

Cooperative Connections



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2019 Workload Shows Need for Increased Revenue

Rate Increase for 2019



Ken Schlimgen

General Manager

Our 2019 work plan includes doubling the miles of power lines we normally replace in a years' time.

I'm writing my message on December 5th. Our crews have been fighting the frost and trying to complete our underground cable installations for the year. If the forecast for colder than normal temps holds true, we may be finished before we want to be.

Due to the strong financial position of your cooperative, the board approved the retirement of over \$1.1 million in capital credits. Central Electric's budget for capital credit retirement in 2018 is \$500,000. This year, Central Electric received unexpected capital credit retirements from Basin Electric Power Cooperative totaling over \$600,000 for members who received electric service in the years 2000 and 2001. The board approved passing these dollars directly to those members.

If you are an active member, your capital credit refund was applied as a credit to your most recent electric bill. Due to the larger than expected refund, some credits may be larger than the electric bill. Please look over your statement carefully before making payment. Non-active members will receive their capital credit payment with a check. I hope this helps make Christmas a little more enjoyable for our members.

The directors also approved the 2019 budget and work plan. The work plan and budget provide a road map for management and employees to follow. Our work plan includes doubling the miles of power lines we normally replace in a years' time.

If you recall my article in the September newsletter, Central Electric has over 2,000 miles of overhead conductor that was installed in the 1940's and 1950's. This conductor is approaching 70 years of age and is indicating the need to be replaced. We seem to be experiencing an increase in blinking lights and voltage issues in isolated areas. This is not to say that we are facing an emergency, because we are not. Our system is in good condition and has proven to be very reliable. At the same time, we do need to be more aggressive

in replacing older conductor to maintain the strong system reliability we currently enjoy.

Central Electric has traditionally replaced about 35 miles of distribution lines each year. We have been concentrating on the three-phase feeder lines coming out of our substations. We have much of the three-phase feeder lines replaced so we can direct some of those dollars towards replacing lower cost single-phase lines. In 2019, we plan to replace about 70 miles of overhead power line.

It's easy to budget and talk about doubling the amount of work, but it's much more difficult to actually do the work and pay for it. Central Electric has over 4,400 miles of powerlines to maintain. This is the 2nd most of any cooperative in the state. On average, each of our operations employees is responsible for 234 miles of power lines. That is the 5th highest in the state. We will continue to use contractors for most of our line replacements, and our crews will concentrate on improving and maintaining our current system. We will add an employee to help plan, document, coordinate and provide oversight for all of this work.

The 2019 budget shows increases in interest, depreciation and operating expenses. Since these increases are coming from the cooperative's operations and not from our cost of power, the method for generating the additional revenue is to increase the facility charge across all rate classes. **The farm and residential monthly facility charge will increase \$6.25 beginning in January 2019.** All other rate classes will see the same percentage increase in the facility charge.

For more information on our budget, rates, and capital credit retirement, I would encourage you to attend one of the district meetings being held throughout our service territory in January. There you can ask questions and learn more about your cooperative, along with our programs and projects for 2019. Happy Holidays from your Board of Directors and Employees.

Until Next Month – Be Safe



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

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

General Manager: Ken Schlimgen

Editor: Courtney J. Deinert - courtneyd@centralec.coop

Assistant Editor: Patrick Soukup

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

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found on-line at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202 690-7442) or e-mail at intake@usda.gov.

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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



Mission Statement

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

District Meetings

Please join your cooperative for a meal at 6:30 PM and brief business meeting at 7:00 PM. Each member in attendance will receive a \$10 energy certificate.

Jerauld County*

January 3
 Springs Inn
 Wessington Springs

Miner County*

January 14
 4-H Building
 Howard

Sanborn County*

January 15
 4-H Building
 Forestburg

Davison County

January 17
 Davison County 4-H
 Grounds
 Mitchell

Hanson County

January 22
 St. Mary's Catholic Hall
 Alexandria

Aurora County

January 24
 Ag Building
 Plankinton

Brule County

January 28
 Ag Building
 Pukwana

Buffalo County

January 29
 St. Joseph Catholic
 Parish Hall
 Ft. Thompson

*Designates an election. See the December 2018 issue for details.

Employee Years of Service

Mick Poncelet

January 3 - 35 years

Tony Roth

January 3 - 14 years

Kevin Johnson

January 16 - 13 years

Ken Schlimgen

January 28 - 34 years

Thank you for your service to the cooperative!



Open House

Stop by our office for coffee, cider and cookies!

December 17 - 21, 2018

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Closed for the Holidays

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 for Christmas and Tuesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

In case of an outage or emergency, call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.



Generator Safety

Portable generators can provide a good, temporary source of power during electrical outages, but can become deadly if improperly installed or operated.

Generator Installation Safety Tips

- The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) strongly recommends that a licensed electrician install home generators to ensure they meet all local electrical codes.
- Do not connect generators directly to the household wiring without an appropriate transfer switch installed. Power from generators connected directly to household wiring can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including utility lineworkers making repairs.
- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

Using Your Generator Safely

- Make sure your home is equipped with a battery-operated or battery back-up carbon monoxide alarm.
- Never operate a generator inside your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces. Generators can very quickly produce high levels of carbon monoxide (CO), which can be deadly.
- Opening doors and windows or operating fans to attempt to ventilate a generator will not prevent carbon monoxide build-up in the home. Even with a working CO alarm, you should never use a gasoline-powered generator inside your home or in a garage.
- Position the generator outside the home and away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
- Carbon monoxide is the “silent killer.” Get to fresh air right away if you feel dizzy or weak.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor rated extension cord.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load and have three-pronged plugs. They should be inspected for damage, such as cuts and/or worn insulation before use.
- Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Make sure fuel for the generator is stored safely, away from living areas, in properly labeled containers, and away from fuel-burning appliances. Before re-fueling, always turn the generator off and let it cool down.
- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.
- A generator is a temporary power source. Use a generator only when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

Source:esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



“Never fly near power lines.”

Cooper VanderWal, 8 years old

Cooper is the son of Thomas and Katy VanderWal, Brookings, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

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.

Super Soups

Male Chauvinist Chili

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 6 slices bacon | 1 tsp. dry hot mustard |
| 10 oz. hot Italian sausage | 1-1/2 tsp. chili pepper |
| 10 oz. lean ground beef | 1 tsp. celery seeds |
| 1 large Spanish onion, cut in chunks | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1 bell pepper, cut in large pieces | 1-1/2 tsp. fresh black pepper |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 6 cups Italian tomatoes, mashed with liquid |
| 1/2 jalapeno pepper, diced (optional) | 1 (15 oz.) can pinto beans, undrained |
| 1 cup dark red wine | 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans, undrained |
| 1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce | 1 (15 oz.) can garbanzo beans, undrained |

Brown bacon; drain, crumble and set aside. Brown sausage and ground beef separately; set aside. In a Dutch oven, cook onion, bell pepper, garlic and jalapeno pepper over low heat 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in wine and Worcestershire sauce; simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Add mustard, chili pepper, celery seeds, salt and pepper; simmer 10 minutes. Add tomatoes and meats to onion mixture; heat to boiling. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in beans; heat to boiling; Reduce heat, cover and simmer 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

Ruth Schilberg, Viborg

Bacon Potato Chowder

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8 slices bacon, cut-up | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 cup chopped onion | 1/2 cup sour cream |
| 1 cup chopped celery | 1-1/2 cups milk |
| 2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced | 1 (10 oz.) can cream of mushroom soup |
| 1 cup chicken broth | |

In a saucepan, cook bacon, onion and celery until bacon is lightly browned and vegetables are tender. Pour off drippings. Add diced potatoes, broth, salt and pepper. Cover; simmer 12 to 15 minutes until potatoes are done. Stir in soup, sour cream and milk; heat through. Serves 6.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Leftover Turkey-Sage Noodle Soup

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 2 tsp. oil | 1-1/2 tsp. sage, rubbed |
| 1 cup chopped onion | 1/2 tsp. thyme leaves |
| 1 (32 oz.) container Kitchen Basics® Original Chicken or Turkey Stock | 2 bay leaves |
| 2 cups frozen peas and carrots | 1 cup medium egg noodles |
| | 2 cups chopped roast turkey |

Heat oil in large saucepan on medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir 5 minutes or until softened. Add stock, peas and carrots, sage, thyme and bay leaves; bring to boil. Stir in noodles; cover and cook 10 minutes or until noodles are almost tender. Add turkey; cook 5 to 10 minutes or until noodles are tender and turkey is heated through. Remove bay leaves before serving. Makes 5 1-cup servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 209, Total Fat 5g, Protein 24g, Cholesterol 69mg, Sodium 444mg, Carbohydrates 17g, Fiber 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Dill Pickle Soup

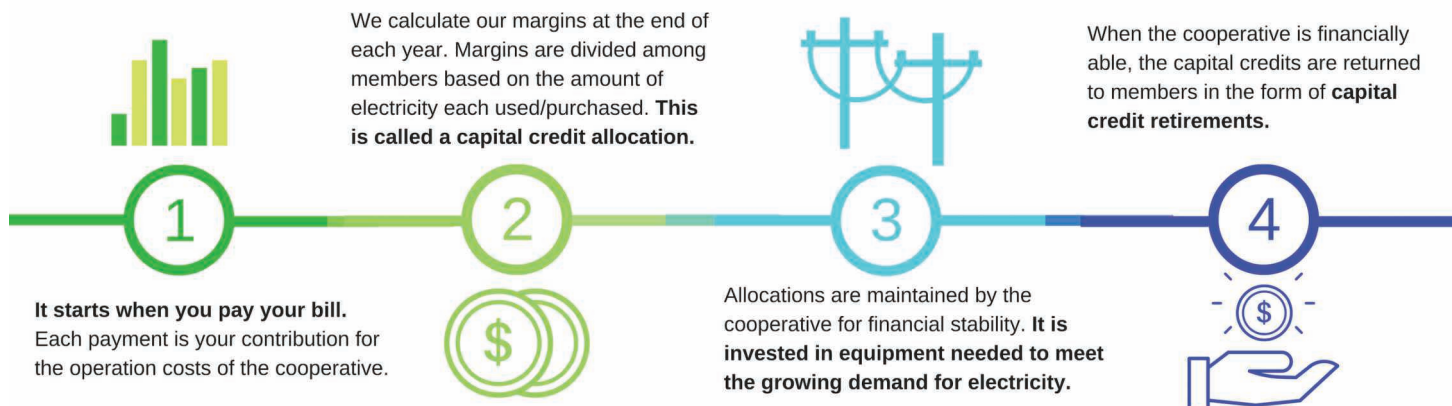
| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5-1/2 cups chicken broth | 1/2 cup flour |
| 2 lbs. potatoes, peeled and diced | 1 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt |
| 2 cups chopped carrots | 1/4 cup water |
| 1/2 cup unsalted butter | 2 cups pickle juice |
| 1 cup diced dill pickles | Salt to taste |
| 1/2 cup cooked, diced chicken | 1/2 tsp. pepper |

Bring chicken broth, potatoes, carrots and butter to a boil. Continue until potatoes and carrots are tender. Add pickles and diced chicken; continue to simmer. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, sour cream and water. Quickly stir into soup to thicken. Add pickle juice, salt and pepper. Continue cooking an additional 5 minutes.

Catherine Harts, Mission Hill, SD

Please send your favorite brunch, seafood, appetizer/ beverage 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, telephone number and cooperative name.

Capital Credits Cycle



CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

CEC Returns \$1.1 Million to Members

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) recently returned \$1.1 million in capital credits to the cooperative's member-owners in December.

Capital credits are also known as the co-op's profits or margins. As a not-for-profit utility, margins are returned to the member-owners of the cooperative. This benefit is something members of another utility would not see.

Active members received a bill credit on their bill in early December. Inactive members who have moved off the service since then will receive a check in the mail if their credit exceeds \$10.

Since 2000, CEC has retired over \$10.3 million in capital credits to its member-owners.

The capital credit retirements are a combination of margins from Central Electric Cooperative as well as wholesale suppliers East River Electric Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which members also have ownership in.

For this recent retirement, approximately \$500,000 were retired from Central Electric and East River Electric with an additional \$600,000 retirement from Basin Electric.

Newer members may not have received a credit but will eventually receive capital credits. Capital credits are a member's investment in the cooperative, and the cooperative maintains margins for a certain number of years to maintain equity and financial stability. When the cooperative is able, the Board of Directors votes to retire members' capital credits back to them.

By retiring older capital credits and keeping current capital credits, the cooperative is rotating ownership of the cooperative from previous or veteran members to current or newer members.

Members who move off the system are still eligible to receive capital credits. To update your contact information or for questions about capital credits, contact our office at 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516 or visit www.centralec.coop.

Heating Help Is Available

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps eligible South Dakotans pay for home heating costs. Energy assistance may not pay for all your home heating costs, but it will help ease the strain of the heating season. Energy assistance is available from October 1 - May 15.

Eligibility for the program is based on: 1) Number of people in household, 2) Gross income of everyone in household, 3) Type of heating for the home, 4) Geographic area you live in.

Applications can be obtained by calling **1-800-233-8503**, online at <http://dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/energyassistance/lowincome.aspx> or at the **local Department of Social Services office.**



OPERATION ROUND-UP® FUNDS AWARDED

The Operation Round-Up Board of Trustees met on November 13, 2018 to review applications for funding. In summary, the Trustees awarded \$12,500 to ten applicants:



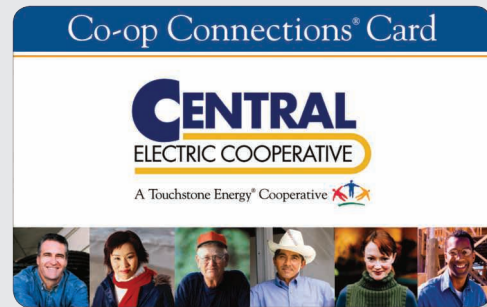
1. **Artesian Community Improvement Association**, Artesian, SD, \$1,000 for community center kitchen appliances;
2. **Children's Care Center**, Howard, SD, \$1,500 for a security door;
3. **Gann Valley Community Center**, Gann Valley, SD, \$1,000 for insulation and ceiling tile updates;
4. **Habitat for Humanity - Dacotah Tips**, Fort Thompson, SD, \$1,700 for safety-related building updates;
5. **Hanson County Sheriff**, \$1,900 for a speed meter in Emery, SD;
6. **Jerauld-Buffalo County 4-H Leaders Association**, \$900 to repair damage on the 4-H barn;
7. **Kimball Economic Development**, Kimball, SD, \$600 for the Weekend Backpack Program;
8. **Plankinton Preservation Society, Inc.**, Plankinton, SD, \$1,000 for the historical rehabilitation project;
9. **City of White Lake**, White Lake, SD, \$1,900 for a speed meter;
10. **Mount Vernon Area Historical Society**, Mt. Vernon, SD, \$1,000 for the history museum in the former Catholic Church.

Operation Round-Up grants are made possible by our members who "round up" their electric bill each month. **Thank you to our members for your generosity.**

To enroll in the program, visit www.centralec.coop or contact our office. The next deadline for grant applications is May 1, 2019.

If you are looking to "give back" this holiday season, consider enrolling in Operation Round-Up! The average yearly donation is \$6.00 per member, and the small cents add up to big change in our communities.

Local Discounts with your Co-op Connections® Card



Your cooperative membership earns you discounts at local participating businesses.

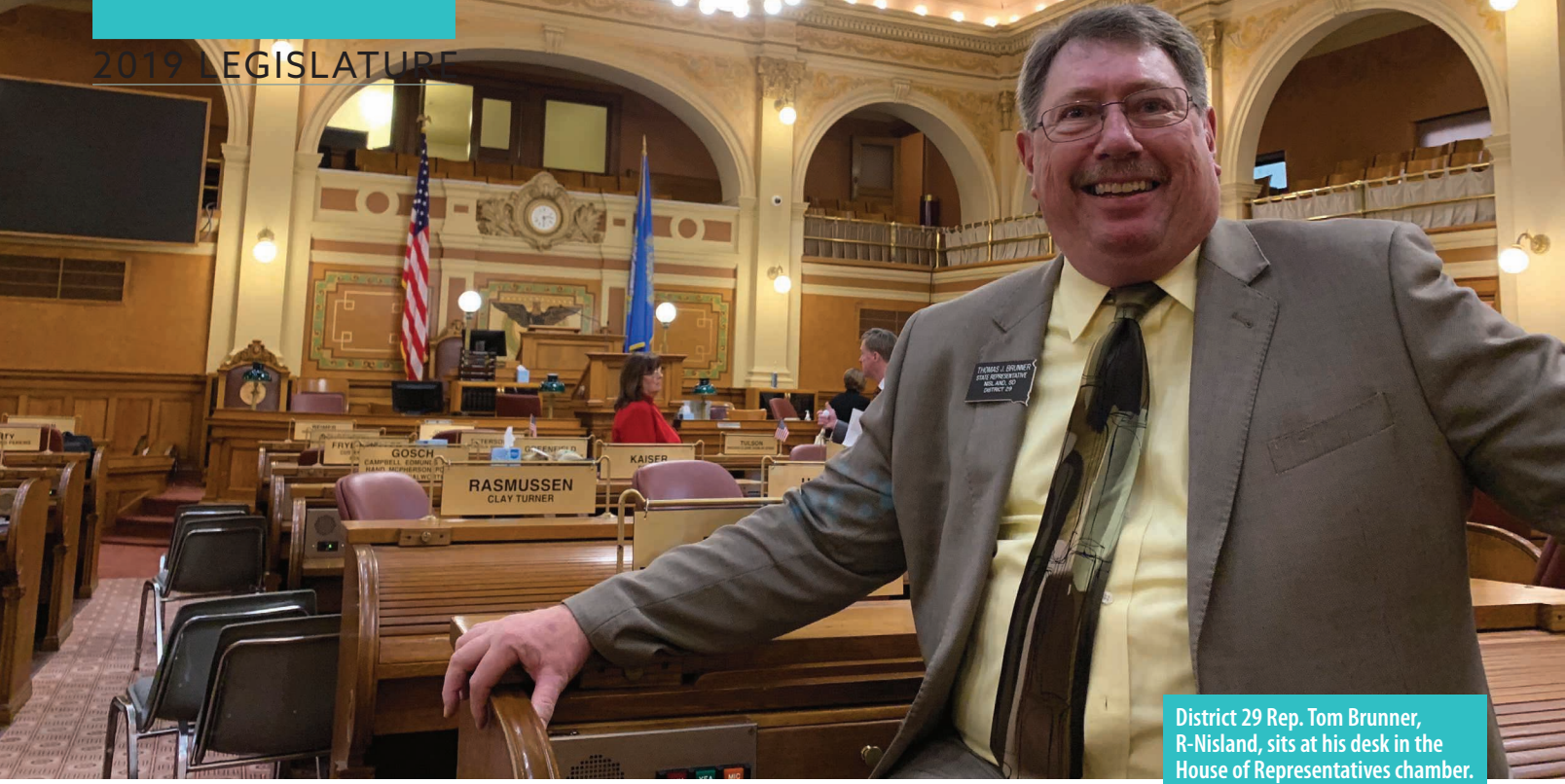
Simply show your Co-op Connections Discount Card and save.

- 1) **Advantage Auto Glass LLC, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off windshield replacement or \$10 off windshield repairs.
- 2) **Aero Dyna Kleen Services, Mitchell, SD;**
\$20 off on furnace and duct cleaning; 10% off on carpet cleaning.
- 3) **AmericInn Lodge & Suites, Chamberlain, SD;**
10% off rack rate (not valid with any other offer).
- 4) **America's Mattress, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off mattress and boxspring purchases, cash and carry.
- 5) **Avera Home Medical Equipment, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off cash items only.
- 6) **BBB's Distributing, Mitchell, SD;**
\$100 off any vinyl fence or railing purchase of \$1,000 or more OR \$100 off any regular priced stove or fireplace.
- 7) **Blessings Repeated Inc., Plankinton, SD;**
20% off a purchase of \$10 or more.

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.





District 29 Rep. Tom Brunner, R-Nisland, sits at his desk in the House of Representatives chamber.

UNDER THE DOME

Co-op Leaders Elected to State Legislature

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

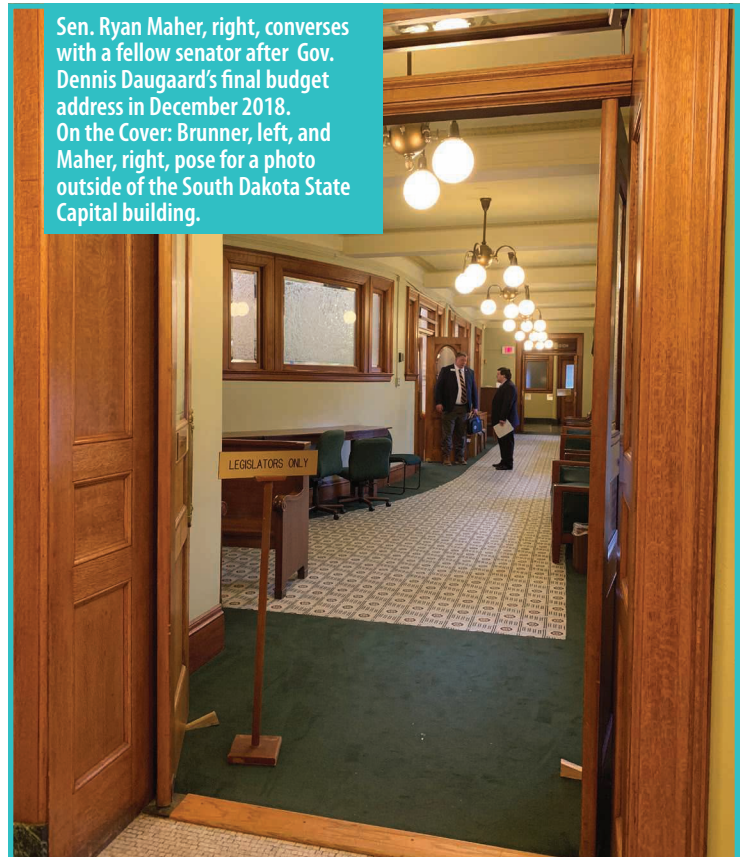
As legislators head back to Pierre Jan. 8 for the start of the 94th South Dakota Legislative Session, among the body will be a long-time electric cooperative director.

Rep. Tom Brunner, a farmer from Nisland, S.D., returns to the South Dakota House of Representatives after being re-elected to serve District 29, which encompasses portions of Butte, Meade and Pennington counties in western South Dakota. Brunner is entering his third term, having won elections in 2014 and 2016. The Republican had previously served in the House from 2005-2012, including a stint as a Majority Whip in 2007-08.

“I serve because I think it’s my way of giving back to the community. I represent a lot of people who can’t take the time or feel intimidated by speaking out in public. I hope I always bring an opinion that would make my constituents proud to have me represent them,” said Brunner.

Brunner’s service to community extends beyond the hallways of the South Dakota Capitol building. Since 1991, he has served on the Butte Electric Cooperative board of directors in Newell, S.D.

Sen. Ryan Maher, right, converses with a fellow senator after Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s final budget address in December 2018. On the Cover: Brunner, left, and Maher, right, pose for a photo outside of the South Dakota State Capital building.



Minnesota's 91st Legislative Session to Start Jan. 8

On Jan. 8, Minnesota's elected leaders head to St. Paul for the 91st Session of the Minnesota Legislature. Coverage of the session starts at 8 a.m. Tuesday on the Minnesota Channel, which is carried by Minnesota's six independent public television stations.

Legislative television programming is produced and created by the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

The Minnesota Legislature has 67 senators and 134 representatives for a total of 201 members. The size of the Legislature has changed over time. Since statehood the lowest number of members was 63 and the highest was 202.



Minnesota State Capitol building.

According to Minnesota Statute 3.011, the legislature meets at the seat of government on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year. It shall also meet when called by the governor to meet in special session. In the even numbered years, it convenes on a date set by joint agreement of both bodies. The state constitution limits the Legislature to meeting 120 legislative days during each biennium. In addition, the Legislature may not meet in regular session after the first Monday following the third Saturday in May of any year.

Contact Minnesota Legislators

For contact information on Minnesota House members, visit:

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/hmem.asp>

For contact information on Minnesota Senators, visit:

<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/index.php?ls=%20-%20header>

And, Brunner has the distinction of being the longest-serving member of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board of directors, having represented Butte Electric on the SDREA board since 1994. Brunner was the ninth individual to serve as the SDREA board president in the association's 77 year history, serving from 2001 to 2006.

On the other side of the Capitol building, Sen. Ryan Maher of Isabel is returning to the Senate representing District 28 in northwestern South Dakota. District 28 is the state's largest district geographically, extending from the Missouri River to the Montana state line. It includes Harding, Perkins, Corson, Dewey and Ziebach counties and much of northern and western Butte County. Like Brunner, Maher was a familiar face in Pierre prior to his re-election in November. Maher first served in the South Dakota Senate from 2009 to 2014 before returning in 2017. He served as the Republican assistant majority leader in 2018.

The bar and grill owner and insurance agent from Isabel is also a director on his local electric cooperative board. Maher was elected in

2017 to the Timber Lake, S.D.-based Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative board of directors.

Also on the House side is District 26A Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, D-Mission. Bordeaux, who is the Director of the Institute of Tribal Lands at Sinte Gleska University, serves on the board of directors for Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative in Mission. This is Bordeaux's third term in the House where he represents Todd and Mellette counties in south central South Dakota.

The South Dakota Legislature is bicameral, consisting of a Senate, comprised of 35 members, and a House of Representatives with 70 members.

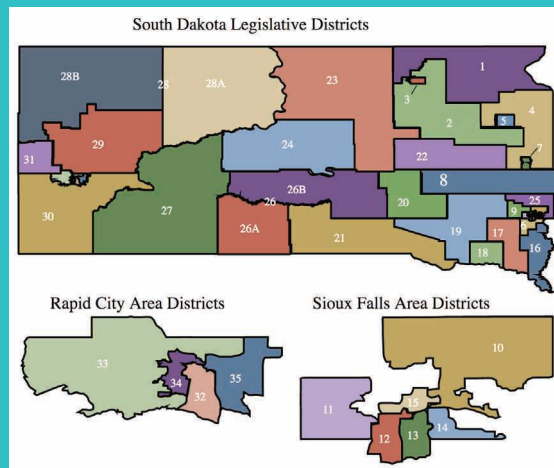
The main run of the 40-day legislative session goes through March 13. Lawmakers return to Pierre March 29 to consider gubernatorial vetoes.



Rep. Shawn Bordeaux
D-Mission

South Dakota's Legislature

Each Legislative District in South Dakota is represented in Pierre by two members in the South Dakota House of Representatives and one Senator. (Districts 26 and 28 are split into an A portion and a B portion, with a specific Representative for that area.) Need to contact your legislator while they're in Pierre? Go to <http://sdlegislature.gov/> From there, you can search your Senator or Representatives, see the committees which they are assigned and send them an email. Need to reach them by phone? You can call and leave a message with the senate at 605-773-3821 or with the House of Representatives at 605-773-3851. You can also send a fax to 605-773-6806.



Kroger Retires after over 30 Years of Cooperative Service

Manager of Finance and Administration Scott Kroger recently retired from Central Electric Cooperative after over 30 years of serving electric cooperatives. Kroger and his family recently moved to Montana to begin a new chapter.

Kroger worked for Clay-Union Electric in Vermillion, SD from 1985-1989 and joined Intercounty Electric in Mitchell, SD in 1989.

“He was very dedicated to his position and very thorough,” says former General Manager Loren Noess. “His innovation put us in a position to lead the cooperatives in South Dakota at times.”

His commitment to Central Electric has greatly benefitted the members of our cooperative.

In addition to his service at Central Electric, he was an active member of the Mitchell community. He served as a board member for LifeQuest, the LifeQuest Foundation, Mitchell Parks and Recreation, Marlins Hockey, and also coached youth sports. He has also served as former President of the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce, Chairman for the United Way Board of Directors, board member for the Trinity Lutheran Church and Sunday school instructor.

“Scott is a leader who brought integrity, intelligence, and energy to the workplace,” says General Manager Ken Schlimgen. “His commitment to Central Electric has greatly benefitted the members of our cooperative. We wish Scott and his family the absolute best in his retirement.”

Intercounty Electric Welcomes Scott Kroger



Scott Kroger began employment with Intercounty Electric Association on December 11, 1989. Scott is working in the Mitchell office as office manager.

Scott grew up in the Alcester area and graduated from Dakota State University in Madison, SD. Scott previously worked for Clay Union Electric in Vermillion as Senior Accountant.

We are glad to have you working with us, Scott.

1990 Newsletter



2017



1992 Intercounty Electric Board Meeting

Best Wishes to Ryan Bigge

Central Electric Cooperative wishes farewell to Appliance Repair Technician Ryan Bigge. Bigge has accepted a position with Fremont Electric Inc. in Fremont, Nebraska.

Bigge joined the cooperative in 2014 and has served our membership and customers well in his position with the service department. We wish him the best in his new position.



Scholarships Available in amounts of \$1,000

Central Electric Cooperative is offering three (3) scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each, as sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the family of the late Jay Headley.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is awarding one (1) \$1,000 scholarship to a dependent of a member-cooperative member-owner.

To be eligible, a student must be

- 1) a dependent of member-owners whose primary residence receives electric service from Central Electric Cooperative;
- 2) Enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited post-secondary institution; and
- 3) a U.S. citizen.

Jay Headley Memorial Scholarships

The family of the late Jay Headley of White Lake, SD is awarding two (2) \$1,000 scholarships in honor of his memory.

To be eligible, a student must be

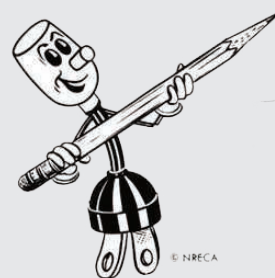
- 1) a dependent of member-owners whose primary residence receives electric service from Central Electric Cooperative;
- 2) Pursuing a bachelor's of science degree in an agricultural related field; and
- 3) a U.S. citizen.

How to Apply

Applications are available at www.centralelec.coop or by contacting our office.

Scholarships can be emailed to cec@centralelec.coop or mailed to Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301.

Applications are due by February 1, 2019.



RECIPES NEEDED FOR THE
COUNTRY COOKIN'
cookbook

Your recipe could be featured in the 35th volume of East River Electric's Country Cookin' cookbook! Help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite recipes.

Submit recipes via email to kstone@eastriver.coop, fax to 605-256-8057, or contact your local cooperative for more information. Submission deadline is Monday, January 28, 2019.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov



An Outlet for Energy Savings

Smart Outlets Offer Savings

Kaley Lockwood

NRECA

These devices afford the same surge protection as their predecessors, but also tie in the “smart” functionality of an internet-connected device.

Does the ebb and flow of your energy bill have you searching for an affordable way to reduce or better control your use? If you answered yes, then look no further because we’re taking a quick dive into a practical and affordable device that allows you to better manage your home’s energy use. We’re talking about energy-saving outlets!

These next-generation devices afford the same surge protection as their predecessors, but also tie in the “smart” functionality of an internet-connected device.

There are several different kinds of energy-saving outlets available, but there are two factors you should consider. First is size; there are many different sizes ranging from a single external outlet to a power strip with multiple sockets. The second thing you’ll want to consider is Wi-Fi connectivity; internet-connected outlets, commonly known as smart plugs, may enable you to fully realize the potential of these energy savings. This is because you’ll have greater remote control of the outlet through your smart phone, tablet or home assistant (like Google Home or Amazon’s Alexa).

You’ll also want to consider where you’ll be

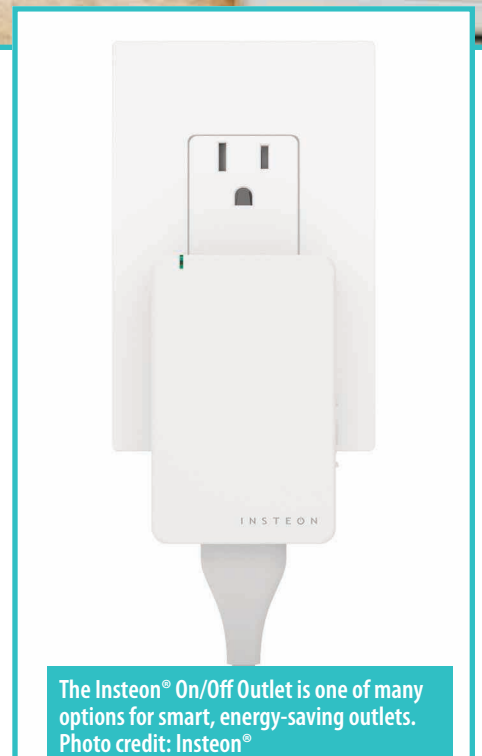


ThinkEco also offers smart, energy-saving outlets. Shown here is the modlet (or modern outlet). Photo credit: ThinkEco

using the energy-saving outlet and what you’ll be using it for. Answering these questions will make it easier to choose the device that works best for you.

With smart plugs or smart power strips, a few clicks and swipes on your smart phone will enable you to fully shut down the electrical currents to your high-powered devices to prevent them from consuming electricity even when switched off. Several devices found inside your home are commonly referred to as “parasitic loads,” “phantom loads” or “energy vampires.” In fact, most entertainment systems consist of several parasitic loads, such as televisions, DVD players and video gaming consoles. These outlets can potentially curb these loads, which can cost the average household an extra \$200 per year.

In addition to preventing unnecessary



The Insteon® On/Off Outlet is one of many options for smart, energy-saving outlets. Photo credit: Insteon®



ThinkEco's modlet (or modern outlet) can be controlled remotely and even adjust to your personal schedule. Photo credit: ThinkEco

Convenience is also a major factor to consider when thinking about your next efficiency upgrade.

energy consumption, these energy-saving outlets are affordable for most folks who are looking to trim their use. The average smart outlet costs around \$10 to \$20 on Amazon.com and has the potential to pay for itself within two years or less depending on how often you use it.

As previously noted, convenience is also a major factor to consider when thinking about your next efficiency upgrade. Smart plugs typically come with simple instructions to download an accompanying app on your smart phone and then connect the plug to your home's Wi-Fi. The convenience in being able to turn the device on and off using your phone cannot be understated. Advanced smart plugs and smart plug apps also have the ability to automate the use with your schedule and even your presence in the home.

You can also have large-load devices turn off at a set time each night and turn on

every morning when you're ready to use them. If you want to use your television, for example, at a time that's outside of the preset hours, you can easily switch the device on through the smart phone app. Through automation, you're able to power down these energy-intensive devices and prevent unnecessary energy use.

For folks who are looking to optimize their energy use and eliminate vampire loads, smart plugs may be your best option. For others who want more of a hands-off option to save additional dollars, energy-saving outlets and power strips without the Wi-Fi connection may be a better choice.

Either way, energy-saving outlets are just one of many energy efficient options out there and as technology continues to evolve, we'll likely see additional options emerge in the future.

Kaley Lockwood 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.



The Insteon® On/Off Outlet outlets can be controlled remotely, but consumers will need to purchase the Insteon Hub first, which costs about \$40. Photo credit: Insteon®

Opportunity of a Lifetime in D.C.

Attention high school juniors! You have a chance to take a trip-of-a-lifetime to Washington, D.C. The chosen representatives will travel to Washington, D.C., along with 1,800 other students from Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives throughout the U.S. and take part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in June 2019.

Sightseeing Locations:

- Lincoln Memorial
- National Cathedral
- White House
- FDR Memorial
- Smithsonian Air and Space Museum
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial

How to Qualify

To be eligible, you must be a high school junior who permanently resides within Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Jerauld, Sanborn, Miner, Davison, or Hanson counties or be the dependent of a Central Electric member.

To apply, students must complete an essay, not to exceed 1,000 words, on the following topic:

"As a member-owned, not-for-profit utility, Central Electric Cooperative strives to improve the quality of life for our members. Discuss the benefits of your cooperative membership."

The deadline is March 1, 2019. For more information, visit www.centralec.coop.



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We are a group of South Dakota teenagers touring our nation's capitol. We are curious, and we are our community's leaders. We come to Washington, D.C., to learn our nation's history and impact its future. Together, we chase dreams and break molds. See you in D.C.! Central Electric Cooperative wants to send area teens to D.C. Contact us today to apply!

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October 20-January 6

Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

November 20-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

December 15-March 31

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

December 22-23

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

January 3-5

Dakota Farm Show, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dakota Dome, Vermillion, SD

January 11-12

Annual Red Dirt Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

January 15

40th Annual Ranchers Workshop, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. CT, Community Events Center, White River, SD, 605-259-3252 ext. 3

January 17

Community Club Annual Banquet, Dinner catered by The Knotty Pine Supper Club, Entertainment by Comedian Scott Novotny, Elkton, SD Tickets 605-542-2681

January 18-19

Media One Funski, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-0000

January 18-20

Winterfest, Lead, SD, 605-584-1100

January 25-26

Snowmobile Rally, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876



January 8-March 13: South Dakota Legislative Session, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3251

Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

January 25-26

Living History Fair, Lake Area Technical College, School children only on Friday, Open to public on Saturday, Watertown, SD, 605-881-1758

January 25-February 3

Annual Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

January 26-27

Dakota Territory Gun Show, National Field Archery Building, Yankton, SD, 605-665-4537

February 2

Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby, Hendricks, MN, 507-828-2113

February 2-3

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Dakota Event Center, Aberdeen, SD, 701-336-7533

February 8-10

Black Hills Sports Show & Outdoor Expo, Rapid City, SD, 605-939-1812

February 9-10

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Trophy Show - The Big One, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

February 16-17

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Ramkota River Centre, Pierre, SD, 605-280-2438

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

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 9-12

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

March 15-16

28 Below Fatbike Race, Lead, SD, 605-584-3435

March 29-30, April 5-6

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

April 5-6

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

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.