

Cooperative Connections



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Letter from the President and General Manager

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE



Duane Wolbrink

President



Ken Schlimgen

General Manager

**Join us on Monday,
April 6th at the Mitchell
Corn Palace for your
cooperative's 20th
Annual Meeting.**

NOTICE: Central Electric is closely monitoring the status of COVID-19. **Members will be notified if changes are made to the Annual Meeting event.**

Central Electric is focused on providing reliable electric service while keeping a priority on the safety of our members and employees.

Join us on Monday, April 6th at the Mitchell Corn Palace for your cooperative's 20th 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.

This year, members will be asked to vote on proposed amendments to the By-laws. The By-Laws are important documents for governing and operating the cooperative. An explanation of the proposed amendments can be found in a special insert of this issue. We encourage you to come out and exercise your democratic role as a cooperative member and owner.

Attendees will be entertained this year by guest speaker Jim Woster. We will also recognize this year's outstanding youth, including the Youth Tour recipients and scholarship winners.

The 2019 financial information is on pages 10-11. Your cooperative ended the year in strong financial position and met all the requirements set by our lenders. Over \$1,125,000 in capital credits were retired to our members last year. These capital credits were a combination of \$722,000 from Central Electric, \$57,000 from East River Electric Cooperative, and \$346,000 from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

In 2018, your cooperative identified 2,000 miles of distribution lines that are almost 70 years of age. Central Electric has developed a more aggressive line replacement plan to maintain future system reliability. Last year, your cooperative built 68 miles of new line and as a result, we will remove 75 miles of line that is no longer needed. The current plan replaces 60-70 miles of line annually and goes through 2022.

We have also launched a project to replace our current metering system. We will replace 3,000 meters each year until it is completed in 2022. The new meters will communicate via cellular technology and are expected to lower overall costs while providing more data to assist with member concerns.

Our electricians, HVAC professionals and appliance technician had a very good year in 2019 and are seeing a good start to 2020. The HVAC department received the 2019 Bryant Dealer Award. In order to receive this award, you must demonstrate a dedication to customer satisfaction, technical excellence, and promote cutting edge comfort products from Bryant.

In 2019, over \$19,000 was awarded to local causes making an impact in our local communities through Operation Round-Up, and over \$96,000 has been awarded since the program's initiation in 2015. Your cooperative also participates in the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Loan Fund which provides low interest financing for economic development activities. Since inception, the REED Fund has made over \$4.7 million available to 25 businesses and community ventures in Central Electric's service area.

Your cooperative operates on founding principles including democratic member control, involvement in our communities, and furthering the education of our employees and members. Grab your neighbor and plan to attend your Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Until Next Month, Be Safe.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

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

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.

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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.
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Mission Statement

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

BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Summary

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

The board approved the January 20, 2020 meeting minutes and the January safety meeting minutes. The board then reviewed monthly reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, the service department and the financials.

Board Report

Manager Schlimgen updated the board on the following:

- East River report.
- Basin Electric report.
- District Meetings held in each county.
- POET and ethanol industry update.
- 2020 SD Legislative session and local cracker barrel sessions.
- Annual Meeting agenda and details.
- An affordable housing initiative in Mitchell by the Mitchell Area Development Corporation and their request for a Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Loan.
- National Cooperative Services Corporation (NCSC) director nominations and elections.
- CoBank director nominations and elections.
- Reviewed attendance at the NRECA, CFC, Federated, NISC and NRTC Annual Meetings to be held in March.

Manager of Operations Brian Bultje reported on construction contracts.

Manager of Finance and Administration Dean Uher reported on the OSHA 300 Annual Report.

Directors in attendance at the East River Energize Forum reported on the event.

Director Duane Wolbrink gave a report on the East River board meeting.

Director Donita Loudner gave a report on the SDREA board meeting.

Director Todd VanWalleghen gave a report on the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives (SDAC) meeting.

Board Action

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Reviewed Policy 108 with no changes.
2. Approved construction contracts with Larson Digging and Ivan's Boring.
3. Approved Inventory of Work Orders No. 227 for \$48,853,048.

The next board of directors meeting will be held March 16, 2020 at the Betts Road Service Center.

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

Financial Report	January 2020	Year-to-Date
kWh Sales	34,262,040 kWhs	34,262,040 kWhs
Electric Revenues	\$2,056,905	\$2,056,905
Total Cost of Service	\$2,962,546	\$2,962,546
Operating Margins	\$206,471	\$206,471

Springtime Electrical Safety Tips

Now that the weather is warmer and people are spending more time outside, it's important to make sure certain electrical components are functioning properly and you are practicing good habits around electrical items both inside and outside of the home.

Focusing on electrical safety awareness can help ensure you are not injured due to an electrical malfunction.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes.

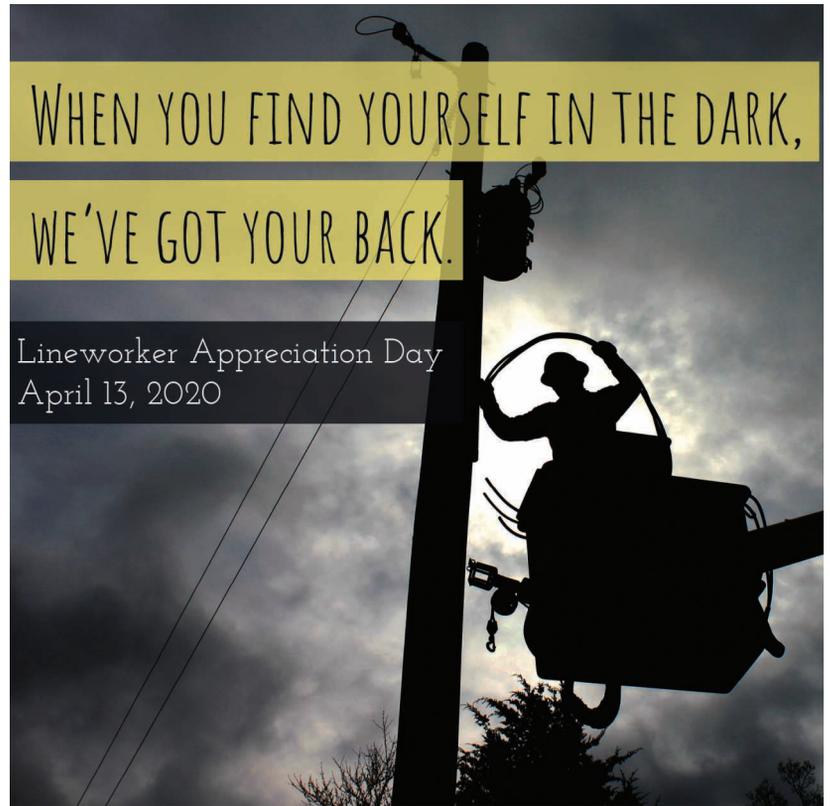
Here are some simple safety rules to remember:

- Ladders of every material should not come in contact with a power line, as it may result in a serious injury or death. Keeping a 10 feet distance from an overhead power line is a good rule of measure.
- If your power tools are not being used, make sure to unplug everything. If not, it's possible for the tools to overheat and cause a fire.
- Check for damaged cords on power tools. It is important to check if the cord is frayed or the plug is broken. This makes the tool dangerous to operate.
- Avoid wet areas while using any electrical item. Be aware of your surroundings, being sure to check for a running hose or sprinkler. Wet grass is particularly an issue.
- Teach kids to never fly a kite or climb a tree near a power line. If a kite gets tangled in overhead power lines, don't try to remove it yourself. Kite string can conduct an electrical current, which can cause serious injuries or death.
- Call 811 before you dig so underground utility lines can be properly marked. This free service is required by state law and should be done at least two business days before the digging begins.

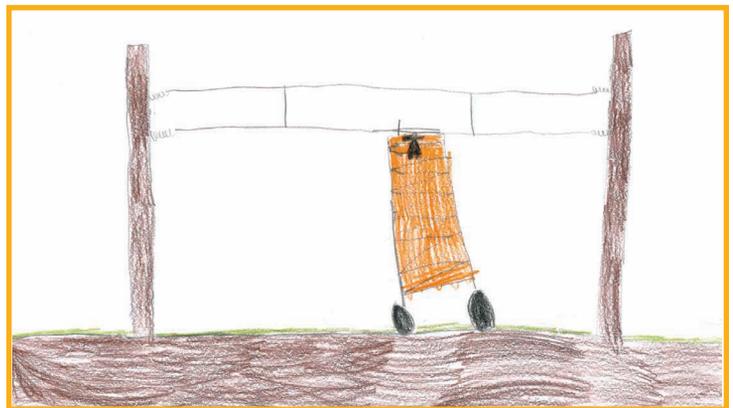
All electrical lines and equipment should be treated seriously and with caution.

Use these simple and easy to follow tips to stay safe this summer.

Source: www.mrelectric.com



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not cut power lines in half."

Annette Tschetter, 6 years old

Annette is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, Revillo, S.D. They are members of Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Milbank, 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

Pink Rhubarb Punch

8 cups chopped rhubarb	2 cups boiling water
8 cups water	2 cups pineapple juice
2 cups sugar	1/4 cup lemon juice
3 T. strawberry gelatin	Lemon-lime soda

In large saucepan, bring rhubarb and water to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer for 10 minutes. Drain, reserving liquid. In a large bowl, combine sugar, gelatin and boiling water until dissolved. Add pineapple and lemon juices. Stir in rhubarb liquid; chill. Just before serving, add soda or ginger ale as desired.

Joyce Romkema, Springfield, S.D.

Jalapeño/Bacon Poppers

10 jalapeños	1-1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1/2 tsp. garlic powder	1/2 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled
1/2 tsp. salt	1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/4 tsp. pepper	
1/4 cup sliced green onions	

Slice each jalapeño in half lengthwise and use spoon to remove seeds and veins. Combine garlic powder, salt, pepper, green onions, Cheddar cheese, bacon and cream cheese. Spoon the mixture evenly in jalapeños and place on baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 20 minutes or until jalapeños are tender. Very flavorful but not hot to taste.

Tina Haug, Pierre, S.D.

Spring Radish-Onion Spread

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened	1/4 tsp. paprika
1/4 cup butter, softened	1 cup shredded radishes
1/2 tsp. celery salt	1/4 cup finely chopped green onions
1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce	Assorted crackers, chips or fresh veggies

Combine first 5 ingredients. Fold in radishes and onions. Cover and chill before serving.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, S.D.

Jalapeño Cheddar Biscuits

2 cups flour	1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1 T. baking powder	2 green onions, thinly sliced
1 tsp. baking soda	Honey Butter:
2 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Jalapeño Pepper, Ground	1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
1 cup buttermilk	3 T. honey
1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter, cut into chunks	

For the biscuits, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda and jalapeño pepper in large bowl. Cut in butter with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add buttermilk; stir to form a soft dough. Stir in cheese and green onions. Drop dough by rounded 1/4 cupfuls about 2 inches apart onto parchment paper-lined baking sheet, forming 12 biscuits. Bake at 375°F. for 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire rack. Meanwhile, for the honey butter, mix butter and honey in small bowl until smooth. Serve with biscuits. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 270, Total Fat 18g, Fiber 1g, Cholesterol 51mg, Sodium 414mg, Carbohydrates 22g, Protein 5g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Mocha Freeze

2 cups vanilla ice cream, softened	1 T. chocolate syrup
1/4 cup cold strong coffee	1/2 cup crushed ice

In blender, combine all ingredients. Cover; blend until of desired consistency. Pour into glasses and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, S.D.

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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

Letter from our Generation & Transmission Cooperative

EAST RIVER REPORT



Tom Boyko

East River Electric Cooperative
General Manager

We are partnering with our member systems and other entities to research emerging technologies and to ensure we take the proper steps now to prepare for the future.

East River and our member systems have a strong legacy of providing safe, affordable and reliable power to our member-owners in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. The strength of our past came from our cooperative family's leaders working together to face the challenges and opportunities through the 69 years of East River's history. Today, East River continues working alongside our member systems to research and adopt new technologies, combat cyber security threats, inform public policy, strengthen our infrastructure and more. As we enter the fast-paced future, our path is lined with crucial decisions. Our continued success will rely on our cooperative family remaining united and committed to our collective future.

A major undertaking this past year was beginning work on an aggressive board-approved transmission system replacement plan to update aging infrastructure, improve our system's reliability and incorporate new technologies. Our cooperative family is projecting continued load growth into the future and this upgrade plan will help secure our ability to accommodate that growth.

Ensuring that the public remains safe around our infrastructure is a priority for East River and our member systems. Our farm safety campaign educates farmers about the dangers involving large farm equipment and power lines. It also teaches them the steps to take if their equipment contacts a power line. We've seen a lot of success with the campaign and we look forward to continuing work with the farm community on spreading this important message.

For nearly 35 years, East River has been working in close step with our member cooperatives to build one of the most extensive electric co-op load management programs in the country which has saved our co-op family nearly \$232 million dollars in avoided wholesale power costs. Our current load management program has served us well and we must ensure it continues meeting the needs of our cooperative network into the future. From electric vehicles to smart home technologies, loads in consumer homes are changing. We are partnering with our member systems and other entities to research emerging technologies and to ensure we take the proper steps now to prepare for the future and to deploy

technologies that benefit our members.

An exciting project that East River launched this past year was a partnership with Dakota State University and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association on a Connected Home Research Project. The project is housed at the DSU MadLabs building in Madison, South Dakota, and East River worked with local companies to build the research space, which is made to look like a kitchen. The project's ultimate goal is to discover or produce technologies that will allow cooperatives to have a link into connected devices to help consumers optimize their energy use and control wholesale power costs.

As cooperatives, East River and our member systems are committed to advancing our communities and the region. One of the ways we achieve this is through our support for economic and business development.

The Rural Electric Economic Development Fund, or REED, which is owned by Central Electric and our other member systems, has invested nearly \$100 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.

The REED Fund had a record year in 2019, with \$12.8 million dollars in new loans. Also in 2019, REED and Avera Health signed a new workforce housing development financing partnership. Avera Health has committed to a \$2 million dollar investment in the REED Fund. This investment, coupled with additional funds from REED, will expand our ability to finance workforce housing in partnership with banks and other entities. We want to assist communities in developing housing that meets the needs of today's workforce and this investment by Avera Health will help our region begin to address the urgent needs for quality workforce housing.

East River also works with our member systems to make positive impacts in our region through charitable giving, events and education. Each year, we partner with our members to present the Co-ops in the Classroom program to local schools. The program celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019 and teaches students where



Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

APRIL 2, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the members of Central Electric Cooperative Association was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 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 (388) at the time the meeting began.

President Wolbrink called upon associate Pastor Ben Payne from Northridge Baptist 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 2018 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.

continued from page 6

electricity comes from, ways to conserve energy and how to stay safe around electricity through hands-on instructions and demonstrations. The students that participated in the program's first year back in 2009 will soon be graduating from college, making career choices and some might possibly return to their family farms. These students are the future leaders of electric co-ops and this program is a great

way to encourage the next generation of co-op member-owners. Our commitment reaches out to FFA, 4-H, Feeding South Dakota, United Way, Special Olympics, Junior Achievement and many more.

President Wolbrink called on East River's General Manager Tom Boyko. Boyko discussed future trends of the cooperatives and industry, including generation resources and system maintenance.

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, Brooke Flemmer, Mitchell; and the two recipients of the Jay Headley Memorial Scholarships, Grace Phinney, Mitchell and Collin Powell, Chamberlain.

Manager Schlimgen then announced this year's Youth Tour winners: Chloe Munsen, Wessington Springs High School; Grace Duvall, Chamberlain High School; Ben Laufman, Mitchell High School; Casey Miller, Mitchell High School*; Brendin LaBore, Wessington Springs High School; Megan Linke, Woonsocket 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; Julie Dykstra, Aurora County; Jill Ekstum, Brule County; and Jim Headley representing the Central Electric Board of Directors.

Manager Schlimgen discussed the 5-year construction work plan including line replacement, upgrades, and a new metering system; reviewed the cooperative's readiness to research new technologies; and recognized the employees.

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. Alex Greenway of Mitchell, SD won the kid's prize bike drawing. Winners of the \$250 "Luck of the Draw" Scholarships were Andrew Mairose of Kimball, SD; Emily Mauer of Mitchell, SD; and Callie Hohn of Ethan, SD. Individual members were also drawn for \$25 energy certificates.

President Wolbrink asked for and received a motion and a second to adjourn the 2019 Central Electric Annual Meeting. There being no further discussion from members the meeting was adjourned.

*Alternate Grace Lentz attended Youth Tour on behalf of Hanson County.

rely on our cooperative family staying committed to our unified future. East River exists to enhance the value of its members and our success comes from remaining focused on that mission. The great working relationships between East River and our member systems will enable us to shape an even stronger tomorrow.



COOPERATIVE CYBERSECURITY

Kaley Lockwood

NRECA

Digital technologies and smart devices are facilitating greater information sharing by allowing people (and devices) to more efficiently communicate with each other. Internet-connected devices not only better enable us to stay in touch with loved ones, they simplify and streamline our lives by communicating with each other.

But greater connectivity comes with a cost.

Addressing the persistent and evolving reality of cyber threats is important for individuals and organizations alike. As people become increasingly interconnected and reliant on digital technologies, there are more opportunities for cyber threats that need to be addressed.

To this end, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) launched RC3, the Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities program, to help electric cooperatives build stronger cybersecurity programs. With funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, RC3 is developing tools to help cooperatives develop a culture of cybersecurity.

Electric cooperatives, large and small, are investing time and

resources to build stronger cyber defenses and increase their resiliency to cyberattacks. As co-ops ramp up capabilities in the beneficial use of digital technologies, they are integrating best practices to safeguard consumer data and grid operations from cyberattacks.

Electric co-ops are responding to the challenge, but are you? Cybercrime affects everyone – organizations, businesses and even individuals. Taking steps to protect your home network and devices from cyberattacks now will save you time and money in the long run.

Here are a few tips to beef up your personal cybersecurity:

- Make sure you have antivirus software installed on your computer, and remember to keep it updated.
- Don't send e-mails containing personal information, like your date of birth or Social Security Number, because that increases opportunities for mal-actors to steal your identify. Be careful when entering a credit card number into a website – if you do, make sure that it's a secure website. You can tell if it's secure by looking for the "s" at the beginning of the website address. Most begin with "http://." A secure site will begin with "https://."

- Attachments or links in an email can contain malware that can infect your computer. Never open an e-mail attachment or click a link unless you know the person sending it, and you were expecting them to send it to you (hackers can take over an account and make it look like it's from a friend.)
- Monitor children's online activity, and make sure they know how to practice good cyber security. Visit the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team's (UC-CERT) website for security tips on how to keep children safe online (<https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST05-002>).

- Always use a different password for each account. Stick to longer passwords that include a combination of numbers, special characters, with both lowercase and capital letters.

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.

Everyone plays a role in their organization's online safety and security, whether that be at home, school or work. You are the first line of defense.

Think Before You Click

- Always hover over a link first to be sure it is safe.
- Report suspicious emails or emails from an unknown sender to your spam filter and delete them from your inbox.



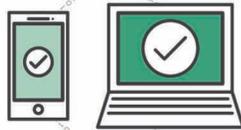
Defend Your Computer

- The best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats is keeping your equipment up to date.
- Work with our IT staff (or provider) to keep your software, including your web browser, and operating systems current.



Lockdown Your Log-in

- Create long and unique passwords. Use familiar phrases or song lyrics you'll remember.
- When possible, use 2-factor authentication as a second layer of defense.
- Change passwords regularly, and do not share them.



Protect Sensitive Information

- Use encryption to protect sensitive data.
- Limit the spread of any attack by only accessing files and folders you need.
- Do not put confidential information in emails, or instant and text messages.



Watch for Red Flags to Identify Potential Phish Attacks

- Phishing attempts seek to steal or compromise data and will often mimic a known sender.

Look for red flags:

1. the email is unexpected;
2. there is a sense of urgency conveyed;
3. there is an offer that seems too good to be true; and/or
4. there are typos and misspellings.



Practice Good Cyber Hygiene On the Go

- Treat all public Wi-Fi networks as a security risk, and don't make financial or other sensitive transactions over public networks.



Want more tips to improve your cyber hygiene?
Visit www.staysafeonline.org.

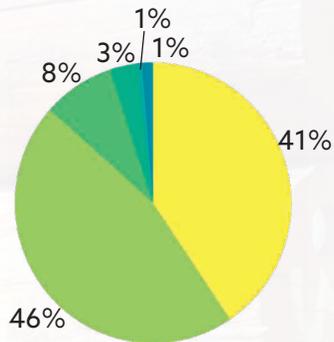
2019 FINANCIALS

BALANCE SHEET

	2018	2019
ASSETS		
Lines, Office Building and Operational Equipment	78,892,134	83,384,880
Less Depreciation	23,685,344	25,103,503
Total Electric Plant Less Depreciation	\$55,206,790	\$58,281,377
Cash and Investments:		
General Fund	3,025,601	1,936,411
Investment:(Associated Organizations)	18,800,078	22,270,254
Total Cash Investments	\$21,825,679	\$24,206,665
Accounts Receivable	3,410,960	3,219,698
Materials and Supplies	2,423,575	2,427,051
Prepaid Insurance	94,470	28,381
Other Current and Accrued Assets	6,600	10,820
Deferred Debits	794,226	874,490
TOTAL ASSETS	\$83,762,300	\$89,048,482
LIABILITIES		
Total Amount Owed to RUS & CFC	39,567,237	43,262,401
Consumer Deposits	143,432	136,828
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,238,516	1,353,676
Accounts Payable	2,525,026	2,383,465
TOTAL WE OWE	\$43,474,211	\$47,136,370
EQUITY		
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	40,288,089	41,912,112
TOTAL EQUITIES	\$40,288,089	\$41,912,112
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$83,762,300	\$89,048,482

OPERATING STATEMENT

	2018	2019
REVENUES		
Revenue from the Sales of Electricity, Wheeling and Fees	35,405,879	34,116,582
TOTAL REVENUE	\$35,405,879	\$34,116,582

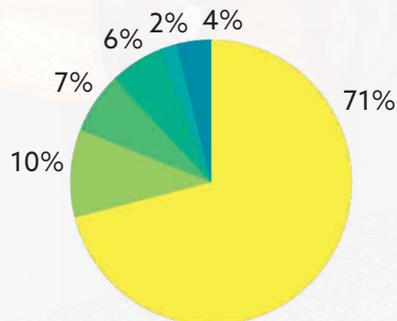


2019 Revenue

- Residential
- Commercial - Large
- Commercial - Small
- Seasonal
- Irrigation
- Other

EXPENSES

Cost of Purchased Power	25,124,742	23,454,315
Distribution-Operations Expense	1,471,128	1,492,727
Distribution-Maintenance Expense	1,740,887	1,655,052
Consumer Accounting and Collecting Expense	261,769	230,242
Consumer Service and Information Expense	448,483	429,290
Sales Expense	83,542	125,939
Administrative and General Expense	1,464,337	1,523,766
Depreciation Expense	1,852,555	2,035,505
Tax Expense	604,946	560,803
Interest Expense	1,258,749	1,360,941
Other Deductions	18,979	25,276
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$34,330,117	\$32,893,856



2019 Expenses

- Purchased Power
- Operations & Maintenance
- Customer & Administration
- Depreciation
- Tax
- Interest

Patronage Capital and Operating Margins	1,075,762	1,222,726
Non-Operating Margins	90,716	239,020
Generation and Transmission and Other Capital Credits	3,508,611	1,163,750
PATRONAGE CAPITAL OR MARGINS	\$4,675,089	\$2,625,496

Are You Flood Ready?

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Wisdom has it that April showers bring May flowers, but in much of South Dakota, April showers may bring more water woes to areas that exited 2019 with saturated soils.

In late February, the National Weather Service issued its spring flood outlook for rivers and streams in eastern South Dakota, portions of central South Dakota, and portions of west central Minnesota.

“Due to the very wet conditions across the area late last summer and into last fall, the chances for minor, moderate, or major flooding are above normal across the eastern and central parts of the area, with lesser chances across the west,” the NWS office in Aberdeen wrote in its release.

Of the 68 river gauges located in South Dakota, 37 show more than 50 percent chance of minor, moderate or major flooding in April and May. The areas shown at risk are in central and eastern South Dakota along the James, Big Sioux, Vermillion and White rivers. (View the map at https://water.weather.gov/ahps/region_long_range.php?state=sd&percent=50)

The flood threat through this spring, both in location and severity, will be determined by future rain or snowfall, and how fast the melting of snowpack occurs. In late February, the 90-day outlook through the end of May contained no strong indication of any abnormally warm/cold or moist/dry trends.

The chances for river flooding are near to above normal, with well above normal chances for the James River and Big Sioux River basins.

There is a wide range of snow depths across the area. Most areas west of the Missouri River have a trace to 2 inches, while east of the James River Valley is a thicker snow pack generally ranging from 8 to 20 inches.

With wet conditions last fall heading into the freeze-up, the soils were fairly well saturated as they froze, which will make them much more impervious to soaking up much of the snow melt as it occurs.



Flooding in southeastern South Dakota last fall, which followed spring flooding, inundated roads and farmland.

Flooding 411

Flooding is the nation’s most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen in every U.S. state and territory. However, all floods are not alike. Some can develop slowly during an extended period of rain, or in a warming trend following a heavy snow. Others, such as flash floods, can occur quickly, even without any visible signs of rain. Be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even a very small stream or dry creek bed can overflow and create flooding.

Prepare for Flooding

- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel in your home if you live in an area that has a high flood risk.
- Consider installing “check valves” to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- If feasible, construct barriers to stop floodwater from entering the building and seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.
- Property insurance does not typically cover flood damage. Talk to your insurance provider about your policy and consider if you need additional coverage.
- Get a kit of emergency supplies and prepare a portable kit in case you have to evacuate.
- Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a thunderstorm hazard, including understanding the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and a severe thunderstorm warning.
- A flood watch or flash flood warning means there is a possibility of flooding or a flash flood in your area.

Be Prepared to Evacuate

- If time allows, bring in outside furniture and move your

3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR FLASH FLOOD SAFETY

During a flood, water levels and the rate at which the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television.



[weather.gov/flood](https://www.weather.gov/flood)

1 GET TO HIGHER GROUND

Get out of the areas subject to flooding

2 DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER

Do NOT drive or walk into flooded areas. It only takes 6" of water to knock you off your feet.

3 STAY INFORMED

Monitor local radar, television, weather radio, internet or social media for updates.

valuables to higher places in your home. Unplug electrical appliances, moving them to higher levels, if possible. However, do not touch an electric appliance if you are wet or standing in water.

- If you have a car, fill the gas tank in case you have to evacuate.
- A flood warning means a flood is occurring or will likely occur soon. If you are advised to evacuate do so immediately.
- A flash flood warning means a flash flood is occurring. Seek higher ground immediately; do not wait for instructions.
- Visit NOAA Watch for more weather-related information.

Plan to Evacuate

- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.
- If you do not have a car, plan alternate means of evacuating.
- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- Identify several places you could go in an emergency, a friend's home in another town, a motel or public shelter.
- If you have a car, keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case you need to evacuate.

- Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
- Take your emergency supply kit.
- Lock the door behind you.
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio for information.
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency.
- Call or email the "out-of-state" contact in your family communications plan.
- Tell them where you are going.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Do not walk through moving water, if possible. Look for areas where the water is not moving. What might seem like a small amount of moving water can easily knock you down.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If your vehicle becomes surrounded by rising water, get out quickly and move to higher ground, if possible.

Stay Informed

- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However,

you should listen to NOAA Weather Radio, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.

- If it has been raining hard for several hours or if it has been raining steadily for days there may be the potential for flooding. Use common sense and available information. If water is rising quickly or you see a moving wall of mud or debris, immediately move to higher ground.
- Stay out of flood waters, if possible. The water may be contaminated or electrically charged. However, should you find yourself trapped in your vehicle in rising water get out immediately and seek higher ground.
- Stay away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of electric shock or electrocution.
- Do not return to your home until local authorities say it is safe. Even after flood waters recede, roads may be weakened and could collapse. Buildings may be unstable, and drinking water may be contaminated.
- Use common sense and exercise caution.

For more information on how you can be prepared for a flood, visit <https://www.floodsmart.gov/>.

"LUCK OF THE DRAW" Scholarships Available

Central Electric Cooperative will award up to four (4) "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 and/or be the dependent of a Central Electric member.
- be a graduating senior pursuing an academic degree or certification at a post-secondary educational institution.
- attend the Annual Meeting.

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.

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.

"Luck of the Draw" scholarships are funded by Central Electric and also the family of the late Jay Headley of White Lake, SD.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Letcher
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Bernetta Burghardt
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Mark Reindl
Treasurer
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Elected 2010



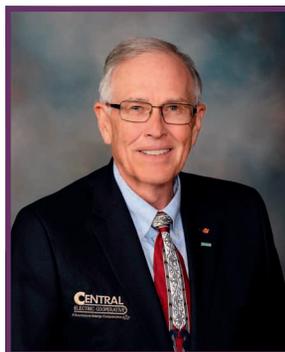
Mark Hofer
NRECA
Spencer
Elected 1990



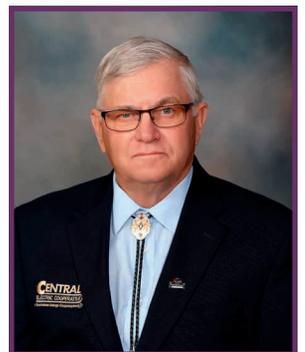
Donita Loudner
SDREA
Fort Thompson
Elected 2002-07, 2017



Darwin "Butch" Morrison
Mitchell
Elected 2003



Roger Campbell
Pukwana
Elected 2014



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

Central Electric Cooperative's 20th Annual Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2020
Corn Palace, Mitchell, SD

6:00 P.M.

Registration

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

7:00 P.M.

Business Meeting

By-Laws Amendments Vote

Guest Speaker: Jim Woster

Recognize Scholarship & Youth Tour
Winners



Katie Schmidt

Basin Electric Power
Co-op Scholar



Megan Linke

Jay Headley
Memorial Scholar



Jessica Kott

Jay Headley
Memorial Scholar

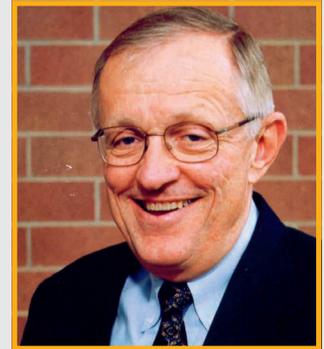
Door prizes including

- **\$25 energy certificates**
- **\$250 scholarships**
(see pg 14 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.

Guest
Speaker

**Jim
Woster**



Jim Woster, a graduate of Chamberlain High School, grew up in a farming and ranching family near Reliance, SD. He has since given a lifetime of service to the agricultural industry in South Dakota.

After graduating from South Dakota State University with a degree in animal science, he began working at the Sioux Falls Stockyards which he turned into a career of over 40 years.

Shortly after retirement, Woster was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2001. Woster actively continues to share his passion for agriculture and the state of South Dakota through his community involvement, volunteerism and speaking engagements.

Woster's humor, quick wit, and story-telling entertains crowds of all ages and backgrounds, and especially resonates with those rooted in rural, hard-working South Dakota families.

*Photo Credit: South Dakota Hall of Fame,
https://sdexcellence.org/Jim_Woster*

NOTICE: Central Electric is closely monitoring the status of COVID-19. **Members will be notified if changes are made to the Annual Meeting event.** Central Electric is focused on providing reliable electric service while keeping a priority on the safety of our members and employees.

December 15-March 31

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

March 20-21, 27-28

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

March 21-22

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Gun Show, Codington County Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 701-361-9215

March 28

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 28

SD High School All-State Band Concert, Mitchell Fine Arts Center, Mitchell, SD, 605-224-9261

April 3-4

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876 or 800-999-1876

April 4

Mitchell Lion's Club Annual Pancake & Sausage Feed, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., All you can eat, \$7/ticket, Age 5 & under free, John Paul II School Gymnasium, Mitchell, SD

April 4-5

Annual USD Wacipi, Vermillion, SD

April 13-14

Big Bend Shrine Club Circus, Chamberlain, SD

April 17-19

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

**March 18,
June 11,
Aug. 13 and
Oct. 8**

Kids Mystery
Dinner Theater,
Brookings, SD,
605-692-6700



Photo courtesy: Children's Museum of S.D.

April 23

Senior Health & Living Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., James Valley Community Center, Mitchell, SD, Contact Jacki Larson 605-995-8048

April 25

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

May 5-6

Energize! Explore Innovative Rural Communities Conference, Milbank, SD, <https://extension.sdstate.edu>

May 29-30

South Dakota Regional Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick Brady at 605-978-6924

Thursdays, June-Sept.

Mitchell Farmers Market, 4:30 to 7 p.m., Corn Palace Plaza, No Market July 30, Aug. 6, Aug. 27, Mitchell, SD

June 4-7

Wheel Jam, SD State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD

June 5-6

SD BBQ Championships, SD State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD

June 5-7

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:

- Rodeo Grounds, Wall, SD, 605-529-5868
- Rodeo Grounds, Highmore, SD, 605-529-5868
- Tipperary Arena, Buffalo, SD, 605-529-5868
- Heartland Arena, Huron, SD, 605-529-5868

June 12-14

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:

- Tripp County Fairgrounds, Winner, SD, 605-529-5868
- Rodeo Grounds, Sturgis, SD, 605-529-5868
- Rodeo Grounds, Dupree, SD, 605-529-5868
- Derby Downs Arena, Watertown, SD, 605-529-5868

June 16-21

SD State High School Finals Rodeo, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-529-5868

June 25-27

31st Annual Red Power Round Up, auction, parade, quilt show, children's activities, tour and entertainment to celebrate the history of International Harvester and ag memorabilia, SD State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD, Call 605-460-0197 or visit redpowerroundup2020.com

August 22

World of Outlaws Race, SD State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD

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.