

# Cooperative Connections

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When Things  
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Above Strategy  
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# Letter from the President and General Manager

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGE



**Duane Wolbrink**

President

Join us on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Mitchell Corn Palace for your cooperative's annual meeting. Come with expectations for a great meal and to gain a little knowledge about the cooperative you own.

This issue of the Cooperative Connections serves as your cooperative's annual report. The financial information and statistics for 2018 can be found on pages 10-11. Your cooperative ended the year in strong financial position due to overall increased kilowatt hour (Kwh) sales. Because our members purchased more Kwhs in 2018, our revenues and expenses exceeded our budget as we needed to purchase more electricity on your behalf.

Over \$1.1 million in capital credits were retired to members in 2018. Active members received a bill credit on their statement mailed in December 2018. These capital credits were a combination of retirements from Central Electric, East River Electric Cooperative, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Your cooperative has been planning ahead for several challenges. In 2018, your cooperative surveyed every mile of our power line system. Of the 3,560 overhead miles of line, approximately 2,000 miles consist of copper wire reaching 70 years of age. Central Electric is developing a plan to address the replacement of our aging system and to maintain reliability. The plan will target areas for the next four years, as well as generally look ahead to the next 15-20 years. In 2018, your cooperative replaced approximately 30 miles of line, and we plan to replace nearly 70 miles of line annually over the next 4-5 years.

Many of you will remember the installation of automatic meters (AMR) which allow our office to read your meter remotely. Our current AMR system has reached the end of its useful life, and we will begin replacing those meters over the next three years. The new meters will communicate via cellular technology as opposed to across power lines as they do now. The new system will increase efficiency, eliminate communication equipment installed on our system, and provide more data to assist with member concerns.

During the South Dakota Legislative session, the SD cooperatives proposed Senate Bill 66. The legislation would allow cooperatives to continue providing electric service to areas that municipalities with electric utilities annex into city limits. Providing reliable and cost-effective electric service requires long-term planning, and changing service territories can upset those investments. The legislation does not aim to restrict municipalities from annexing territory or growing. Cooperatives support the growth and sustainability of our local communities and provide numerous programs and services to do so.

Due to the complexity of this issue, the bill has been updated to go to "summer study" and allow legislators to further research the issue. Updates on SB 66 and other legislation can be found at <http://sdlegislature.gov/>.

Central Electric aims to improve the quality of life for our members, which extends beyond providing electricity. Our service department provides "service after the sale" to ensure our rural members have access to necessary household repairs and service.

In 2018, over \$24,000 was invested back into our local communities through Operation Round-Up. Your cooperative also was an active participant in the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Loan Fund which provides low interest financing for economic development activities in eastern South Dakota, as well as parts of western South Dakota and southeastern Minnesota. Since inception the REED Fund has made over \$86 million in loans to 325 businesses and community ventures.

We will also recognize this year's outstanding youth, including the Youth Tour recipients and scholarship winners at the meeting.

Your cooperative operates on founding principles including democratic member control, involvement in our communities, and furthering the education of our employees and members. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and serving you in the year to come.

**Join us on Tuesday,  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the  
Mitchell Corn  
Palace for your  
cooperative's  
annual meeting.**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**Board of Directors**

- Duane Wolbrink - President
- Todd VanWalleghen - Vice Pres.
- Bernetta Burghardt - Secretary
- Jim Headley - Treasurer
- Mark Hofer, NRECA
- Roger Campbell
- Donita Loudner, SDREA
- 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](http://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](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](mailto:intake@usda.gov).

Subscription information: Central Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301, and at additional mailing offices.

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](mailto:cec@centralec.coop); website: [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

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**Mission Statement**

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

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Central Electric Cooperative is governed by a 9-person Board of Directors. Each director is elected by their district, or county. There is also a director-at-large.



**Duane Wolbrink**  
President  
Stickney  
Elected 1995



**Todd VanWalleghen**  
Vice President  
Letcher  
Elected 2010



**Bernetta Burghardt**  
Secretary  
Fedora  
Elected 2004



**James "Jim" Headley**  
Director-at-large  
Treasurer  
White Lake  
Elected 1996



**Donita Loudner**  
SDREA  
Fort Thompson  
Elected 2002-07,  
2017



**Mark Hofer**  
NRECA  
Spencer  
Elected 1990



**Darwin "Butch" Morrison**  
Mitchell  
Elected 2003



**Mark Reindl**  
Wessington Springs  
Elected 2010



**Roger Campbell**  
Pukwana  
Elected 2014

# Protect Your Family

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical cords and temporary wiring account for more than 25 percent of the estimated 81,000 electrical system fires that occur each year. These fires can be prevented by following these essential home electrical safety tips.

### Extension cord safety

- Don't use extension cords as a substitute for repairing building wiring.
- Inspect extension cords for broken connectors, damaged insulation and missing hardware before each use.
- Do not run extension cords through walls, over beams, around corners or through doorways.
- Only use extension cords approved for the environment and loads expected.
- Equip extension cords with ground fault interruption (GFI) devices.
- Don't use coiled extension cords.
- Discard damaged extension cords; don't try to repair them.
- Use only surge protected power strips. Inspect the power strips regularly for damage or signs of overloading.

### Temporary wiring

- Don't substitute temporary and flexible wiring for repairing building wiring.
- Use temporary wiring only when needed for maintenance, repair or demolition activities.
- Limit temporary wiring for holiday or ornamental lighting to no more than 90 days.
- In outdoor settings, use only outdoor approved temporary wiring and extension cords.
- Don't route temporary wiring across floors, around doors or through walls.
- Locate temporary wiring at least 7 feet above any walking or working surface.
- Protect temporary wiring from sharp edges, heat and sunlight to avoid breakdown of the insulation.

### Equipment power cords

- Inspect equipment cords for damage before each use.
- Don't operate equipment cords without a ground connection unless they are double insulated.
- Don't splice equipment cords to repair damage or to extend the original length.

### Safeguards to install

- Inspect all electrical appliances to ensure they're properly grounded.
- Write the purpose of each circuit breaker, fuse or switch on the panel board.
- Label all disconnecting switches and circuit breakers.

Source: nationwide.com



**Always Call Before You Dig.**

One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

**Visit call811.com for more information.**

**811**  
Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Do not use cords with bare spots."**

**RosaLee Masson, 8 years old**

RosaLee is the grand-daughter of Steve and Ruby Niklason, Bryant, S.D. They are members of Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown, 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.

# Appetizers and Beverages

## Hot Chicken Dip

3 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened  
 1 (4 oz.) can sliced jalapeños, chopped  
 2 (10 oz.) cans chicken breast, drain 1 can  
 1 can cream of chicken soup

Mix together and heat in microwave or crock pot. Serve warm with any snack crackers or scoop chips.

**Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre, SD**

## Crab Roll-Ups

2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese  
 1/2 to 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix  
 1 pkg. frozen crab meat, thawed  
 1 pkg. large flour tortilla shells

Melt cream cheese in microwave until soft enough to stir; mix in ranch dressing mix. Cut up crab meat into small pieces; mix with cream cheese. Spread over tortilla shells and roll up. Refrigerate 1 hour. Cut into 1-inch slices. Store in refrigerator.

**Patricia Cerny, Gregory, SD**

## Rise and Shine Smoothies

1 cup fresh strawberries  
 1 banana  
 1 ripe mango  
 1/4 cup orange juice  
 1/2 cup vanilla yogurt  
 2 T. honey  
 1 cup ice cubes

Wash and hull strawberries. Peel banana and cut into chunks. Pit, peel and slice mango. In a blender, combine all ingredients, blending until smooth. Pour into glasses. Makes 2 servings.

**Eileen Holzerland, Waubay, SD**

## Cocktail Weiners

1 cup brown sugar  
 1 cup ketchup  
 1/3 to 1/2 cup grape jelly  
 2 pkgs. cocktail smokies

Combine all ingredients; simmer on low heat.

**Linda Rauscher, Aberdeen, SD**

## Orange Glazed Turkey Meatballs

1 egg  
 1/4 cup milk  
 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs  
 1 tsp. salt  
 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Poultry Seasoning  
 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Ground  
 1 lb. ground turkey  
 1 T. olive oil  
 1/2 cup chicken broth  
 1 cup orange marmalade  
 1 T. white wine vinegar  
 1 pinch McCormick® Red Pepper, Ground

Beat egg and milk in large bowl. Stir in bread crumbs, salt, poultry seasoning and pepper. Add ground turkey; mix well. Cover. Refrigerate 1 hour. Shape into 1-inch meatballs. Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Place meatballs in single layer in skillet. Cook until well browned on all sides. Remove meatballs from skillet. Set aside. Mix orange marmalade, broth, vinegar and red pepper in skillet on medium heat. Bring to boil, stirring to release browned bits in bottom of skillet. Return meatballs to skillet. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook 10 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through and sauce has reduced to glaze consistency. Makes 15 (2 meatball) servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 123, Total Fat 3g, Protein 7g, Cholesterol 37mg, Sodium 245mg, Carbohydrates 17g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Cappuccino Mix

1 cup coffee creamer  
 1 cup chocolate drink mix  
 2/3 cup coffee crystals  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg

Combine all ingredients. Add 3 tsp. mix to 1 cup hot water.

**Verna Nelson, Wakonda, SD**

Please send your favorite casserole, dairy or dessert 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.



## Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

# APRIL 19, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the members of Central Electric Cooperative Association was held on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at the Corn Palace, Mitchell, South Dakota. Duane Wolbrink, President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Attorney Don Petersen was appointed acting secretary. President Wolbrink announced that there was a quorum of registered members present (368) at the time the meeting began.

President Wolbrink called upon associate Pastor Dan Ziebarth of Mitchell Wesleyan Church of Mitchell to give the invocation.

Everyone was asked to stand for a short video and the National Anthem, followed by the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Wolbrink asked if there were any members who wished to discuss the proof of notice or the order of business that had been mailed to them. There being no objection the reading was dispensed with and the order of business was approved as sent.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were mailed to each member as part of the Central Electric Cooperative Connections Annual Report. President Wolbrink asked if there were any objections to dispensing with the reading of the minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved as mailed.

President Wolbrink announced that registration had closed.

President Wolbrink introduced Attorney Petersen to discuss the election of the director-at-large. Mr. James Headley was deemed re-elected as no other nominating petition was turned in by the membership.

President Wolbrink gave the president's report which included the financial report and cooperative changes.

President Wolbrink called on East River's Chief Member and Public Relations Officer Chris Studer. Studer discussed electric vehicles.

President Wolbrink called on Manager Schlimgen. Manager Schlimgen welcomed members to the Annual Meeting and gave the manager's report. He recognized this year's recipient of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship, Ashley Henglefeld, Alexandria; and the two recipients of the Jay Headley Memorial Scholarships, Nathan Linke, Woonsocket and Dawson Munger, Pukwana.

Manager Schlimgen then announced this year's Youth Tour winners: Heather Munsen, White Lake High School; Santana St. John, Crow Creek Tribal School; Collin Powell, Chamberlain High School; Caleb Jarding, Mitchell High School; Shaina Determan, Hanson High School; Anna Schwader, Howard

High School; Isaac Kolousek, Wessington Springs High School; and Renee Farmer; Sanborn Central High School.

Manager Schlimgen introduced the nine-member volunteer board of trustees for Operation Round-Up:

Scott Kolousek, Jerauld County; Greg Kotas, Hanson County; Connie Hattervig, Miner County; Carla Amick, Sanborn County; Ellen Speck, Buffalo County; Dave Jorgenson, Davison County; Dale Peters, Aurora County; Jill Ekstum, Brule County; and Jim Headley representing the Central Electric Board of Directors.

Manager Schlimgen discussed the Farm Safety Campaign that began the fall of 2016, solar survey, updates to the distribution system, and cyber security.

President Wolbrink called for any unfinished business. There was none. President Wolbrink then called for any new business. There was none.

President Wolbrink introduced Manager of Operations Brian Bultje and Manager of Member Services and Marketing Patrick Soukup who drew names for prizes.

President Wolbrink asked for and received a motion and a second to adjourn the 2018 Central Electric Annual Meeting. There being no further discussion from members the meeting was adjourned.



## Letter from our Generation & Transmission Cooperative

# EAST RIVER REPORT



**Tom Boyko**

East River Electric Cooperative  
General Manager

**Looking to the future, the energy sector is set to change at a faster pace than at any point in history.**

The energy industry has undergone immense changes since East River was formed 68 years ago. Our history is ripe with success stories of leaders stepping up to the plate and making the big decisions of their era, whether it was facing the threat of de-regulation, successfully navigating legislative issues or embracing new technologies.

Looking to the future, the energy sector is set to change at a faster pace than at any point in history and our horizon is lined with more pivotal decisions. We must remain united as a cooperative family and again step up in making those important decisions that will position us for continued success.

A major undertaking at East River this past year was developing options for pursuing an aggressive transmission system replacement plan that will replace aging infrastructure, address our members' goal to improve our system's reliability and accommodate continued load growth.

The Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund, which is owned by our member systems, had another record year. REED has invested more than \$80 million dollars in the region since 1996. The REED fund helps to provide financing to public and private projects that add value to our communities and provide jobs, safety and economic opportunity. These dollars help grow our rural communities and provide services essential to all of us.

Looking to the future, we know that cyber security threats to our system will become

more prevalent and we're working hard to safeguard both East River and our member systems from those threats. East River's IT and Cyber Security program for our member systems officially launched in 2018. The program provides cyber security services that are in place at all times working to keep threats away from critical infrastructure software and to secure members' personal information.

As always, the safety of our workforce and the public remained a primary focus this year. Our farm safety campaign that educates farmers about the dangers of operating large farm equipment around power lines has seen continued success, and we look forward to continuing work with the farm community on spreading this important message.

East River staff members were busy again influencing a number of local and national legislative issues. We saw continued positive developments regarding the Clean Power Plan. Our work, both locally and nationally, ensures that the electric cooperative voice is heard and helps prevent negative impacts to our industry.

East River exists to enhance the value of its members and our success comes from remaining focused on that mission. This is an exciting time to work in the energy industry. The great working relationships between East River and our member systems will enable us to make the big decisions of our era that will position us well for the future and continue our legacy of providing safe, affordable and reliable power to our member-owners.



Planting season brings reminders for the importance to keep equipment away from power lines.

# KEEPING CALM

## Know the Steps if an Accident Occurs

**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

In the spring of 2017, an operations manager of a cooperative in western South Dakota cooperative got a call from a member.

There had been an accident and the member's tractor was now resting against two broken poles which were supporting an energized 115-kilovolt line.

Even though the power line did not ultimately belong to the cooperative, it served to illustrate an on-going concern: accidents between agriculture equipment and power lines appeared to be on the rise.

Cooperatives have engaged in educational efforts to inform people what to do to first avoid the accident and secondly what steps to take if an accident occurs.

The first thing to keep in mind is to avoid the accident. Know the height of your equipment, the width of your equipment and the location of various electric facilities that should be avoided. Then, make sure that all involved are taking the steps to avoid having equipment come in contact with electric utilities.



A 2017 planting season accident in western South Dakota broke the poles of a 115-kV line which stayed energized.



But if an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.

If your equipment does come in contact with a power line:

- Stay inside the cab and call 911.
- Wait for electric crews to clear the area and keep others away from the accident scene.

If the equipment catches fire and one must exit the cab, there's a process to follow, too.

"Tuck your arms up and give yourself a bear hug and hop clear. Don't touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then hop away," said Courtney Deinert, communications director at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

One of Central Electric's members was involved in an incident involving a grain cart and a power line on a farm near Mitchell. The auger of the grain cart became entangled in the lines.

The member immediately called the cooperative and stayed inside the cab of the tractor. Thankfully, a fire did not start so the member did not have to exit and hop away.

Accidents involving underground cabinets – commonly called the green boxes – have also been occurring as equipment gets wider. And, the sheer volume of snow accumulation that occurred in the winter

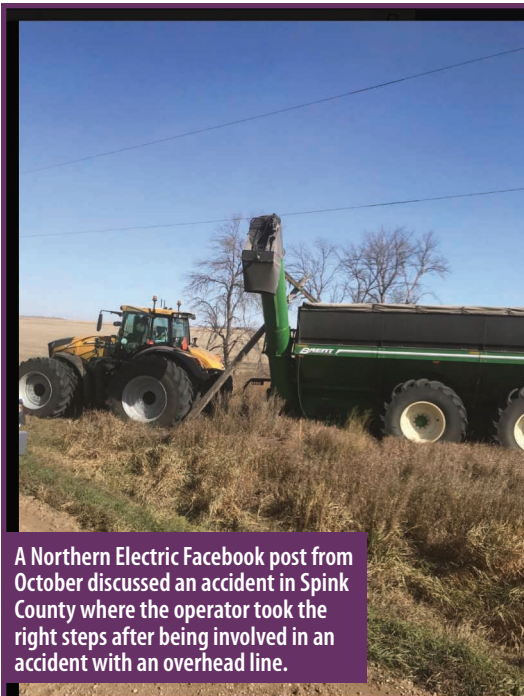
of 2018-2019 resulted in several cabinets being hit or buried during snow removal operations.

The equipment housed in the cabinets is energized and can pose the same

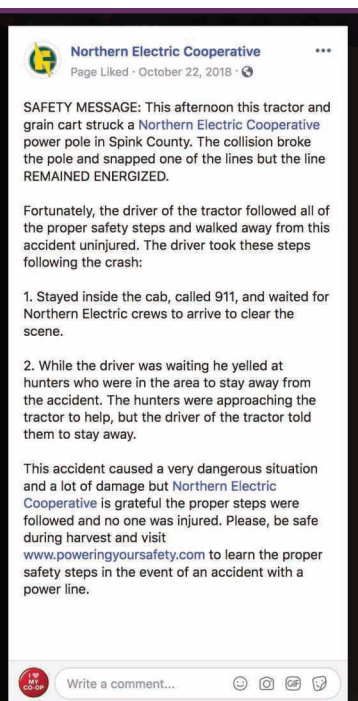
issues that occur when equipment contacts overhead lines.

In either case, the best option is to prevent the accident from occurring by being aware of the location of the equipment. But, if an accident does occur, call your local electric cooperative, stay inside the vehicle's cab and keep others away from the scene until co-op crews arrive.

**If an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.**



A Northern Electric Facebook post from October discussed an accident in Spink County where the operator took the right steps after being involved in an accident with an overhead line.



# PRE-PLANNING CAN SAVE LIVES DURING PLANTING



*When it's go-time, it's go-time. We understand that every second counts during planting season, but taking a moment to be mindful of safety during this anxious time could save you a lot of heartache in the long run. Remember to check your equipment, be aware of power lines, keep your cellphone on you at all times, dress appropriately and stay rested this spring.*

Together we are

## RE-ENERGIZING FARM SAFETY



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

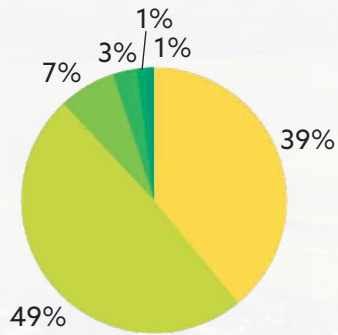
# 2018 FINANCIALS

## BALANCE SHEET

	2017	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Lines, Office Building and Operational Equipment	76,415,756	78,892,134
Less Depreciation	(22,320,601)	(23,685,344)
Total Electric Plant Less Depreciation	\$54,095,155	\$55,206,790
Cash and Investments:		
General Fund	925,987	3,025,601
Investment:(Associated Organizations)	16,789,082	18,800,078
Total Cash Investments	\$17,715,069	\$21,825,679
Accounts Receivable	3,331,615	3,410,960
Materials and Supplies	2,298,997	2,423,575
Prepaid Insurance	93,430	94,470
Other Current and Accrued Assets	6,724	6,600
Deferred Debits	820,706	794,226
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$78,361,696</b>	<b>\$83,762,300</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Total Amount Owed to RUS & CFC	37,258,541	39,567,237
Consumer Deposits	140,088	143,432
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,468,098	1,238,516
Accounts Payable	2,634,693	2,525,026
<b>TOTAL WE OWE</b>	<b>\$41,501,420</b>	<b>\$43,474,211</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	36,860,276	40,288,089
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES</b>	<b>\$36,860,276</b>	<b>\$40,288,089</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$78,361,696</b>	<b>\$83,762,300</b>

# OPERATING STATEMENT

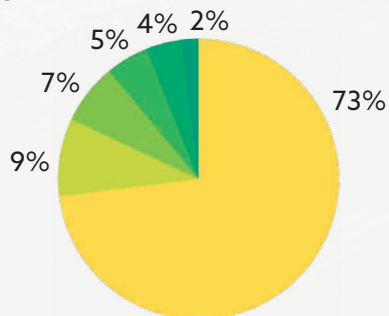
	2017	2018
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Revenue from the Sales of Electricity, Wheeling and Fees	35,857,840	35,405,879
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$35,857,840</b>	<b>\$35,405,879</b>



- 2018 Revenue**
- Residential
  - Commercial - Large
  - Commercial - Small
  - Seasonal
  - Irrigation
  - Other

## EXPENSES

Cost of Purchased Power	24,256,268	25,124,742
Distribution-Operations Expense	1,325,361	1,471,128
Distribution-Maintenance Expense	1,780,983	1,740,887
Consumer Accounting and Collecting Expense	228,307	261,769
Consumer Service and Information Expense	411,248	448,483
Sales Expense	113,373	83,542
Administrative and General Expense	1,423,555	1,464,337
Depreciation Expense	1,908,719	1,852,555
Tax Expense	554,420	604,946
Interest Expense	1,262,394	1,258,749
Other Deductions	22,372	18,979
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$33,287,000</b>	<b>\$34,330,117</b>



- 2018 Expenses**
- Purchased Power
  - Maintenance
  - Customer & Administration
  - Depreciation
  - Interest
  - Tax

Patronage Capital and Operating Margins	2,570,840	1,075,762
Non-Operating Margins	159,839	90,716
Generation and Transmission and Other Capital Credits	1,369,641	3,508,611
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL OR MARGINS</b>	<b>\$4,100,320</b>	<b>\$4,675,089</b>



Extreme cold temperatures put the components of wind towers at risk of failure, which is the reason many wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shut down at the end of January.

# POWERING THROUGH WINTER

## Extreme Cold Requires An 'All of the Above' Approach to Meet Demand for Electricity

**Ben Dunsmoor**

[bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop](mailto:bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop)

The record-setting cold and snow in South Dakota this winter led to record demand for power. The cold snap also highlighted the need for the continued use of coal and natural gas generation as many wind generators in the region had to be shut down as a result of the frigid weather.

Extreme cold descended into the Upper Midwest in January and didn't release its grip for several weeks. East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., which supplies wholesale power to 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally owned system in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, experienced an all-time record peak for electric demand on Jan. 29 and 30. Wind chills dipped to 20 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero during that time period.

"The East River system performed well under these extreme weather conditions with very few issues," said East River General Manager/CEO Tom Boyko.

Member co-ops of East River Electric depend on a reliable supply of power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

in Bismarck, N.D., as well as hydropower from the Western Area Power Administration. Basin Electric owns and operates the coal, gas, diesel and wind generation resources needed to meet the demand of member co-ops located in nine states in the middle of the United States.

"Basin Electric is your cooperative," said Dave Raatz, Basin Electric senior vice president of asset management, resource planning and rates. "We are trying to do what we can to ensure everyone has the appropriate power so they do have the ability to have the electric heat and they do have the ability to have electricity at the house."

Basin Electric had plans in place to meet the demand of co-op members during the extreme cold in January and February despite the challenges the frigid temperatures caused its generation resources. Basin Electric saw many of its wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shutdown as a result of cold temperatures and had to rely on natural gas and coal generation as well as market purchases.

According to Basin Electric Senior Vice President of Operations John Jacobs, wind towers become brittle and cannot operate

**Weather stations installed on wind turbines automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.**

during extreme cold. Weather stations installed on each turbine automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.

“The best analogy I can give is a rubber hose,” explained Jacobs. “If you warm it up enough, it will melt. If it gets too cold, it will get too brittle.”

That is the reason production from Basin Electric’s wind resources bottomed out in the early morning hours of Jan. 30 when the Bismarck area saw air temperatures of 31 degrees F below zero in North Dakota and the National Weather Service in Aberdeen, S.D., reported record low temperatures of 33 degrees F below zero or lower in Aberdeen, Watertown and Groton. Basin Electric’s fleet of natural gas and coal-fired power plants paired with energy purchases from the market provided co-op members with a reliable supply of electricity during that period.

“That’s why we have gas peaking units and you have that coal resource base that just continued operating despite cold weather over the entire area,” Raatz said.

### ‘All of the Above’ Approach

Basin Electric uses an ‘all of the above’ approach to supply electricity to member co-ops throughout South Dakota. Nearly 45 percent of its generation portfolio comes from coal-fired resources while 20 percent comes from natural gas units and another 20 percent from wind generation. Basin Electric is also a member of four power pools, which are large regions of the United States where utilities can buy and sell electricity in the market, and Basin Electric has the contractual transmission rights to more power between these regions.

“It is a combination of all those owned-assets and market purchases that come to bear to serve member load obligations,” Raatz said.

Basin Electric generates electricity for 141 electric co-ops in nine states and has power plants and resources

in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Iowa. Raatz said that regional diversity is just as important to providing reliable power as a diversified generation mix.

“That’s so valuable in coming up with a power supply. You don’t necessarily see that cold weather over the whole area,” said Raatz.

**“People take electricity for granted. Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”**

That regional diversity was evident during the cold snap in North Dakota and eastern South Dakota at the end of January. Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D., which supplies power to eight electric cooperatives in western South Dakota saw higher demand for electricity during those time periods but never saw a record peak like the East River co-ops experienced. During that period, Basin Electric was also able to pull generation from resources in Montana and Wyoming because it wasn’t as frigid in those states.

Raatz said load management programs

which control water heaters, grain bin fans and other large loads during peak demand periods are also a piece of the power-supply puzzle. Raatz said the team at Basin Electric which forecasts electric demand can rely on members who have load management devices installed at their service locations to make those peaks less extreme.

“As you get into these types of conditions when it gets really cold, it is easier to predict because load management is taking out the spikes. It is really valuable,” Raatz said.

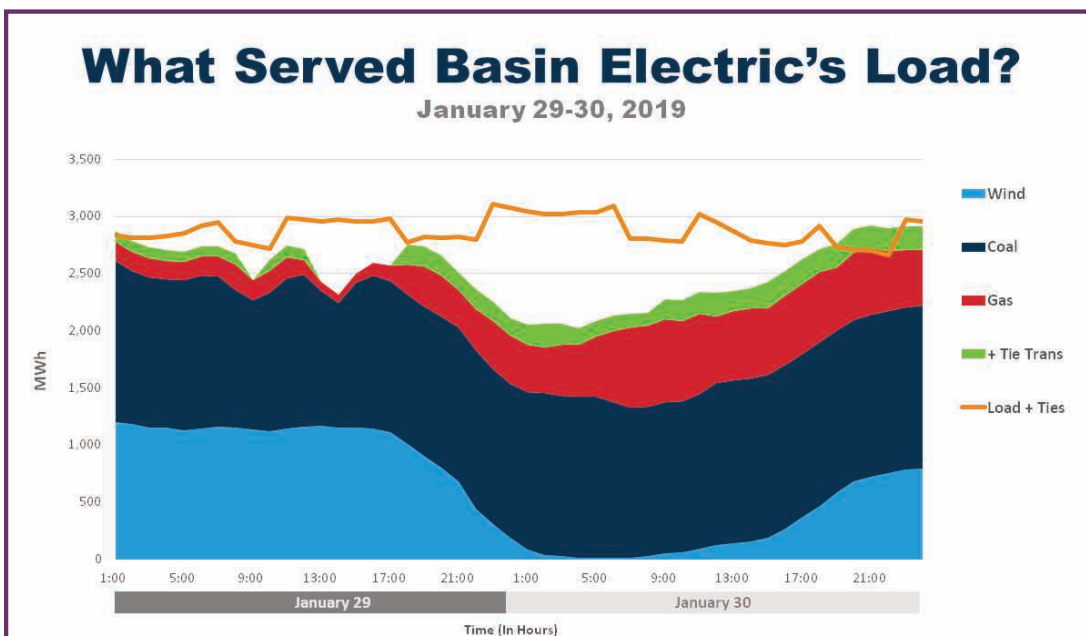
### Maintaining Reliability

The main goal of electric cooperatives is to provide safe and reliable power for members at the end of the line. Jacobs said it takes a dedicated team of co-op employees to achieve that mission whether it is the operators at Basin Electric’s power plants or the co-op linemen at the local level.

“We see the importance of having to turn on that (light) switch because most of the time when the weather is bad, our employees are at work,” said Jacobs. “There is a reason for what we do and a good feeling when you walk away.”

And when the Great Plains and Upper Midwest experiences extreme weather, the goal of maintaining reliability becomes even more important.

“People take electricity for granted,” Raatz said. “Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”



## Surplus Vehicles for Sale



**2005 Chevy Silverado** Price: **\$3,500**  
1/2 ton, 4x4 Ext cab, tool box included,  
243,000 miles



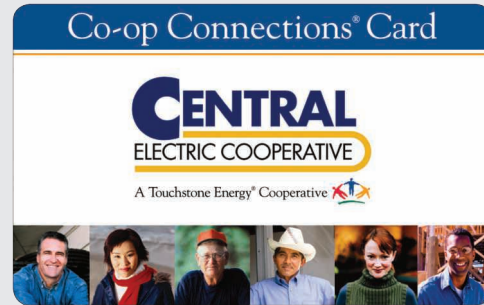
**2009 Chevy Express Van (Extended)**  
Price: **\$2,800** 3/4 ton, 2WD, 6 CYL, ladder racks  
included (w/o ladders), tow hitch, 233,000 miles



**2009 Chevy Express Van** Price: **\$2,800**  
3/4 ton, 2WD, 6 CYL, 218,000 miles

Vehicles will be available to purchase at the Betts Road office beginning **9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 26** to the first buyer present. If multiple buyers are present, a lottery will be held. For more information, contact our office.

## 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) **Merchandise Outlet, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% off pair of boots - some exclusions apply. Not valid with other discounts.
- 2) **Miedema Sanitation, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% off rolloff construction boxes.
- 3) **Mitchell Econolodge Motel, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% discount.
- 4) **Mitchell KOA, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% discount May 1 - October 30, excluding holiday weekends.
- 5) **Mueller Lumber Company, Mitchell, SD;**  
15% off regular priced hardware store merchandise and lumber; excludes power tools.
- 6) **NAPA, Chamberlain, SD;**  
10% off non-sale items.
- 7) **New Leaf Body Spa, Mitchell, SD;**  
\$5 off a 60 minute massage.

For a full list of ways to save, visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

To request a card or become a participating business, visit [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop) or call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.



## Central Electric Cooperative's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019  
Corn Palace, Mitchell, SD

### 6:30 PM

Registration

Three-meat buffet served including broasted chicken, roast beef, pork, salads, dinner roll and ice cream

### 7:30 PM

Business Meeting

Guest Speaker: Tom Boyko,  
General Manager of East  
River Electric Cooperative

Recognize Scholarship &  
Youth Tour Winners

Door prizes\* including

- **\$25 energy certificates**
- **\$250 scholarships**  
(see sidebar for more information)
- **Kids' drawing - Bike**  
(children aged 16 and under)

\*Must be present to win. Students and children must be the dependent of a Central Electric member.

### "LUCK OF THE DRAW" SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Central Electric Cooperative will award up to three (3) "Luck of the Draw" \$250 scholarships at the Annual Meeting.

To eligible, students must:

- live full-time in a residence served by Central Electric Cooperative.
- be a graduating senior pursuing an academic degree or certification at a post-secondary educational institution.
- attend the Annual Meeting with a parent/guardian who is a member of Central Electric Cooperative.

All eligible attendees will need to sign-up near registration and will be entered into the scholarship drawing. Winners will be drawn with the door prizes and must be present to win.

Scholarship payment will be made directly to the college, university or school. Proof of enrollment must be presented to Central Electric Cooperative before funds will be dispersed.

Please dress appropriately as photos will be taken for future use in the newsletter, website, and social media.

Recipients of the Basin Electric Cooperative and Jay Headley Memorial Scholarships and dependents of Central Electric employees or directors are not eligible.

**December 15-March 31**

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

**Thursday, June-September**

Mitchell Farmer's Market, Featuring fresh produce, meats, eggs, baked goods, handcrafted items and more, 4:30 to 7 p.m., Corn Palace Plaza, Main Street, Mitchell, SD

**March 22-23, 29-30**

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

**March 23**

Annual 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**

Cultural Expo, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Campus, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-6884

**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](http://www.mccrossan.org)



Photo courtesy: RJ Ripper Film

**April 15-16: Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Elks Theatre, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4101**

**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 5-6, 11-14**

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

**April 5-7**

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

**April 6**

The Big Grape, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-322-8900

**April 6-7**

Zonta Club Vendor and Craft Show, Northridge Plaza, Pierre, SD, 605-222-1403

**April 7**

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

**April 12-14**

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

**April 13-14**

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

**April 18**

Senior Health and Living Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lunch 11 a.m. to Noon, Multiple businesses and presentations available, James Valley Community Center, 300 W. 1st Avenue, Mitchell, SD

**April 19-20**

Sioux Empire Film Festival, Belbas Theater inside the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

**April 22-23**

Big Bend Shrine Club sponsored Shrine Circus, Chamberlain, SD

**April 27-28**

Annual JazzCrawl, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

**May 1-5**

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

**May 11**

Make-a-Wish Benefit Featuring Dueling Duel, Silent Auction and Wine Pull, Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588

**June 21**

Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575, [www.dalesburg.org](http://www.dalesburg.org)

**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.**