



## Cooperative Connections



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

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**Rounding Up  
for a Cause**

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## Find Your Account #

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before March 4 and you will receive an \$90 credit on your next month's billing. If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$100 in the next issue.

## IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

**1ST:** Check the fuses or breakers in your home or building in which you do not have power.

**2ND:** Check meter for display and readings. If the meter is blank, you are probably experiencing an outage and need to call our office immediately.

**3RD:** If your meter has a display, check your breaker below your meter on the yard pole.

**4TH:** Please contact your neighbor to see if they are experiencing a power outage because it would be helpful to know if other members in the area are also out of power.

**5TH:** Make sure you have the name the bill is in, the meter number and/or the account number.

**6TH:** Call Lacreek Electric at 605-685-6581 or if you are calling long distance dial 1-800-655-9324.

**Office Hours: 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MDT • Open over noon hour. Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays**

## Win a Trip to Washington, D.C.

Each June, high school students travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. During the week, they learn about government, cooperative philosophy and rural electric cooperatives. The students are selected and sponsored by their local electric cooperatives. Arrangements for the South Dakota students are coordinated by the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, (SDREA).

Among the sites that will be toured are: The Lincoln Memorial, the National Cathedral, the White House, the Air and Space Museum, the Washington Monument, the U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, the Kennedy Center, the Metro, Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Smithsonian, the Iwo Jima Statue, the National Archives, the U.S. Supreme Court, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Mount Vernon.

**Who is eligible?** All high school sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Lacreek Electric are eligible to enter the contest.

**What does it cost?** The tour is funded by the local rural electric cooperatives which participate in the week-long event. The funding for the tour provides for each participant's transportation, room and board, entertainment and sight seeing. Students are required to provide their own personal spending money (snacks and souvenirs).

**When is it held?** The week-long trip will be held June 13 through June 20, 2019. Participants will meet for an orientation meeting on June 13. The group will fly to Washington, D.C., on June 14 and return to South Dakota on June 20.

**How do I qualify?** All applicants must fill out a data sheet and take an open book test on the history and organization of rural electrification. Applications are available at Lacreek's office in Martin, via mail at Lacreek Electric, PO Box 220 Martin, SD 57551 or online at [www.lacreek.com](http://www.lacreek.com), download the application and return it to Lacreek's office. **The deadline for entries is Friday, March 1.**

## TEENS: Travel to N.D.

This summer, Lacreek Electric will sponsor two area students for the South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion. This four-day event will be headquartered in Bismarck, N.D.

**WHO is eligible?** All 14- to 16-year old students whose parents or guardians are members of Lacreek Electric.

**WHAT does it cost?** The trip is funded by Lacreek Electric. Funding for the trip provides for each participant's transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sight-seeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal shopping money.

**WHEN is it held?** The excursion will be held July 22-25, 2019. Participants will be picked up in the morning on July 22 and arrive back home late afternoon on July 25. Commercial buses will be used for transportation.

**HOW do I qualify?** Contact Lacreek Electric or fill out the application form online at [www.lacreek.com](http://www.lacreek.com) and return it to Lacreek's office for a random drawing.

Application forms must be filled out and in the Lacreek Electric office by April 5, 2019.



# Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

## Board of Directors

Tom Schlack – President  
 Jerry Sharp – Vice President  
 Troy Kuxhaus – Secretary  
 Clarence Allen – Treasurer  
 Melvin Cummings – Brent Ireland –  
 Neal Livermont – Dean O’Neill –  
 Wade Risse – Marion Schultz –  
 Connie Whirlwind Horse –  
 Donovan Young Man

## Management Staff

Vacant – General Manager  
 Sherry Bakley – Work Order and Billing  
 Manager  
 Josh Fanning – Member Services  
 and Procurement Manager  
 Anna Haynes – Finance and  
 Benefits Manager  
 Mike Pisha – Operations Manager  
 Stacey Robinson – Member Service  
 Representative Manager and Editor

## Office Personnel

Tracie Hahn – Accountant II  
 Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist  
 Kasi Harris – Benefits Specialist  
 Terri Gregg – Billing Specialist  
 Jessica Cook – Billing Specialist  
 Lisa Jensen –  
 Member Service Representative  
 Ashley Turgeon –  
 Member Service Representative

## Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley  
 Journeyman Linemen:  
 Dane Claussen – Ryan Pettit  
 Aaron Risse – Lonny Lesmeister  
 Apprentice Linemen:  
 Aarin Ainsworth – Jordon Bakley –  
 Tyler Brown – Alex Christensen –  
 Garrett Metzinger – Brad Hahn –  
 Trace Scott  
 Glenn Smith – Maintenance Man  
 Cody Larson – Warehouse Man

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

This publication is mailed the 15th of the month prior to the issue date. Layout is at least three weeks prior to mailing. LACREEK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551 for its members. Families subscribe to Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Martin, SD and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551; telephone (605) 685-6581; fax (605) 685-6957

## Read Your Heat Meter

Please read your heat meter to receive your heat credit during the heat season which is October through April.

If you would like to have an office-read heat meter, please contact our office at 605-685-6581.

A \$25 charge is required to install this type of meter.



## Director Petitions Available

Director petitions can be picked up beginning Feb. 25, 2019, from persons interested in running for Lacreek Electric’s board of directors.

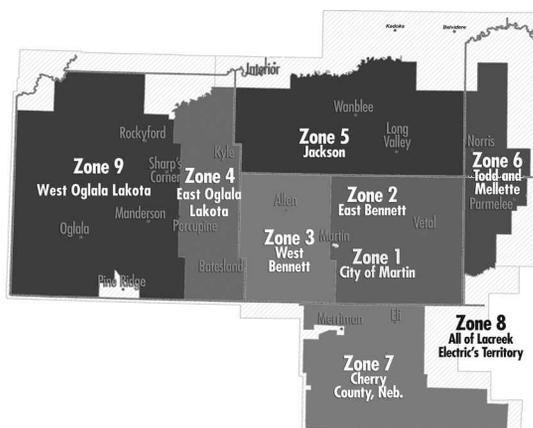
The election will be held at the annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the American Legion Auditorium in Martin, S.D.

Anyone interested in being a candidate for Lacreek Electric’s board of directors who live in Zone 1, City of Martin; Zone 3, West Bennett County; Zone 4, East Oglala Lakota County; Zone 5, Jackson County; and Zone 8, At Large should stop by the office to obtain a petition. The directors currently serving these zones are: open position, Zone 1; Troy Kuxhaus, Zone 3; Connie Whirlwind Horse, Zone 4; Neal Livermont, Zone 5; and Wade Risse, Zone 8.

Candidates must live in the zone they plan to represent. The petitions must be signed by at least 15 members living in the zone the candidate is running in. All positions are for three-year terms on the board.

Petitions must be filed with the board secretary no later than March 25, 2019.

Lacreek’s board of directors currently consists of 13 members representing nine zones. If you choose to run for a board of director for a non-profit organization such as Lacreek Electric, you have inherently accepted fundamental responsibilities in addition to a commitment of time and accountability to the cooperative on behalf of the members it serves, keeping in mind, the board has ultimate legal responsibility for the cooperative.



A director must act in good faith, in the best interest of Lacreek Electric. A director possesses a fiduciary duty to Lacreek Electric and its members. A director has accountability for the assets and resources of the cooperative. They should never use their position on the board to advance their own private interests. A director should concentrate on the goals and vision of Lacreek Electric.

## 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](http://www.acadiainsurance.com)

## Ladder Safety and How It Affects Everyone

THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

+700

**ladder injuries** every day\*

113

**deaths** caused by falls each year\*

6-10 ft.

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](http://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.

Spring is Coming

# Are Electric Mowers for You?



**Pat Keegan**

Collaborative Efficiency

**Dear Pat:** I'm seeing a lot of ads lately for electric lawn mowers. I want to save money and help the environment, but from what I've heard, a lot of electric mowers can be underpowered and the cordless ones lose their battery charge too quickly. Do you think it's worth making the switch from a gas mower to an electric mower? – Eric

**Dear Eric:** Until recently, corded and cordless electric mowers tended to be underpowered. For cordless mowers, this fact was made worse by their sub-par battery life.

But today, with those problems largely solved, the best electric mowers have the power and battery life to keep pace with a gas mower, depending on the size of your lawn.

A cordless, electric mower with a large 56-volt battery can run for about one hour. Plug-in electric mowers don't have this limitation, but using a long electrical cord can be challenging.

Quality electric mowers, especially the cordless, rechargeable ones, tend to cost twice as much as a new equivalent gas model. But you can recoup some of the expense with cheaper operating costs, since electricity is a less expensive fuel than gas and electric engines generally require less maintenance than gas engines.

Another important cost consideration is that rechargeable batteries typically need to be replaced after three to five years. The cost savings also depend on the size of your lot. A small lot uses less gas, so fuel cost savings are less significant.

You can save a significant amount of money on purchase price with a corded mower, if you don't mind the hassle of navigating around the cord.

There are additional benefits of electric mowers besides lower fuel and maintenance costs. Electric mowers are much quieter than gas mowers and they start instantly. Electric mowers produce less tailpipe emissions, but the overall environmental impact depends on how the electricity you're using (to charge the mower) is generated. The environmental benefits will be greater if the electricity is generated from renewable energy sources.

Given all these considerations, my advice is to weigh your priorities. If you are looking to buy new, have a small- to mid-size lot, prioritize environmental concerns and don't mind navigating a cord or recharging batteries, an electric mower could be the right choice for you.

If you don't mind the noise, maintenance and other hassles of a gas mower, have a large lot and prefer not to invest in the upfront purchase price, a gas mower may be a better option.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on mower options, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).



Unlike models from only a few years ago, many of today's electric mowers have the power and battery life to keep up with gas mowers.

There's also a third choice. If your goals are to save money and hassle while protecting the environment, you can minimize your need for a mower, or get rid of the need completely.

If you're willing to keep your lawn mowed regularly and don't mind breaking a sweat, consider a manual reel mower. Some models are more effective than you might think and they're far less expensive and require little maintenance or storage space.

The most dramatic step you could take is replacing your lawn completely, perhaps with water-efficient landscaping, a rock garden, a vegetable garden or even an artificial lawn. This could dramatically cut your water bill and the environmental impact of a lawn.

Any change you make, whether in mowing or landscaping, will require a little research. But it's great to know the option of an electric mower is more viable than ever!



## Thinking About An Electric Ride?

### Touchstone Energy® Cooperative Members May Qualify for Nissan Leaf® Rebate

Residents of South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, Nebraska and other states who are members of a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative may be eligible for a \$3,500 rebate on a new Nissan Leaf from one of nearly two dozen dealers in the region.

The rebate, when combined with up to \$7,500 in federal electric vehicle tax credits, could result in up to \$11,000 in savings for the purchaser.

The offer expires April 1, 2019. To get the incentive, obtain a two-page flyer from your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative and bring the flyer along with a copy of your monthly electric bill to your participating Nissan dealership.



NISSAN LEAF®  
World's Best-Selling 100% Electric Car

# Teachers Sought

Teachers throughout the Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana can earn two college credits through the Lignite Energy Council's Education Seminar June 10-13 at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, N.D.

Participants can receive credit from the University of North Dakota (teaching and learning), North Dakota State University (education) or Minot State University (science). Teachers who took the class when it was a one-credit course prior to 2009 can take it again if they need a refresher as there is lots of new information.

The seminar will provide teachers with the information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. In addition, the seminar covers lignite's economic impact on the region, as well as important environmental issues affecting the lignite industry. Since 1986, more than 3,300 teachers have attended the education seminar.



### Sponsors:

The teacher education seminar is sponsored by the Lignite Energy Council, in cooperation with Bismarck State College, The Center for Economic

Education at UND, NDSU and MSU.

### Speakers and Tours:

At the seminar, teachers hear presentations by educators, researchers and lignite industry representatives. One day is devoted to touring mining operations, reclamation sites and coal conversion facilities. Question and answer sessions in the classroom and on the tour give teachers the opportunity to find out what they need to know for their individual classroom needs.

### Professional Development Credit:

Two graduate professional development credits are available through the Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D., North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., or Minot State University, Minot, N.D. To receive the credits, teachers must attend all portions of the seminar and prepare lesson plans demonstrating how they will use the seminar information and materials in their classrooms.

### Materials Available:

Teachers attending the seminar will receive lecture outlines on each presentation, lesson plan examples, classroom exercises, coal and ash samples, audiovisual materials and information on the facilities toured. They also receive resource guides listing publications and audiovisual materials available for energy education.

### Logistics:

Free lodging is provided in a Bismarck State College dormitory (two people per room). Meals will be provided. Also, transportation will be provided by the Lignite Energy Council for the tour of a mine and power plant.

An online application for all teachers is available at <http://www.lignite.com/teachers>.



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](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

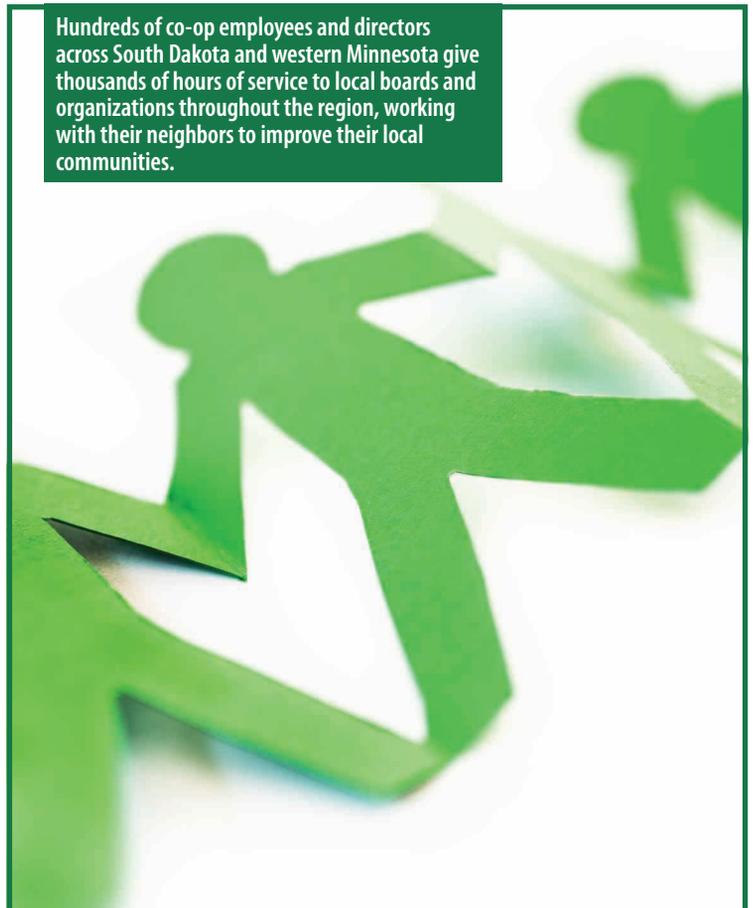
When cooperatives say they are committed to their communities, it's not just lip service. It's service rooted in fact.

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.

# Dec. 18, 2018, Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, South Dakota, Dec. 18, 2018, beginning at 1 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Schlack and the following directors were present: Clarence Allen, Troy Kuxhaus, Wade Risse, Jerry Sharp, Donovan Young Man, Dean O'Neill, Melvin Cummings, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Marion Schultz and Neal Livermont. Absent was Brent Ireland. Also present were General Manager Derek Sorley, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning, Finance and Benefits Manager Anna Haynes, Member Services Representative Manager Stacey Robinson, Work Order and Billing Manager Sherry Bakley and Vic Simmons General Manager from Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative.

Vic Simmons gave a presentation on the Annual Runoff; the Unregulated vs Regulated Flow; the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program Composite Rate Projection; on the Value of WAPA Allocations to Rushmore; provided graphs on the Generation Portfolio Basin Capacity vs Energy Supply; about the Basin Statement of Operations; about DGC and ongoing business at Rushmore.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the November minutes with corrections.

A motion was made seconded and carried to rescind the deferred revenue recognition in December 2018. This deferred revenue was included at the November board meeting in the motion to approve the 2019 rate increase. The deferred revenue will be revisited by the board at a later date.

The following additions were added to the agenda:

1. Transportation and Equipment Committee Meeting
2. Legislative Meeting
3. Plaque for years of service for E.R. Hicks presented to wife Dorothy at 2019 Annual Meeting

The Transportation and Equipment

Committee recommended to the Board to accept the low bid for a 2019 Ford F-350 XL as specified in quote with a Legend Bumper/Grill Guard replacement w/trade in. A motion was made, seconded and carried to purchase the recommended vehicle.

The Operating Report for October and the List of Disbursements and Investments for November were presented by Finance & Benefits Manager Anna Haynes and reviewed by the board. Derek informed the board that going forward Anna will be doing research on each rate class to determine rate increases for individual rate classes. 2501806701

Marion reported on the Legislative Banquet he attended.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the check audit committee's review of the list of November checks and disbursements. The January 2019 Check Audit Committee will be (Troy "chairman", Tom and Jerry).

Anna presented the November Analysis of Investments. The investments were reviewed by the board.

Anna presented Comparative and Operating Budget with Rate increase graphs.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the list of new members, attached hereto.

Sherry reported that the billing department is getting ready for year end; they continue to disconnect as weather permits; on closing work orders; the draw down should be here Dec. 19, and working on another draw down; on capital credit estates and working on write offs for February 2019.

Stacey reported that the front is no longer using the paging system which has made the office quieter; set up call forwarding for staff to have calls transferred when not in office so they don't miss a call; in the last two weeks the front has handled over 500 calls which does not include call transfers; that the energy program is up and running and we have received payments from the OST and RST LIEAP programs along with OST Elderly payments and the office participated in cookie day at the drop box locations.

Derek said during cookie day he received a call commending Finance & Benefits Manager Anna Haynes and Benefits Specialist Kasi Harris for going above and beyond taking cookies and calendars to the community members. They each received an "atta" girl award.

Mike reported on work in progress; that replaced the air compressor in truck #10; that he sent line crew to Pierre for a metering school and Oil Circuit Recloser testing will begin sometime in late January or February 2019.

The safety report was presented by Mike.

Josh reported on the pass creek wind project meeting he attended; that has been working on bidding out items that will be purchases in the first quarter 2019; has been helping Work Order and Billing Manager Sherry Bakley with work order close outs and Chandler Bakley will be helping during his Christmas break reorganizing the North Shop.

Donovan reported on the SDREA meeting he attended.

Tom reported on the NREA Meeting he attended

Tom reported on the Rushmore Electric Meeting he attended.

Tom and Marion reported on the Mid-West Annual Meeting they attended.

Derek reported on the Rushmore MAC meeting he attended; on the NREA annual meeting he attended; he apologized for not attending the Christmas party due to personal issues; about the Mid-West annual meeting he attended; on the Farm Bill that passed and how it will affect Lacreek moving forward and on upcoming events he will be attending.

Discussion was held on the NRECA annual meeting with Derek planning to attend with the board to notify Member Service Representative Manager Stacey Robinson no later than Friday, Dec. 21, on their plans to attend the Annual Meeting.

The staff was excused from the board meeting and the general manager and board went into executive session from 4:57 p.m.-5:27 p.m.

Next board meeting – Jan. 22, 2019, at 1 p.m.

## Non-discrimination Statement

Lacreek Electric Association is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

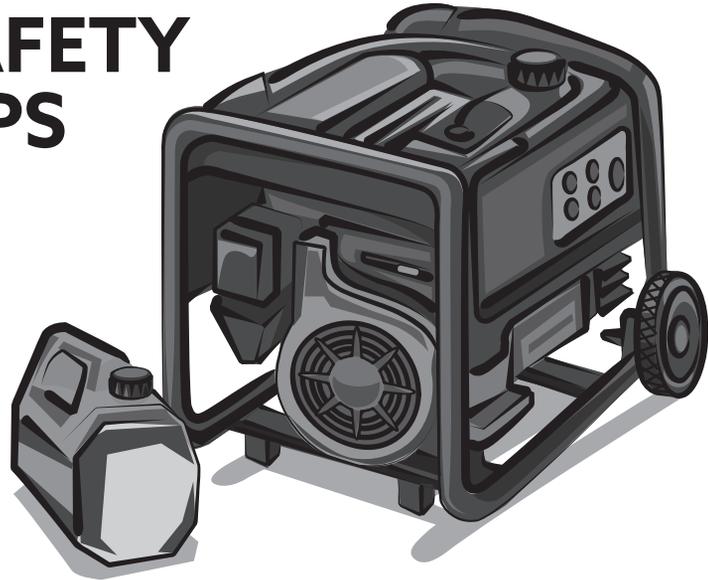
Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

## GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



**N**ever connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

### Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

### Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **deadly**.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first **before** connecting appliances.

*Source: SafeElectricity.org*

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](mailto: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.

# Fighting to Keep the Lights On

**Paul Wesslund**

NRECA

Did you know squirrels, lightning and trees have something in common? They can knock out your electricity.

Electric cooperatives work hard to keep your lights on all the time, but “you’re going to have power outages, and that’s just the way it is,” says Tony Thomas, senior principal engineer with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An electric utility’s basic job of keeping the power flowing 24/7 calls for maintaining a complex network of power plants, poles and wires. But it also means battling the unpredictable. Thomas cites the top three troublemakers to electric reliability as trees falling on power lines and other interferences from vegetation, lightning strikes and animals going about their daily routines, especially squirrels chewing on electrical equipment.

“Utilities do an awfully good job,” says Thomas. “But Mother Nature gets in the way sometimes.”

Humans contribute to power outages as well, with vandals deliberately damaging electrical equipment and drivers accidentally crashing into utility poles.

## Statistics say the lights are almost always on.

Numbers collected from electric utilities show that power in the United States is incredibly reliable. According to these figures, the percentage of time that the average American has electricity at the flip of a switch is 99.97... oh forget it, you get the idea. Thomas says what’s most important to know about those numbers is that they don’t change much.

“I don’t see big swings from year to year,” says Thomas. “If things are fairly consistent, that means the utility is operating about as efficiently as it can.”

But utilities still try to improve on that reliability. Among the techniques being used to foil critter catastrophes are snake



When it comes to electric reliability, the biggest challenge is maintaining and updating the massive machinery of the nation’s electric grid. More than 8,500 power plants generate electricity that is shipped through 200,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines.

barriers around substations, buzzard shields on transmission towers and mesh coverings on wood poles to protect them from woodpeckers.

For some of the other causes of outages like trees and lightning, there’s now an app for that.

Utilities operate extensive right-of-way programs to keep vegetation away from power lines, from clearing underbrush to publicity campaigns asking people not to plant trees where they can fall on power lines. These days, those efforts can be aided by digital software that forecasts the growth of trees and other plants so that utilities can prune branches before they cause a problem.

Other software tries to manage lightning by analyzing the age and wear on the utility’s equipment that minimizes the damage from lightning strikes so it can be

replaced before it fails.

Fighting storms and squirrels are two ways to keep the power on, but by far the biggest part of reliability comes from the decades of building, maintaining and updating the massive machinery of the nation’s electric grid. More than 8,500 power plants generate electricity that is shipped through 200,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Banks of substations and transformers step-down that voltage to send it to homes and businesses through 5.5 million miles of local distribution lines.

Keeping that network up and running calls for a lot of planning among utilities to anticipate how electricity will be used in the future. Part of that reliability planning has focused on protecting the electricity system from computer-based digital attacks.



Electric cooperatives' top priority of keeping power flowing 24/7 calls for maintaining a complex network of power plants, poles and wires. But it also requires preparing for the unpredictable. Electric co-ops are winning the reliability battles against the top three troublemakers: storms, squirrels and hackers.

## The never-ending job of cyber security

Bridgette Bourge is among those over-seeing how digital technology affects reliability for electric co-ops and their consumer-members. As director of government affairs for NRECA, she sees both the positives and the negatives to the latest internet-based, or cyber, technology.

“Cyber helps a lot on reliability because it gives us the ability to monitor and know everything right away,” she says. “But whenever you increase reliability through a technology, you do potentially open up vulnerabilities as well from the security angle.”

For any organization, including electric utilities, the benefits of the internet come infested with mischief makers. Bourge says it's routine for a company to receive tens of thousands of attempts each day to break into its computer network. Those “knocks” at the cyber door can come from individuals, countries and organizations, or from the army of automated “bots” roaming the internet worldwide, testing for weaknesses where a hacker could enter.

For a utility, a troublemaker inside the computer network could affect electric service, and that's why NRECA has organized a variety of cyber reliability programs.

Bourge says those cyber reliability programs aim to help protect against a range of threats, from broad attempts to shut down parts of the electric grid, to more focused efforts to corrupt pieces of software used by electric cooperatives.

**As community-based, member-led businesses, electric co-ops have a unique interest in protecting the reliability of the local community's energy supply.**

NRECA's cyber protection efforts include a national program of working closely with the nation's electric co-ops to share the techniques for protecting utility systems from internet invaders. NRECA also works closely with federal government cybersecurity groups in the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security.

NRECA is also part of a national program to create a cyber mutual assistance agreement. Much like how groups of line-

workers from an electric co-op travel to help restore power after a hurricane, these cyber agreements would be able to utilize teams of information technology experts in the case of a cyber incident.

“You can't solve cybersecurity,” says Bourge. “No matter what you do today, the bad guys are going to figure out a way around it tomorrow. You have to keep thinking about the next step.”

Bourge sees electric co-ops as well-placed to pay attention to cybersecurity. She says as community-based, member-led businesses, electric co-ops have a unique interest in protecting the reliability of the local community's energy supply.

“Electric cooperatives take cybersecurity very seriously,” says Bourge. “It's built into their DNA.”

*Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural*

*Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.*

**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 Boksasp 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.**