

COOPERATIVES

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

2025 Annual Meeting



CENTRAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Ken Schlimgen, General Manager

Welcome! Thank you for attending Central Electric's 25th Annual Meeting to learn about happenings at your electric cooperative.

Representing you on the Board of Directors are local members elected by you, the member-owners. They meet monthly to review co-op operations, and they are often required to attend outside meetings and trainings to stay informed and make sound decisions.

Our mission is to provide reliable energy and services with a commitment to safety and member satisfaction. I want to thank our employees and board members for all they do to help make our cooperative successful. Continue reading to learn about our 2024 performance and upcoming projects.

Board of Directors



Duane Wolbrink
President
District 1 Director
Aurora County



Bradee Pazour
District 2 Director
Brule County



Donita Loudner
District 3 Director
Buffalo County



Jeff Gustafson
District 4 Director
Davison County



Mark Hofer
Secretary
District 5 Director
Hanson County



Mark Reindl
Treasurer
District 6 Director
Jerauld County



Bob Banks
District 7 Director
Miner County



Todd Van Walleghen
Vice President
District 8 Director
Sanborn County



Merl Bechen
Director-At-Large



Annual Meeting Agenda

5:30-6:45 p.m.

Registration

Three-Meat Buffet by Central Catering

Educational Displays

Recognition of Special Guests

6:45-7:30 p.m.

Call to Order

National Anthem

Invocation

Business Meeting

Determination of Quorum

Youth Prize Drawings

(Must be present at time of drawing to win)

Proof of Due Notice or Waiver

Approval of Order of Business

Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

President's Report

General Manager's Report

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

Meet The Team At Central Electric Cooperative



Brandon Auch
Appliance Repair Technician



Andrew Baier
Materials/Plant Supervisor



Jesse Baker
Kimball Area Foreman



Chandler Bakley
Apprentice Lineworker
Mitchell Crew



Ryan Bigge
Journeyman Electrician



Kyle Boehmer
Journeyman Electrician



DeEtte Bohr
Accounting & Customer
Service Supervisor



Brian Bultje
Manager of Operations



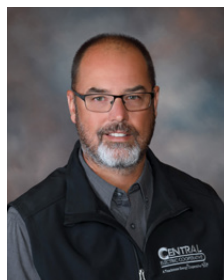
Dusty Cole
Journeyman Lineworker
Mitchell Crew



Evan Davis
Materials Coordinator



Lincoln Feistner
Sales & Project Manager



Gene Galkowski
Wessington Springs
Area Foreman



Heather Gales
Administrative Assistant



Dave Henkel
Metering & Utility
Technician



Kevin Johnson
Journeyman Electrician



Kelly Kidwiler
IT Systems Coordinator



Paul Koch
Journeyman Lineworker
Plankinton Crew



Daniel Koupal
Apprentice Lineworker
Kimball Crew



Davis Mathison
Journeyman Lineworker
Howard Crew



Tara Miller
Manager of
Communications



Landon Laible
Howard Area Foreman



DuWayne Moore
Journeyman Lineworker
Kimball Crew



Ryan Mueller
IT Systems Manager



Tim Olinger
Journeyman Lineworker
Mitchell Crew

Meet The Team At Central Electric Cooperative



Chase Phillips
Journeyman Lineworker
Mitchell Crew



Joseph Poppens
Journeyman Lineworker
Mitchell Crew



Aaron Punt
Lead HVAC Technician



Jon Reichert
Plankinton Area Foreman



Cody Riggs
Journeyman Lineworker
Mitchell Crew



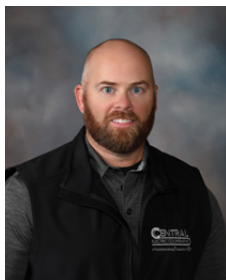
Rylee Riggs
HVAC Technician/Installer



Dusty Roskens
Line Superintendent



Tony Roth
Mitchell Area Foreman



Craig Sealey
Journeyman Lineworker
Wessington Springs Crew



Patrick Soukup
Manager of Member
Services & Marketing



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager



Gary Trisco
Journeyman Lineworker
Plankinton Crew



Norton Truman
Journeyman Lineworker
Kimball Crew



Dean Uher
Manager of Finance &
Administration



Rodney Weber
Journeyman Electrician



Dustin Weier
Staking Technician



Tanner Wenz
HVAC Technician/Installer



Heather Wiczorek
Customer Service Rep.



Lindsey Wilson
Customer Service Rep.



Congratulations to Howard Area Foreman Tim Neises (left) and Howard Lineworker Al Spader (right) on their retirements in early 2025. Tim had 45 years of service and Al had 37 years of service.

Past & Present Directors

When rural electric cooperatives first brought power to our service area, it took local people working together with a common goal to make it happen. Many of those early pioneers served on the board of directors of their member-owned cooperative.

Serving on the cooperative board of directors requires a great deal of time and dedication. We thank these past and present board members for all they have done to help make our cooperative successful throughout the decades.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Robert Ruml	1964-2000	Ted Petrak	1999-2000
Keith Kleppin	1969-2000	Donita Loudner	2002-2007; 2017-Present
Gerald Miller	1979-2003	Butch Morrison	2003-2021
Arlan Feistner	1983-2010	Bernetta Burghardt	2004-2022
Adolf Zoss	1987-2000	David Gaulke	2008-2017
Mark Hofer	1991-Present	Todd VanWalleghen	2010-2025
Michael Johnson	1992-2000	Mark Reindl	2010-Present
James Johnson	1992-2002	Roger Campbell	2014-2023
Ron Uttecht	1992-2010	Jeff Gustafson	2021-Present
Lyle Pawlowski	1994-2001	Merl Bechen	2021-Present
Duane Wolbrink	1995-Present	Robert Banks	2022-Present
James Headley	1996-2021	Bradee Pazour	2023-Present
Roger Mentzer	1997-2014		
Janelle Janish	1998-2000		

Intercounty Electric

Benjamin J. Putnam	1946-1955	Robert Ruml	1964-2000
Charles E. Jones	1946-1953	Virgil Heinz	1965-1986
Ralph S. Gulberg	1946-1952	John Robley	1965-1979
G.E. Davis	1946-1954	Norman Holmes	1966-1968
Matt Schroeder	1946-1964	Everett Pitts	1967-1975
Ralph Dennis	1946-1966	Delbert Bender	1969-1986
Otto Buttemeier	1946-1953 & 1961-1969	Lawrence McElvain	1970-1978
Charles Bamsey	1946-1956	Morris Pommer	1976-1981
Clayton Cox	1946-1965	John Bruner	1977-1999
George Pierson	1953-1976	Vernon Berg	1977-1991
Lawrence Schneider	1954-1961	Gerald Miller	1979-2003
George Dodd	1954-1959	Roger Hill	1980-1991
Roy Hamm	1955-1963	Rapahel Jarding	1982-1999
S. Douglas Murphy	1956-1976	Daniel Pierson	1986-1991
Gale Hall	1957-1960	Adolf Zoss	1987-2000
Russell Tilberg	1960-1964	Mark Hofer	1991-Present
Robert Shwader	1962-1997	James Johnson	1992-2002
		Ron Uttecht	1992-2010

Tri-County Electric

Rangvald Sveningson	1947-1969	Roy Bergner	1966-1983
Walter E. Olson	1947-1953	Keith Kleppin	1969-2000
Harry E. Nickles	1947-1966	Melvin Olson	1970-1978
Buford Bevier	1947-1952	Edward Steichen	1979-1993
Hanley J. Scott	1947-1964	Arlan Feistner	1983-2010
Tunis Klein	1947-1960	Ernest Geppert	1986-1997
H.L. Willrodt	1947-1949	Edmund Hanten	1988-1994
Adolph Brchan	1947-1960	Robert Young	1988-1996
R.V. Lloyd	1947-1964	LaRoy Feltman	1984-1998
H.B. Willrodt	1950-1965	Michael Johnson	1992-2000
Elmer Scheel	1953-1964	Gordon Harris	1993-1995
Alvin Barber	1954-1968	Lyle Pawlowski	1994-2001
Robert Kristensen	1961-1987	Duane Wolbrink	1995-Present
William Larsen	1961-1987	James Headley	1996-2021
Norman Thompson	1965-1991	Roger Mentzer	1997-2014
Calvin Berg	1965-1982	Janelle Janish	1998-2000
Robert Moline	1965-1985	Ted Petrak	1999-2000
Larry Prangley	1966-1992		

Your Cooperative At a Glance

Cooperative Statistics

DESCRIPTION	2024	2023
Members	5,002	4,988
Meters	7,373	7,322
Total Miles of Line	4,514	4,480
Miles of Underground Line	1,413	1,327
Miles of Overhead Line	3,101	3,153
Meters Per Mile of Line	1.63	1.63
Energy Sold in Kilowatt Hours (KWh)	347,854,065 KWh	344,166,832 KWh
Average Residential Energy Usage	1,668 KWh	1,760 KWh
Central Prairie Solar Output	15,013 KWh	15,753 KWh
Full-Time Employees	43	44

Central Electric’s Mission

Our mission is to provide reliable energy and services with a commitment to safety and member satisfaction. This outstanding team works diligently to help the cooperative achieve that mission. Thanks for your support.





Dean Uher, Manager of Finance & Administration

2024 Department Highlights

- Customer Service, IT, metering, and warehouse teams had a successful year
- Operating margins increased from 2023
- Rates were adjusted to cover rising operations and power costs

BALANCE SHEET	2024	2023
ASSETS - What we have		
Lines, Office Bldg and Operational Equipment	\$ 113,099,742	\$ 106,130,028
Less Depreciation	29,498,976	27,592,692
Total Electric Plant Less Depreciation	83,600,766	78,537,336
Cash and Investments:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,999,911	4,071,373
Investment (Associated Organizations)	25,731,721	24,900,536
Investments (Other)	133,757	148,872
Total Cash Investments	29,865,389	29,120,781
Accounts Receivable	3,589,370	3,361,898
Materials and Supplies	7,324,695	6,265,419
Prepaid Insurance	201,295	190,832
Other Current and Accrued Assets	6,600	6,600
Deferred Debits	1,581,185	1,439,070
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 126,169,300	\$ 118,921,936
LIABILITIES - What we owe		
Loans Payable to RUS & CFC	\$ 70,069,788	\$ 63,359,498
Accounts Payable	2,472,224	3,165,504
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,443,444	1,336,664
Deferred Credits and Regulatory Liabilities	214,140	1,251,225
Consumer Deposits	204,061	190,804
TOTAL AMOUNT OWED	\$ 74,403,657	\$ 69,303,695
MEMBER EQUITY - What's left after liabilities		
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	\$ 51,765,643	\$ 49,618,241
TOTAL EQUITIES	\$ 51,765,643	\$ 49,618,241
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 126,169,300	\$ 118,921,936



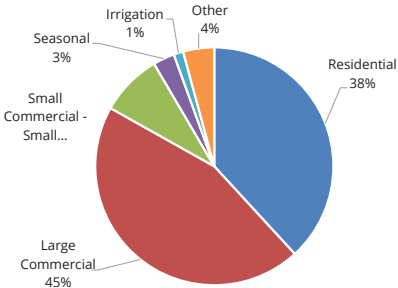
OPERATING STATEMENT	2024	2023
REVENUES - What the cooperative takes in		
Revenue from the Sales of Electricity, Wheeling/Fees	\$ 38,069,932	\$ 35,385,449
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 38,069,932	\$ 35,385,449

EXPENSES - What the cooperative spends		
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 24,291,527	\$ 23,260,671
Distribution-Operations Expense	1,282,872	1,391,341
Distribution-Maintenance Expense	2,161,640	2,002,607
Consumer Accounting and Collecting Expense	465,130	392,569
Consumer Service and Information Expense	517,310	501,526
Sales Expense	88,370	119,604
Administrative and General Expense	2,076,670	1,964,050
Depreciation Expense	2,891,134	2,670,338
Tax Expense	557,054	551,048
Interest Expense	2,099,673	1,696,287
Other Deductions	27,381	34,026
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 36,458,761	\$ 34,584,067

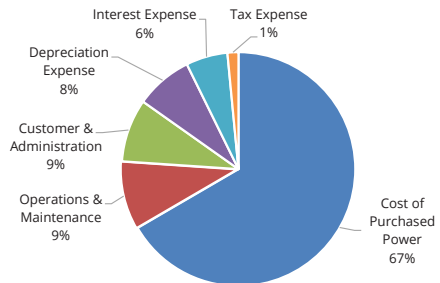
MARGINS - What's left after expenses		
Patronage Capital and Operating Margins	* \$ 1,611,171	\$ 801,382
Non-Operating Margins	198,213	153,934
Generation and Transmission and Other Capital Credits	1,670,972	2,062,474
PATRONAGE CAPITAL OR MARGINS	\$ 3,480,356	\$ 3,017,790

*Operating Margins included \$1,000,000 in deferred revenue in 2024.

2024 REVENUE



2024 EXPENSES





Brian Bultje, Manager of Operations

2024 Department Highlights

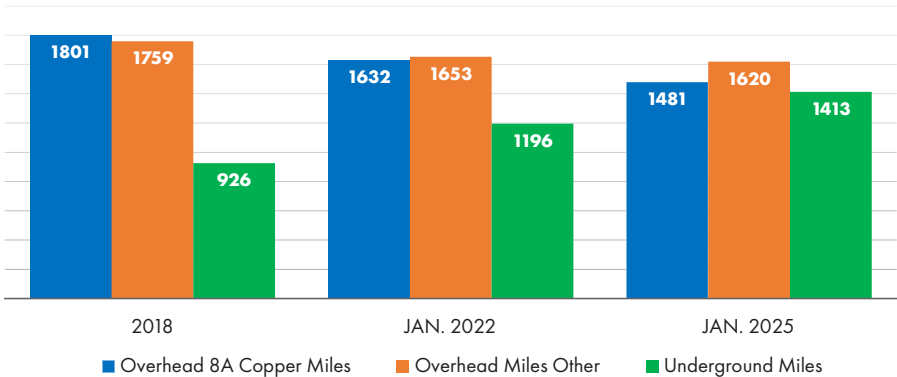


- 4514 total miles of line; 3101 overhead, 1413 underground
- 77 miles of new underground line constructed
- 6.8 miles of new single-phase overhead line constructed
- 74 new services installed
- 133 service upgrades completed
- Cost to provide reliable power continues to climb (table below)
- Progress made on accelerated line replacement (graph below)

Equipment & Material Inflation

ITEM DESCRIPTION	2020 PRICE	2025 PRICE	INCREASE
Bucket Truck	\$ 225,065	\$ 260,539	16%
Digger Truck	\$ 279,383	\$ 342,232	22%
Primary Overhead Wire Per Foot	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.47	104%
Avg. Underground Cable Per Foot	\$ 1.89	\$ 3.71	96%
Three-Phase Underground Box	\$ 1032	\$ 1355	31%
Meter Pedestal	\$ 923	\$ 1335	45%
25KVA Underground Transformer	\$ 1567	\$ 2001	28%
Single-Phase Pole Installed	\$ 757	\$ 1103	46%
Three-Phase Pole Installed	\$ 1285	\$ 1703	33%

Accelerated Line Replacement Project





Lincoln Feistner, Sales & Project Manager

2024 Department Highlights

- 1,500 service requests performed
- More than \$2,000,000 in gross revenue:
 - HVAC revenue \$790,000
 - Wiring revenue \$743,000
 - Appliance and water heater revenue \$313,000
 - Operations revenue \$81,000
 - Security light revenue \$80,000

Services Offered

- Appliance sales & service featuring quality brands
- Marathon water heaters with limited lifetime warranty
- Home heating & cooling solutions
- Agricultural wiring, residential wiring & generators



Marathon®

Appliances
Water Heaters
Heating & Cooling
Electrical Wiring



Call 605-996-7516 for a free estimate.



Patrick Soukup, Manager of Member Services & Marketing

Rebates Available To Members

Electric Heating Equipment Rebate

Members may be eligible for a \$600 rebate for the installation of an electric heat pump system or \$300 for a ductless system. The structure must receive electric service from the cooperative. Low-interest loans are also available for the installation of electric heating equipment.

Water Heater Rebates

Members could receive a rebate of \$9 per gallon of capacity, provided the water heater meets specified requirements. The water heater must have at least 50 gallons of capacity, a minimum 10-year warranty and it must be hooked up to the cooperative's load management system.

Third-Party Irrigation/Grain Bin Dryer Management Systems

Members may be eligible for a \$750 rebate for a third-party managed irrigation or grain drying system. The equipment must meet specified requirements and it must be hooked up to the cooperative's load management system.



Members are eligible for the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Program. Inquire for details.

Basin Electric Bus Tour

July 14-16, 2026

Talk to Patrick Soukup for more information.



Call Before Installing Wind, Solar, Battery Storage

We strongly recommend that you call Central Electric before committing to a wind, solar or battery project. We want to provide you with the most current information and requirements for interconnecting your system to ours. It's also important to review the compensation for electric energy that is sold back to the cooperative. You can find this information on our website under the distributed energy section; however, we encourage an in-person meeting to review the process to help prevent expensive mistakes. We look forward to working with you before you start a distributed energy project.



Tara Miller, Manager of Communications

Cooperative News

Each month, Central Electric sends you the latest news and happenings through the Cooperative Connections Magazine. The statewide publication has eight local pages, including a message from the general manager, board summary, financial reports, construction updates, youth initiatives and more.

Central Electric's Cooperative Connections Magazine was recently recognized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) with the distinguished Spotlight on Excellence Gold Award for best publication.

If you have a story idea, let us know. Please continue to send local events for the back cover calendar two months in advance to cec@centralec.coop.



Member Discounts

Members of Central Electric have access to exclusive discounts with the Co-op Connections® Card. Simply present your Co-op Connections Card or the Connections phone app at participating retailers to receive your discount.

To view a list of retailers and learn more about the program, visit our website at www.centralec.coop and click on Member Programs, or call Tara Miller at 1-800-477-2892.

Co-ops in the Classroom

Co-ops in the Classroom is a program offered by Central Electric Cooperative and its wholesale power provider, East River Electric Power Cooperative. Presentations are offered to schools across the service area.

Through the program, students learn the basics about co-ops, energy use and electrical safety. Thanks for once again allowing us into your classrooms to shock and enlighten area students.



Operation Round-Up

In 2024, Central Electric members and employees gave \$31,600 to local projects through Operation Round-Up. This is a voluntary program in which members round their monthly electric bill up to the next dollar.

Operation Round-Up applications are reviewed twice each year. Organizations that have received funding in recent years include non-profit groups, senior citizen groups, youth clubs, food pantries, fire departments, cemeteries, daycares and municipalities.

Since 2016, approximately \$225,000 has been awarded to support local projects.

Board of Trustees



Julie Dykstra
Aurora County Trustee



Clarissa Glaus
Brule County Trustee



Yvette Isburg
Buffalo County Trustee



Steve Weisz
Davison County Trustee



LeAnn Moe
Hanson County Trustee



Amber Kolousek
Jerauld County Trustee



Tami Moore
Miner County Trustee



Dawna Van Overschelde
Sanborn County Trustee



Merl Bechen
Board of Directors Trustee

Operation Round-Up 2024 Grant Recipients

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	GRANT
Alexandria American Legion	Military Grave Markers	\$1,000
City of Emery	Community Center Tables	\$1,000
City of Kimball	Park Improvements	\$1,000
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Homeless Shelter	Shelter Supplies	\$2,000
Crow Creek Sioux Ambulance	Medical Cabinet Supplies	\$1,300
Dakota Indian Foundation	MakatoH Horse Ride	\$2,000
Dunham Historical Society	Facility Improvements	\$1,000
Ethan Rural Fire Protection District	Safety Equipment	\$2,000
Friends of Sanborn County 4-H	Tables and Chairs	\$1,000
Gann Valley Abernathy Post 16	Military Grave Markers	\$1,000
Hearts and Hammers of S.D.	Housing Improvements	\$1,000
Helping Ends Meet Food Program	Youth Nutrition Supplies	\$1,500
Howard School District	Preschool Supplies	\$1,000
Immanuel Cemetery Association	Cemetery Improvements	\$500
J&B 4-H Shooting Sports	Equipment and Supplies	\$1,000
Letcher Community Development	Lake Improvements	\$1,000
Love Feast of Mitchell	Nutrition Program	\$1,000
Miner County Historical Society	Kitchen Improvements	\$1,500
Plankinton Ambulance Association	Medical Supplies	\$1,000
Quilting for Others	Quilting Supplies	\$500
St. Peter's Cemetery of Farmer	Cemetery Improvements	\$2,300
The Salvation Army	Utility Bill Assistance	\$1,500
Tokata Youth Center	Outdoor Activity Space	\$2,000
Town & Country Fire Department	Training Equipment	\$1,000
Trinity Cemetery	Cemetery Improvements	\$1,000
White Lake Cemetery	Cemetery Improvements	\$500

Youth Programs & Scholarships

National Rural Electric Youth Tour Trip

Central Electric Cooperative's National Rural Electric Youth Tour representatives were Harbor Blindauer of Mitchell, daughter of Joe and Cathy Blindauer; Rosie Choc of Plankinton, daughter of Pablo and Rosa Choc; Raniyah Dakam of Pukwana, daughter of Dakam and Rabia Dakam; and Mercedes Jones of Alpena, daughter of Jon and Katie Jones.

The annual trip, coordinated by the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), gives students an up-close look at the nation's capital to learn how government works.

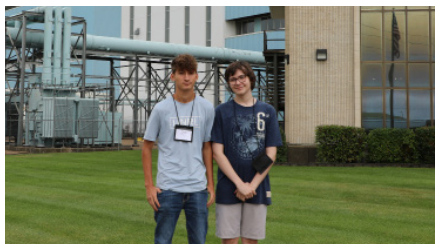


Left to right: Rosie Choc, Harbor Blindauer, Mercedes Jones and Raniyah Dakam attended the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Basin Electric Youth Excursion Trip

Sixteen high school students from communities across South Dakota embarked on a three-day trip to North Dakota to go behind the scenes to learn about energy generation.

Central Electric sent Carson Nicholson (left) of Hanson High School and Matthew Greenway (right) of Mitchell High School on the educational trip.



Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week

Each year, East River Electric and its member systems partner with Dakota News Now to recognize outstanding students through the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week program.

Lauren Hofer (left) of Mitchell High School and Carson Ferry (right) of Hanson High School, were the 2024-2025 school year honorees.

Teachers and administrators can visit centralec.coop/scholar-week to learn more.



Scholarship Recipients



Basin Electric Power
Cooperative Scholar
Cadence Jarding
Hanson H.S.



Basin Electric Employee
Dependent Scholar
Ali Wieczorek
Corsica-Stickney H.S.



Jay Headley
Memorial Scholar
Shayda Ness
Kimball H.S.



District 1 Aurora
County Scholar
Drifin Mulder
Corsica-Stickney H.S.



District 1 Aurora
County Scholar
Tate Tolsma
Corsica-Stickney H.S.



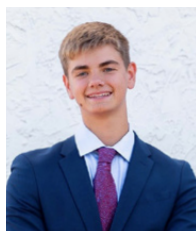
District 4 Davison
County Scholar
Hunter Dean
Ethan H.S.



District 4 Davison
County Scholar
Cole Hincley
Ethan H.S.



District 5 Hanson
County Scholar
Amelia Gerlach
Mitchell H.S.



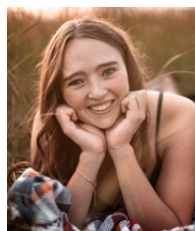
District 5 Hanson
County Scholar
Sutton Thompson
Mitchell H.S.



District 6 Jerauld
County Scholar
Taylor Braun
Wess. Springs H.S.



District 7 Miner
County Scholar
Hanna Dold
Howard H.S.



District 7 Miner
County Scholar
Kenya Kizer
Howard H.S.



District 8 Sanborn
County Scholar
Avarie Prien
Hanson H.S.



District 8 Sanborn
County Scholar
Tatiana Roberts
Woonsocket H.S.



Mitchell Technical
College Scholar
Zachary Baker
Mount Vernon



Mitchell Technical
College Scholar
Brendan Thompson
Pukwana



COOPERATIVES

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Thanks for attending your Annual Meeting!
Central Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity
employer, provider, and lender.