit www.reedfund.coop or call 605-256-8015.

Future of Energy Storage

Energy storage technology is extremely versatile - it's small enough to fit in your phone, or large enough to power your entire home.

Many people are familiar with small-scale batteries for handheld devices, but utility-scale batteries take energy storage to a whole new level. The ability to store energy helps to ensure that energy demand meets supply at any given time, making electricity available when you need it.

The most widespread form of energy storage in the U.S. is through pumped hydropower, a form of mechanical energy storage. Pumped hydropower has been used for several decades now, and currently makes up about 97 percent of the country's utility storage capacity.

Energy is stored by pumping water uphill from a lower elevation reservoir to store in an upper water basin. When energy is needed, the water is allowed

to flow through an electric turbine to generate energy, the same way it flows through a hydroelectric dam. This method is largely dependent on surrounding geography and any potential resulting ecosystem issues.

Battery technology is also gaining a lot of ground. In 2018, the power capacity from battery storage systems more than doubled from 2010. The most common type of battery chemistry is lithium-ion because of a high-cycle efficiency and fast response time. Some less-common battery types for utility storage include lead acid batteries, nickel-based batteries and sodium-based batteries. However, each chemistry has varying limitations. Beyond pumped hydropower and batteries, there are a few other forms of energy storage used at the utility scale: thermal, hydrogen and compressed air.

Energy storage currently plays a crucial role in incorporating renewable energy into our electric grid. Solar and wind energy are weather-dependent, so when energy demand is low but energy supply is high from the sun or wind, storing the excess energy makes it possible to use it later when demand is higher. As renewable energy becomes more prevalent, energy storage will help to create a more resilient grid.

Although battery prices have been decreasing steadily over the last several years, energy storage can be expensive to attain. Currently, there are 25 gigawatts of electrical energy storage capacity in the U.S., and many experts expect capacity to grow.



Energy storage plays a crucial role in incorporating renewable energy into our electric grid. Photo by Dennis Gainer

Scholarship Opportunity



The South Dakota Association of Cooperatives (SDAC) is awarding two (2) \$1,000 scholarships to dependents of members who meet the following:

- 1) Be at least in their second-year of higher education;
- 2) Pursuing a degree relative to the cooperative business;
- 3) Must be a dependent of a Central Electric member OR another SDAC member cooperative.

Applicants will need to fill out a one-page application and submit an essay.

The application deadline is October 1, 2020.

To request an application, email Courtney Deinert at courtneyd@centralec.coop or contact our office.

SDAC proactively represents cooperatives and their members on legislative, regulatory and educational issues by adding value through a unified voice.

To learn more about SDAC, visit sdac.coop.

Celebrating Local Heroes in the Fifth Annual Online Contest

#WhoPowersYou Launches

Central Electric Cooperative, along with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, is pleased to announce the fifth annual #WhoPowersYou Contest celebrating local heroes.

It's a chance for Central Electric members and employees to nominate someone making a difference in the community and an opportunity to celebrate the power of human connections. In addition to being nationally recognized, nominees can win up to \$5,000 for the cause they champion.

To nominate a local hero, members can go to whopowersyou.com and submit their nominee's name, photo and a brief description of how they make a difference locally.

Nominations opened on September 8, 2020, and must be submitted by midnight on October 9, 2020.

An independent panel of judges will select winning entries based upon the positive community impact and creativity of the entry. The winners will be announced in October.

Prize money totaling \$9,000 will be awarded as follows:

- Grand Prize: \$5,000
- Second Place: \$2,000
- Third Place: \$1,500
- Honorable Mention: \$500

Central Electric and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives launched the #WhoPowersYou Contest in 2016 to celebrate people making a powerful impact in their community. Only members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including those in Central Electric, are eligible to participate.



Who POWERS you?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community? Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com between 9/8/20 and 10/9/20 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community.



\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

\$2,000 SECOND PLACE

\$1,500 THIRD PLACE

\$500 HONORABLE MENTION

Visit whopowersyou.com for full contest rules

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THANKS FOR KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

Employee Years of Service



**Heather
Wieczorek**

Customer Service
Representative
October 11 - 4 years



**Dwight
Keegel**

Lead Electrician
October 16 - 30 years



Jesse Baker

Area Foreman
October 21 - 18 years

Harrington Promoted to Staking Technician



Tim Harrington, current Mitchell Area Foreman, has been promoted to Staking Technician.

As Staking Technician, Harrington will investigate and design distribution lines for new services, relocations or upgrades. Members constructing a new home, building, or upgrading a service will work

with Harrington to ensure they have proper electrical service to their facility.

Harrington has been with Intercounty Electric/Central Electric for 36 years. His knowledge of the cooperative's service territory and our members will greatly benefit the cooperative and our members.

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) **Mitchell KOA, Mitchell, SD;**
10% discount May 1 - October 30, excluding holiday weekends.
- 2) **Mueller Lumber Company, Mitchell, SD;**
15% off regular priced hardware store merchandise and lumber, excludes power tools.
- 3) **NAPA, Chamberlain, SD;**
10% off non-sale items.
- 4) **New Leaf Body Spa, Mitchell, SD;**
\$5 off a 60 minute massage.
- 5) **OnSight 24/7, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off products and services.

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.





Life on farms and in small towns changed for the better when electric co-ops brought power to the countryside.

CO-OP HISTORY

Co-op legacy provides a road map to success

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

On Nov. 29, 1935, a handful of local farmers huddled together in a nondescript general store near Vermillion.

They knew that six months earlier President Franklin Roosevelt had signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). They knew the purpose of this new federal entity was to provide low-interest loans so that small communities all across the nation could build the power delivery infrastructures required to bring power to the countryside. And they knew this would be their best opportunity to accomplish something for themselves that the for-profit corporate utilities were unwilling to do: energize rural America. They were all in.

While there were a few fits-and-starts along the way, what emerged out of that meeting was South Dakota's first rural electric cooperative, Clay-Union Electric Corp.

Meanwhile, this exact scenario was being replicated in other small towns and villages from coast-to-coast as the rural electrification movement gained momentum and transformed the lives of millions. From those humble beginnings, the movement has swelled to more than 900 locally-owned and locally-controlled cooperatives serving 42 million Americans in 47 states.

The improbable feat of individuals coming together, organizing, planning and building such a vast power delivery system through the most sparsely populated and inhospitable landscapes has been recognized as one of the country's crowning achievements.

America's electric cooperatives take a great deal of pride in their legacy of service, their spirit of independence, their ability to work together for a common purpose and their democratic system of control and decision-making. It's a system rooted in the



Local citizens got together in the 1930s to organize electric co-ops.

very ideals that made the country great.

So why should today's generation care about this legacy?

Dan Lindblom thinks he knows. Lindblom, along with his fellow co-op leader Verdon Lamb, recently received the South Dakota Rural Electric Association's (SDREA) Legacy of Leadership Award for 2020. He said the rich history of the cooperative movement is important because it provides a model for success that both current and future generations can use to overcome obstacles and challenges, to help navigate through difficult and seemingly intractable situations.

Having served 27 years on the board at Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer and 23 years on the SDREA board, Lindblom certainly knows about how to approach difficult dilemmas. As a statewide board officer, Lindblom found himself in the middle of many imbroglios and political squabbles over the decades.

Whether the battleground was in Pierre or Washington, Lindblom fought to protect the interests of electric cooperative



Co-ops led the way in energizing rural America and today lead the way in developing new technologies such as electric vehicles.

members through a wide range of issues such as service territory disputes, state and federal environmental regulations, taxation, transportation and more.

In the process, he learned the art of compromise and the virtue of demonstrating mutual respect. He recalls the not-too-distant past when political



Co-ops improved the lives of all citizens in their communities.

opponents maintained personal, respectful relationships despite any ideological or policy differences they may have had. He also learned the meaning of the old axiom, “United we stand, divided we fall.”

“Speaking with one voice pays off, especially in the political arena,” Lindblom said. “We had situations where an issue may impact one or two co-ops, but we all had to stand together to provide the strength we needed to win. It’s a difficult decision to engage in a fight when you think you don’t have a dog in the hunt, but it’s necessary if you’re going to do what’s good for co-op members across the state. The next time, it may be your issue that comes up and you’ll need the support.”

Lindblom said the secret sauce of success is adopting a posture of give-and-take while standing in solidarity behind a set of shared values.

Verdon Lamb, the other 2020 Legacy of Leadership recipient, served 40 years on the board at Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative in Watertown and also served on the SDREA board. He said the history of the electric co-op movement is a prime example of what can be accomplished when people work together.

“It’s about leadership, sacrifice and working in harmony to do something that’s worth doing for other people,” Lamb said. “I always felt it was worth the sacrifice of giving up my personal time and my farming time to represent the members who put their faith in me and elected me to serve on the board.”

While some say the sense of community, sacrifice and selflessness are lost on the current generation, Lamb said he has hope that young adults will come to understand those ideals exemplified by electric co-ops.

“You know, people said the same things about us when we were kids,” said Lamb, who graduated from high school in 1953. “They said we weren’t going to amount to much, but we turned out okay.”

Chris Larson is manager at Clay-Union Electric Corp., where South Dakota’s electric cooperative system began. He pointed out that the legacy of electric cooperatives is rooted in friends, family and the community. Because cooperatives have always been owned, operated and controlled independently, and have always been geared for local service, they demonstrate the power of human connections and the strength that comes with

teamwork. He said this is especially clear to see as cooperatives and their members deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

“When times get tough, you look to your family and friends, and those are the people who make up our cooperative,” Larson said. “Cooperative communities work together to accomplish things that would be impossible to do alone. That’s what the cooperative legacy is all about, and we see how it lifts us up and sustains us through troubling times.”

Larson said electric co-op history points back to a time in the 1930s when the country was racked by a slumping economy. Co-op organizers went door-to-door to rally support and ask for a membership fee. It was money that many households simply didn’t have. He noted that the first attempt at forming the co-op failed because the start-up funds weren’t there. But by working together and staying focused on the goal, the community accomplished the mission of energizing homes, farms, schools and businesses.

“Friends and families in the Clay County area pulled together and found a way to improve the quality of life for all,” Larson said. “The result is that today we provide power to water districts, banks, grocery stores, elevators, hotels, ag supply stores and more. Electricity is the life blood that makes our local economy run. That’s why our history is so important – it shows the possibilities of what can be done. It’s a road map for achieving what some think is impossible. That’s a message we can all learn from and has no expiration date.”

Larson said that by being attentive to the legacy of electric cooperatives, members of the younger generation can make a real difference in the future of the country.

Central Electric Cooperative's "Drive-Through" Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

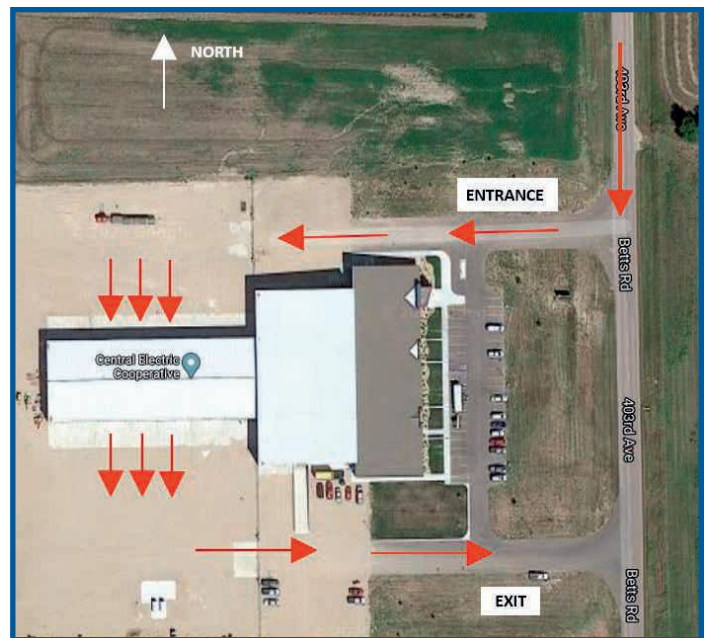
4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Main Office Warehouse
25487 403rd Avenue, Mitchell, SD
Interstate 90 Exit 325, turn south, drive 1/2 mile

"DRIVE THROUGH" INSTRUCTIONS

Members can come anytime within the listed timeframe. Upon arrival, members will enter the north driveway of the facilities. From there, members will be directed through the gate and into the warehouse. Members will present their mailed notice and receive a copy of the previous meeting minutes, cooperative financials, and voting ballot.

As members pull through the building, they will drop off their "checked" ballot with the teller. Members then exit from the south side of the facilities. There will be no meal or formal presentation.



AGENDA ITEMS

- Approval of Previous Annual Meeting Minutes
- Distribution of Ballots for Bylaws Amendments Vote & Other Items
- Determination of Quorum
- Announcement of Ballot Results

DOOR PRIZE

- **\$30 Energy Credit.** Each registered member will have a \$30 credit automatically applied to their account.
- **Grand Prize.** All registered members will be entered to win a \$100 energy credit.

SAMPLE BALLOT:

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
OFFICIAL 2020 ANNUAL MEETING VOTING BALLOT
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Vote either "yes" if you approve or "no" if you disapprove by marking an "X" in the appropriate boxes below.

1. Approval to waive reading of the Notice of Meeting and Certificate of Mailing.

Yes

No

2. Approval to waive reading of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.

Yes

No

Place an X in the square opposite your vote regarding whether or not the proposed amendments and revisions to the Bylaws of Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. should be adopted.

A "yes" vote approves the proposed amendments and revisions and repeals the existing Bylaws regarding the same subject matter.

A "no" vote rejects the proposed amendments and revisions in favor of the existing Bylaws.

Yes

No

The previous meeting minutes were published in the April 2020 issue of Cooperative Connections which served as the 2020 Annual Report. They can also be viewed at www.centralec.coop or requested from our office.

The proposed bylaw amendments are explained in an insert included in this issue.

Video Report

Go online to view a special edition 2019 cooperative video report.



Board President Duane Wolbrink and General Manager Ken Schlimgen prepared a video report for the membership regarding 2019 cooperative business.

To view the video, visit our website at www.centralec.coop.

To request a printed copy of the report, please contact our office at 800-477-2892, 605-996-7516 or cec@centralec.coop.

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

September 24-26

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 25-27

Coal Springs Threshing Bee Featuring Massey Harris Tractors, Meadow, SD 605-788-2229

September 26

Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival, 526 Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

September 26

Chamberlain/Oacoma Harvest Festival, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-4416

September 26-27

Menno Pioneer Power Show, 616 N Fifth Street, Menno, SD

September 26

Wheelin' to Wall, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD

October 2-3

First United Methodist Church Rummage Sale, 629 Kansas City St, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-4294

October 2-3

Oktoberfest, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

October 3

Cruiser Car Show & Street Fair, Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

October 3

Cowboys, Cowgirls and Cowcatchers Soiree, 6 p.m., South Dakota State Railroad Museum, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9000



Sept. 26
Wheelin' to Wall, Wall, SD,

October 3-4

Marshall Area Gun Show, Red Baron Arena, 1651 Victory Dr., Marshall, MN, 507-401-6227

October 3-4

Harvest Festival, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

October 3-18

Pumpkin Festival, Canton, SD, 605-987-5171

October 10

Annual Fall Festival, 4-6 p.m., Fairburn United Methodist Church, Fairburn, SD 605-255-4329

October 10

Groton's 5th Annual Pumpkin Fest, Groton City Park, Groton, SD, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch Served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

October 10-11

Pumpkin Festival, 27249 SD Hwy 115, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

October 24

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 29-30

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

October 31-November 1

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

November 7

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November 7

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to Register Your Team

November 14

Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 21-22

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S Washington Street, Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

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.