


Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

OCTOBER 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 6



ANSWERING THE CALL

Pg-8

Taking Membership Seriously



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

October is National Cooperative Month, and a time for cooperatives to celebrate what membership truly means. You are probably a member of a lot of different organizations or places such as a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of an electric cooperative different?

The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner. You own

a stake in the cooperative business, and as with owning any business, there are benefits and responsibilities.

Some of the benefits of being a member include having a say in selecting the person who represents you on the cooperative's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our District and Annual Meetings. While your electric cooperative designs electric rates to cover the costs of providing you with electric service, any excess or "margins" are divided up at the end of the year and returned to you in the form of capital credits. And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a cooperative member matters.

Taking your membership seriously is very important, especially when your cooperative is facing federal policy issues, like EPA's Clean Power Plan.

But owning a business is not all roses. Taking your membership seriously is very important, especially when your cooperative is facing federal policy issues, like the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. This federal regulation has the potential to adversely affect your electric cooperative, the reliability of your electric service, and what you pay for electricity.

According to the plan, power plants nationwide need to reduce carbon emissions 32 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2030. The EPA has determined different targets each state



A crane in the Freedom Coal Mine in North Dakota

has to meet to achieve the overall reduction goal. Electric cooperatives in South Dakota receive the majority of our electricity from coal generating plants in North Dakota. These plants are owned by you and operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. North Dakota has the nation's second-most stringent state carbon reduction goal of 45 percent, which means drastic and costly measures may have to be taken to comply with the new regulation.

Officials from Basin Electric Power Cooperative are still reviewing and analyzing the 1,560 pages of the Clean Power Plan, trying to determine how it will affect their operations. Officials from every state have until September of 2016 to submit an initial plan to the EPA, identifying what must be done to meet the state's goal.

The Clean Power Plan requires significant carbon dioxide reductions by 2022. This short timeline means Basin Electric Power Cooperative will need to make irreversible, long-term decisions and investments in the very near future. Until those decisions are made, the impact to Central Electric and our members is difficult to determine.

In the meantime, please take your cooperative membership seriously. Stay informed on the Clean Power Plan and how it will affect your cooperative. If you are concerned about the future of your electric cooperative and your electric rates, visit the website www.action.coop and learn how you can stay involved in keeping your electric rates affordable.

Central Electric Cooperative Connections

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Mission Statement

Providing Reliable Energy and
Services at a Good Value

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.

Co-op News

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



Did you know?

- America's cooperative network includes more than 47,000 cooperative businesses. What other cooperatives are you a part of?
- Electric cooperatives maintain 42% of the nation's electric distribution line over 75% of the country's landmass
- Central Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts
- These providers supply energy to 42 million people in 47 states

Watch for #TriviaTuesday on Facebook
through the month of October!



America's Electric
Cooperatives

Paying Power Theft's Price

It's often an "invisible" crime. Someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage. Legitimate electricity consumers do not engage in these behaviors, so the impact of electricity theft – including the danger – is often unrecognized.

Power theft carries deadly risks. Many thieves pay for the power they steal with their lives. Electricity theft is not just dangerous for those who steal. If you are on the same power line as someone who steals electricity, you could pay the cost for their theft too. The power line could become overloaded with electric energy, which could harm your electronics and appliances that are designed to receive a certain, steady amount of electricity. Electricity theft makes power service less reliable and lower quality for paying customers.

Electricity thieves may also unknowingly feed energy back into the power line. This is dangerous for linemen who may assume that the power line they are working on is de-energized.

Safe Electricity reminds that everyone can help prevent and reduce power theft:

- Notify your electric utility immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer.
- Do not cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your own meter for any reason.
- Apply for a legal connection if you do not have one.
- Remain aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activities to your electric utility.

Most electrical theft crimes occur through meter tampering, bypassing meters and tapping power lines. Other less frequent crimes include tapping into neighboring premises, using illegal lines after being disconnected, self-reconnection without consent and electrifying fences. Possessing fraudulent electricity bills is also a federal crime and is punishable by law.

Everyone is affected by power theft and detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the price paid.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Be Safe"

Beau Michalek, 4 years old

Beau is the daughter of Anthony Michalek, Okaton, S.D., a member of West Central Electric Cooperative, Murdo, 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.



Current Issues

S.D. Legislators Tour Basin Electric Facilities

On July 29, a group of South Dakota legislators learned just what it takes to make the lights come on when they flip the switch.

The group was learning about electricity, how it's made and what types of challenges the industry is facing, specifically with forthcoming Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The 12 senators and representatives started their co-op and energy education July 28 at one of two cooperatives in South Dakota, East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison or Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, then traveled to Basin Electric headquarters, where they met and heard from Basin Electric representatives.

They had an opportunity to see processes up close as they boarded a bus and drove north toward Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station, Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant and The Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine. A highlight of the day was at the Freedom Mine. During their tour, the legislators were given the opportunity to see the inside of a dragline.

"It's that educational perspective. This tour brings the pieces of the puzzle together. And, it's the impression of the scope and magnitude of what we do, how important it is and how environmentally conscious electric co-ops are about the way that we produce power," said Ed Anderson, South Dakota Rural Electric Association general manager.

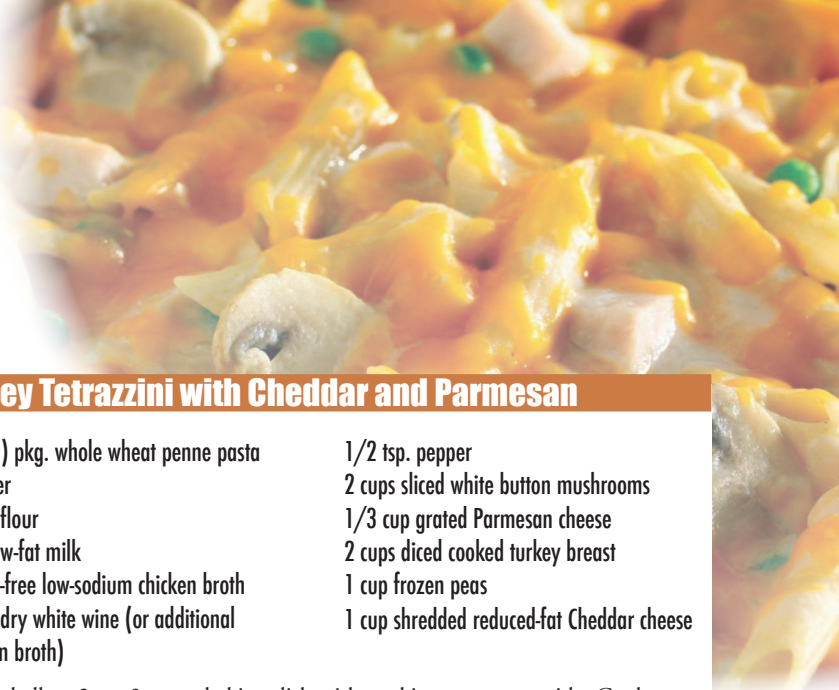


South Dakota legislators pose for a photo near a drag line bucket at Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine.

Clarification

In the September issue of this publication, the story on drive in theatres should have also included the Winner Drive-in Theatre on Hwy 18 at Winner, S.D. The theatre is open summers. The theatre's phone number is 605-842-2913.

Pasta-A-Plenty



Fettuccine Alfredo

- 1 lb. pasta
- 8 oz. whipping cream
- 1/4 cup butter
- 8 oz. Parmesan cheese

Prepare pasta according to package directions; drain. Combine cream and butter in saucepan. Cook over medium-low heat until butter is melted. Add to hot pasta, alternating with Parmesan cheese, tossing to mix well. Serve hot. Variation: May add sautéed scallops, shrimp or mushrooms; season with sherry and freshly ground black pepper.

Amy Schoenfelder, Cavour

Cheesy Chicken Manicotti

- 1 (16 oz.) jar Alfredo sauce
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 T. dried parsley
- 1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- 3 large chicken breasts, cut lengthwise into 14 strips
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. uncooked manicotti pasta shells (14 count)
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

In a medium bowl, thoroughly mix pasta sauce, water, garlic salt and parsley. In an ungreased 9x13-inch glass baking dish, spread about 1 cup of pasta sauce mixture. In another medium bowl, sprinkle chicken strips with Italian seasoning. Stuff chicken strips into uncooked manicotti shells. Place stuffed manicotti shells on pasta sauce in prepared baking dish. Pour remaining sauce evenly over shells, making sure all shells have been coated with sauce. Cover with foil. Bake at 375°F. for 45 to 55 minutes or until pasta shells are tender. Remove from oven and sprinkle with shredded cheeses. Broil uncovered until cheese is melted and brown, about 4 to 5 minutes (watch carefully so it doesn't burn).

Anita Kochutin, Box Elder

Baked Spaghetti

- 8 oz. spaghetti, cooked
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup celery, chopped
- 3 T. butter or margarine
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 cup tomato juice
- 1 (24 oz.) can Hunt's spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder or salt
- 2 tsp. oregano
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese

Cook and drain spaghetti. Stir in egg and Parmesan cheese. Put spaghetti mixture in greased 9x13-inch pan. Saute green pepper, onion and celery in butter. Stir in sour cream. Spoon over spaghetti in pan. Brown ground beef. Add tomato juice, spaghetti sauce, garlic powder or salt and oregano. Spoon on top. Cover with foil. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Remove foil. Top with mozzarella cheese. Return to oven until cheese melts. Let rest 10 to 15 minutes.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Turkey Tetrazzini with Cheddar and Parmesan

- 1 (12 oz.) pkg. whole wheat penne pasta
- 2 T. butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 3 cups low-fat milk
- 1 cup fat-free low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 cup dry white wine (or additional chicken broth)
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 cups sliced white button mushrooms
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 cups diced cooked turkey breast
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese

Spray a shallow 2- to 3-quart baking dish with cooking spray; set aside. Cook pasta according to package directions. In large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and stir in flour. Stirring constantly, cook about 2 minutes. Whisk in milk, chicken broth, wine and pepper; bring mixture to a boil. Stir in mushrooms, reduce heat and cook about 10 minutes, stirring frequently or until mixture thickens and mushrooms are softened. Stir Parmesan cheese, pasta, turkey and peas into milk mixture; spoon into prepared baking dish. Top with Cheddar cheese and cover loosely with foil. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes or until bubbling at edges and heated through. Serves 6.

Nutrition information per serving: 490 calories; 9g total fat; 5g saturated fat; 90mg cholesterol; 370mg sodium; 57g carbohydrates; 6g dietary fiber; 44g protein

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Macaroni Coleslaw

- 1 (7 oz.) pkg. ring macaroni
- 1 (16 oz.) pkg. coleslaw mix
- 2 stalks celery, chopped fine
- 1 medium cucumber, chopped fine
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped fine
- 1 (8 oz.) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 2 medium onions, chopped fine
- Dressing:**
- 1-1/2 cups salad dressing
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and rinse under cold water. Put in large bowl. Add coleslaw mix, celery, cucumber, green pepper, water chestnuts and onion. In a small bowl, whisk together dressing ingredients. Pour over salad and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Bowtie Pasta Dish

- 6 oz. bowtie pasta
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup mushrooms
- Pepper
- 4 cups fresh spinach
- Parmesan cheese

Prepare pasta according to package directions; drain. Saute onion, garlic, mushrooms and pepper in olive oil. Add pasta and spinach; cook slightly until wilted. Top with Parmesan cheese. May also add sautéed chicken strips if desired.

Lillian Schlechter, Scotland

Please send your favorite crock pot, holiday favorites and soup recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

New Faces at Your Cooperative

Patrick Soukup began at Central Electric Cooperative on August 17 as the Manager of Member Services and Marketing. Soukup will coordinate member relations and marketing for the cooperative.

Soukup briefly introduced himself,

“I grew up in Wagner, South Dakota on a family farm. We raised cattle, grew crops, and put up an abundance of hay. I am a graduate of Mitchell Technical Institute with a degree in Electrical Construction and Maintenance. I have been in the electrical field for 20 years this summer. I have a wife, Kristi, and three boys, Keegan, Kaden, and Gavin. The last 20 years of my career have been with TK Electric, Avera Queen of Peace, and with Mitchell Technical Institute; all of these experiences have given me many challenges and opportunities. When I am not spending time with my family, I like hunting, fishing, camping and watch some local sports teams.”

Soukup has also served with the South Dakota National Guard from 1988-2004. He has been very active in the Mitchell community volunteering with the VFW, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, Cub Scouts and coaching. He has also led humanitarian trips to the Haiti region.

Soukup is eager to meet and work with our members, and Central Electric welcomes him to the cooperative!

Soukup assumes the position formerly held by Ken Schlingen, who now serves as General Manager.



Ryan Mueller joined Central Electric on September 1 as Systems Coordinator. In his position, Mueller will coordinate the development and operation of various technologies for the cooperative.

Mueller is originally from Crofton, NE. He, his wife Kelli, and their dog Dale, currently live in Mitchell, SD. Kelli teaches science at the Mitchell Middle School.

Mueller earned his degree in Business Administration and Computer Information Systems from Dakota State University. Mueller has extensive knowledge in his field, having previously worked as an IT Technician for CHR Solutions and a Network Analyst for First Dakota National Bank.

Mueller looks forward to working for Central Electric as a well-established cooperative with an opportunity to learn new technologies. He also feels it will be a great atmosphere to work in. Central Electric is happy to welcome him on board!

In his free time, Mueller enjoys spending time with family, watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers and Minnesota Wild, playing softball, and working around their home.

Mueller will assume the IT duties of former Data Processing Coordinator, Teresa Sprinkel. Sprinkel has been promoted to Accountant.

We Value Your Opinion: Surveys to be Conducted in October

Every five years, the electric cooperatives in Eastern South Dakota join together with our power provider, East River, to participate in a survey of our membership. **In October, you may receive a phone call or email for a survey.** Lawrence and Schiller of Sioux Falls will conduct the survey. Not everyone will be contacted; only a small number of members will be chosen at random.

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions and help us learn how we can serve you better. This survey will help us steer our future programs and learn the best way to reach you, our members. The results will be compared to data from previous surveys and will help us measure how well we are serving you. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 605-996-7516. Thanks in advance for your time!

Please be aware that a Central Electric representative will never call and demand payment for a past due electric bill. Scammers use this type of scenario to trick members into providing their credit card or banking information. If you are ever in doubt, call our office at 605-996-7516.



Funding Future Linemen



Cooperative supporters gave \$5,000 in scholarships to Power Line Construction & Maintenance students at Mitchell Technical Institute this spring.

Bradley Hahn, Martin, SD, was awarded the \$500 Mark and Kathy Hofer Scholarship. Central Electric Director Mark Hofer and his wife, Kathy, have funded this scholarship since 2007.

Rhett Bothwell, Pierre, SD, was awarded the \$500 Larry Brink Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is funded by the family of Larry Brink, a 38-year career power lineman with Beadle Electric/Dakota Energy.

The South Dakota Line Superintendents Association awarded eight \$500 scholarships. Recipients included Hahn; Bothwell; Austin Stahl, Hitchcock; Tyler Pickett, Sturgis; Brandon Houska, Chamberlain; Garrett Metzinger, Pierre; Adam Major, Sioux Falls; and Dylan Parker, Box Elder. This scholarship is funded by the Line Superintendents of SD Cooperatives. Central Electric Operations Manager, Brian Bultje, serves as President of the SDREA Line Superintendent Association.

Pictured left to right are the MTI students who received scholarships: Austin Stahl, Hitchcock; Tyler Pickett, Sturgis; Brandon Houska, Chamberlain; Garrett Metzinger, Pierre; Adam Major, Sioux Falls; Rhett Bothwell, Pierre; Bradley Hahn, Martin; and Dylan Parker, Box Elder.

Answering the Call

Volunteers Vital to Local Fire Departments

By
Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Lake Region Electric Association employee Leonard Diebert serves on the Webster, S.D., fire department. **Cover:** Cam Wal Electric Cooperative employees Robert Froning, Brent Reilley and Matt Hein all serve on local fire departments.

ACROSS THE REGION WHEN THE FIRE WHISTLE BLOWS (or in many areas when the pager or radios start beeping) fire trucks mobilize, bringing much needed help to the scene of an emergency.

And, in many communities, those answering the call will be members of their local volunteer fire departments.

Throughout South Dakota and western Minnesota, volunteer fire departments make up the majority of the region's fire fighters. In South Dakota, there were 8,065 certified volunteer firefighters in the state and 430 paid firefighters in 2014. Figures from the South Dakota Fire Marshal office show there are 367 volunteer fire fighting units certified in the state.

There are a total of 785 fire departments in Minnesota. There are nearly 21,000 firefighters in Minnesota. Approximately 2,100 are career and the

remainder are volunteer/paid on call firefighters.

Few – if any – fire departments in the South Dakota are flush with volunteers; there's room – and need – for more.

Beneath the volunteer fire fighter's helmet, one can find mechanics, farmers, bankers, lawyers, teachers, veterinarians, plumbers and even electric co-op employees. In communities of all sizes, volunteers from all walks of life are needed.

"When the pagers go off you get that antsy feeling. There's definitely an adrenalin rush that kicks in," said Brent Reilley a journeyman electrician at Cam Wal Electric Cooperative in Selby, S.D., and a member of that community's volunteer fire department.

Reilley is one of three Cam Wal employees who double as volunteer firefighters. Journeyman linemen Matt Hein and Robert Froning are also



volunteer fire fighters, Hein with the Selby VFD and Froning with the nearby Java, S.D., department.

All three men chalk up their work with the volunteer departments as just part of being a member of the communities where they live.

“It’s a good public service. You have to put some time in, but it’s totally worth it,” said Reilley, one of about 16 fire fighters in Selby. The department is four fire fighters short of being at full strength.

In high school and early in his work career, Reilley worked for a city in Minnesota.

“All employees of the city were volunteer fire fighters, it’s just what you did,” said Reilley. So, when he moved west, it was a natural step to join the fire department, where he is now the group’s treasurer.

For Hein, his dad was a volunteer fire fighter in his hometown of Wessington Springs, S.D. “I figured when I had a chance, I’d do it, too.”

The experience has gone beyond fulfilling a sense of duty to one’s community for Hein. “I actually like doing it – I like to help.”

“I don’t like to be the guy sitting at home and can’t go on the fire call,” said Hein.

Froning is new to the area, having joined the

Java fire department earlier in the summer of 2015. However, as an employee at Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., he spent four years on that community’s fire department.

“When I moved, I just had to switch,” said Froning.

The three noted that a majority of fires their departments see are brush and grass fires. And, in the summer of 2015, many of their calls have been to vehicle accidents.

“Wildfire can be as dangerous or more dangerous than a structure fire,” Froning observed.

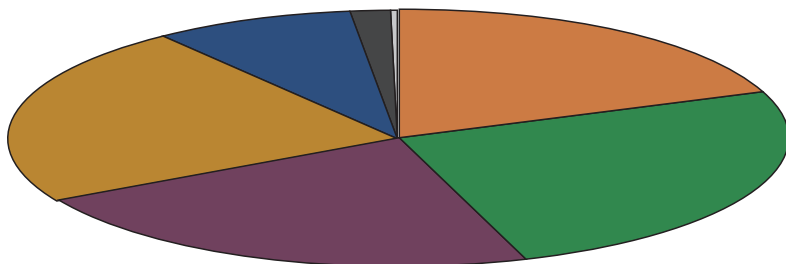
As volunteer fire fighters, the men have monthly department and safety meetings along with annual fire schools to attend.

In Webster, S.D., Lake Region Electric Association serviceman/warehouseman Leonard Deibert is the training officer for the Webster Volunteer Fire Department. Deibert noted that like other departments, Webster could use a few more volunteers to reach full strength.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer fire fighter should contact their local department.

“If you had something on fire you’d want somebody responding to the call. There’s assurance of somebody coming,” said Hein.

South Dakota Fire Service Demographics (2013 statistics)



29 and Under:	19.44%
30-39:	25.34%
40-49:	22.31%
50-59:	23.64%
60-69:	8.37%
70-79:	1.72%
80 and over:	0.18%

National Firefighter Statistics (2011 Data)

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides a variety of national statistics about career, combination, and volunteer fire departments, which makes it possible to identify trends in U.S. fire departments by comparing the data from annual reports.

Estimated number of firefighters: 1,100,450 (career: 344,050, volunteer: 756,400)

- Seventy-three percent of career firefighters are in communities that protect a population of 25,000 or more.

- Ninety-four percent of the volunteers are in departments that protect a population of less than 25,000 and of these departments, about 50 percent are located in small, rural departments that protect a population of less than 2,500.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2011

Home Fire Inspection Checklist

Oct. 4-10 is National Fire Prevention Week. Use this Home Fire Inspection Checklist to make your home safer.

- Is your local emergency phone number on your telephone?
- Can your house number be seen from the street so that emergency vehicles can find you?
- Do you have a smoke detector in your home? Do you test it monthly?
Helpful hint: Change the batteries when you change your clocks – in the spring and fall.
- Do you practice Operation EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home) at home?
- Do your parents talk to your babysitters about the family EDITH plan?
- Is there a fire extinguisher in your home? Does everyone know where it is and how to use it?
- Are matches and lighters kept in a safe place away from children?
- Do you know that you should never run if your clothes catch on fire and that you should “STOP – DROP – ROLL”?
- Do you have a screen on your fireplace? Is it closed at all times?
- Is your yard clear of old tree branches, litter and weeds?
- Do you sleep with your bedroom door closed to prevent the spread of fire?

Operation Round Up[®] to Launch in November

It's the little things that count in life. Being kind to your neighbors, returning a lost wallet, picking up after yourself while enjoying the great outdoors. While each action might not amount to much on its own, if everyone does a little, we see a big impact in our community.

That's the foundation of Operation Round Up—where a little makes a large impact.

Operation Round Up is a program where participating members' bills are "rounded up" to the nearest dollar, and the additional pennies build a fund to assist local needs and worthy organizations.

For example, a member with a bill of \$127.56 would be rounded up to \$128.00, and the member will donate \$.44 that month.

The average participating member will donate \$6.00 per year, with a maximum donation of \$11.88/year.

If a member has multiple accounts and chooses to participate in the program, we will only round up one account per member.

Funds will be awarded based on an application which is reviewed by a committee to ensure your funds are spent wisely. The awarded funds will be focused towards the following areas: community service, economic development, education and youth, environment, emergency assistance, and disaster relief.

If all Central Electric members participate, roughly \$30,000 would be raised in one year. Right now, over 300 coops in the US are participating in Operation Round Up, including several in South Dakota.

Operation Round Up will take effect on the bills sent in early November for electricity used in October.

Every member will be automatically enrolled in the program initially. However, participation in Operation Round Up is voluntary.

Anyone wishing not to participate may notify us by

- 1) Calling our office at 800-477-2892,
- 2) Submit the "Opt In/Out Form" at www.centralec.coop,
- 3) Fill out and mail the form below.

OPERATION ROUND UP OPT OUT FORM

Member Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____



No, please remove me from Operation Round Up.

Marathon Water Heater Program Changes to Take Effect

Due to federally mandated changes regarding the manufacturing of tank type water heaters, Central Electric's availability and price of Marathon Lifetime Warranty Water Heaters have changed.

The new mandates have caused Rheem/Marathon to cease manufacturing of the lifetime warranty units in sizes larger than 55 gallons. The MR series of water heaters is still available in a 50 gallon size.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association was able to pass new legislation that allows for the manufacturing of large tank water heaters that are "Grid Enabled." This means they must be connected to a utilities load control program and must include an activation lock that can be unlocked by a utility with a load management program. Rheem/Marathon is currently trying to design a new water heater that meets these requirements.

Central Electric has a limited supply of 85 and 105 gallon tanks. These units will be dedicated for warranty tank replacements only. To secure one of these units, you must provide the manufacturer's label from the failed unit. Our hope is that we have enough inventory to cover warranty replacements until a replacement model becomes available. The MR 50 gallon tanks are not affected by this.

The water heater industry is making many changes to their product line and that usually means a change in pricing. Rheem/Marathon is no exception. Pricing has been the same since 2011, but now potentially faces a significant price increase. The new MR50 water heater is still available at \$855 while supplies last. Again, prices are subject to change. The MR50 unit will continue to have the lifetime warranty.

Pricing and warranty information on the large tank "Grid Enabled" models being designed are currently not available. Once the "Grid Enabled" models become available, they can only be sold to customers participating in a utility sponsored load management program like Central Electric's.

Central Electric Cooperative has offered incentives for our members who install the Marathon lifetime warranty water heater since 1990. It has been a great product line with a solid warranty. We will continue to pay a cash rebate of \$8/gallon of tank capacity, not to exceed \$680, toward the installation of any "lifetime warranty" electric water heater. The water heater must have at least 50 gallon capacity, installed at a location served by Central Electric Cooperative and direct wired into the cooperative's load management device for a minimum period of four years.

Central Electric will provide more information as it becomes available. You can call our office at 605-996-7516 with any questions, and we will assist you the best we can.



	50 Gal Model	85 Gal Model	105 Gal Model
Price	\$855*	currently not available	currently not available
Rebate for Central Electric Members	\$400	currently not available	currently not available
Price after rebate	\$455		

*Price is available while supplies last. Prices are subject to change.

Scaling EPA's Power Plan Mountain

Increased Electric Costs Expected from Regulation

By Ben Dunsmoor

Below: Sen. John Thune held a meeting with utility leaders in Aberdeen in August to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. **Opposite Page:** Sen. John Thune listens to comments from attendees.

Photos by Ben Dunsmoor/
Northern Electric Cooperative

THE CLEAN POWER PLAN WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED by the Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama at the beginning of August will change the way electric cooperatives deliver power to their members. The big question that is still being analyzed, however, is just how much the new environmental rules will affect cooperatives, rates and the reliability of the electric grid.

"The rule that was released is a very, very high mountain for Basin Electric," said Basin Electric Power Cooperative senior legislative representative Steve Tomac during a meeting with South Dakota Sen. John Thune in August.

The plan calls for a dramatic reduction in emissions from coal-fired plants and a shift to renewable energy resources. Power generators will be required to reduce carbon emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by the year 2030. Generators are also required to convert 28 percent of their portfolios to renewable sources by 2030 under the new rule.

North Dakota-based Basin Electric Power Cooperative – the primary supplier of electricity to South Dakota electric cooperatives – is dissecting the 1,500-page rule to figure out what impact it will have on its facilities and the consumers down the line.

"I think it's going to take us some time to figure out exactly what they (EPA) have done with this thing," said South Dakota Rural Electric Association General Manager Ed Anderson.

Republican South Dakota Sen. John Thune met with Anderson along with Tom Boyko, manager of East River Electric Power Cooperative, and managers from Northern Electric Cooperative, FEM Electric Association, Lake Region Electric Association, Cam Wal Electric Cooperative, Steve Tomac of Basin Electric, investor-owned utility representatives and managers from 3M in the middle of August to discuss the plan and what can be done to modify, delay or stop the regulations that pose major challenges to the power industry.



Tell the White House
that EPA's Power Plant
Rules DON'T WORK for
Rural America.

MAKE YOUR
VOICE
HEARD!



www.action.coop

Energy experts predict the biggest initial impact will be more expensive electricity for consumers.

"It's going to affect rates at the end of the day, but the big question is how much," Thune said. "We're looking from a Congressional point of view what the best way is to approach this."

The concern, however, isn't just about the impact the plan will have on electric rates and the economy, but also the reliability issues that could be on the horizon as electric generators scale back coal-based power production in favor of more wind and solar sources.

"It comes down to that base load and reliability. Will the power be there when we need it most?" said Northern Electric General Manager and CEO Char Hager.

According to Basin Electric's *2014 Annual Report*, the cooperative generates 55 percent of its electricity using coal-fired power plants. Nearly 17 percent of its electricity comes from wind farms scattered throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. More than 5 percent of the cooperative's generation comes from hydro-electric sources and Basin Electric gets about 18 percent of its electricity from plants fired by natural gas.

Tomac says it will be difficult to meet the requirements of the Clean Power Plan by the 2030 deadline.

"We all know we have to operate in a carbon-constrained world and we're going to do that," Tomac said about the effect of the new rule on Basin Electric. "But, I don't think we can build enough compliance resources in that short of time. I don't know physically if that's even in the realm of possibility."

Efforts To Challenge The Rule

There are already efforts to throw roadblocks in the way of the new rule. One of the efforts was launched about a year ago before the Clean Power Plan was even finalized.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley joined with a dozen other states in a lawsuit backed by West Virginia that claims the EPA doesn't have the authority to impose these regulations on states.

"For anybody who flips a light switch or turns a heater on, this is a very big deal," Jackley said.

Jackley anticipates South Dakota joining in future litigation

challenging the rule once the announced Clean Power Plan is officially registered.

"We all recognize the importance of protecting our environment and developing energy efficiency, but I am concerned the EPA has exceeded its authority granted by Congress and reduced the decision-making authority of our State," Jackley said.

In Congress, Thune and South Dakota Republican Sen. Mike Rounds are co-sponsors of the Affordable Reliable Energy Now Act (ARENA). The legislation would prevent the EPA from implementing the new regulations until all legal challenges have been settled.

"If we can get a stay and buy a year, and get a different administration, maybe we can get a delay from 2030," said Tomac.

ARENA would also prevent the EPA from implementing new technology-based standards until that technology has been tested for one year at various power plants throughout the country. Governors would also have the authority under ARENA to reject the plan if they believe it will have a negative impact on economic development, grid reliability or electric consumers in their states.

"The ARENA Act is a common-sense solution that gives states additional time and flexibility to comply with new rules. It also protects taxpayers from bearing the brunt of the rule through higher electric bills," Rounds said.

ARENA has already passed the Environment and Public Works Committee and now heads to the Senate.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a similar piece of legislation in June called the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. South Dakota Republican Rep. Kristi Noem supported the bill.

These efforts to delay, modify or stop the Clean Power Plan would essentially buy power generators more time as they determine a strategy to continue the delivery of affordable and reliable electricity to cooperative members in South Dakota and across the country.

"We're going to have to fight back and we're going to use everything we can to do that," Tomac said.



Energy Efficiency this **Fall**

By Patrick Soukup

Fall Furnace Tune-Up: Basic Maintenance Performed in the Fall Helps Prevent a Winter Breakdown

If you haven't already used your heating system to take the chill out of the air on a cool autumn morning, that day may soon be upon you. Those homeowners who are content for now to throw on a sweatshirt and a pair of wool socks, instead of firing up the furnace or boiler, have to face the inevitable: winter is on its way. When it arrives, you don't want to be left out in the cold due to a malfunctioning heating system. Have your furnace checked out by a pro now to avoid a malfunction during the coldest months.

What a Furnace Tune-up Involves

A furnace technician will perform a comprehensive check of your heating system to ensure that everything is working properly and will continue to do so throughout the winter. Below is a list of the basic system components that should be looked at during a tune-up. Make sure, however, to speak with your technician and ask what work, specifically, will be performed.

- **Fuel Connections:** A faulty gas or oil connection can not only hamper system performance but poses a major safety risk.

- **Electrical Connections:** Good electrical connections are necessary for sufficient heating system power. They also reduce the risk of fire and system shutdown.

- **Lubrication of Moving Parts:** A furnace or boiler needs lubrication to prevent excessive friction and stress. Without proper lubrication, the system can wear out prematurely and require more costly repairs.

- **Thermostat:** Even if the moving parts of a heating system are working normally, a malfunctioning thermostat can cause the system to fail to turn on and off according to the preset temperatures.

- **Filter and Ductwork:** In addition to cleaning the inside of the furnace, a technician will evaluate the condition of your air filter and ductwork.

Call Lincoln Feistner today at 605-996-7516 for all your heating and cooling needs.



It's Hunting Season

Sealing Up Our Homes

Air leaks can waste a lot of your energy dollars. One of the quickest energy- and money- saving tasks you can do is caulk, seal, and weather strip all seams, cracks, and openings to the outside.

Tips for Sealing Air Leaks:

- Test your home for air tightness. On a windy day, carefully hold a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, attic hatches, and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need caulking, sealing, or weather-stripping.
 - Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air.
 - Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings and soffits over cabinets.
 - Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on outside walls.
 - Inspect dirty spots in your insulation for air leaks and mold. Seal leaks with low-expansion spray made for this purpose and install house flashing if needed.
 - Look for dirty spots on your ceiling paint and carpet, which may indicate air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists, and caulk them.
 - Cover single-pane windows with storm windows or replace them with more efficient double-pane low-emissivity windows.
 - Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.
 - Cover your kitchen exhaust fan to stop air leaks when not in use.
 - Check your dryer vent to be sure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire.
 - Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
 - Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.
- An energy audit is another way to weather-proof your home. During an energy audit, a Central Electric employee will inspect your home for leaks and make recommendations to make your home more energy efficient. For more information, contact Central Electric or visit www.centralec.coop.

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members after completing an energy audit!**

Regional Dateline

- September 17-18**
St. Joseph's Indian School
39th Annual Powwow
Chamberlain, SD
605-234-3452
- September 18-19**
Deadwood Jam, Main Street
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876
- September 18-20**
North Country Fiber Fair
Watertown, SD, 605-956-7909
- September 19**
Sweat for Vets 5K Run/Kids 2K
Run/2K Walk, 10 a.m.
Cabelas, Mitchell, SD, Register
by Sept. 1 to get T-shirt and
early bird discount, Contact
Angie Mueller at
605-770-0617
- September 19**
Waldner Family Singers
7 p.m., \$5 tickets
1905 Opera House
Wessington Springs, SD
Contact Cheryl Kleppin at
605-539-9753
- September 19-20**
NESD Celtic Faire and Games
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-5828
- September 23**
Shania Twain, Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-7288
- September 23-26**
NSU Gypsy Days
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-3011
- September 24-26**
Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEALTH CONNECT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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.

Events of Special Note

- September 25**
Annual Buffalo Roundup
Custer State Park, Custer, SD
605-255-4515
- September 25**
Buffalo Wallow Chili Cook-off
Custer, SD, 605-673-2244
- September 25**
Badger Clark Cowboy
Music & Poetry Gathering
Hot Springs, SD, 605-745-4140
- September 25-26**
Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD
Contact Nancy VanOverschelde
at 605-248-2526 or email
nanvan@santel.net
- September 26**
Living History Fall Festival
Groton, SD
- September 26**
South Dakota Women's Expo
South Dakota State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340
- September 29**
REO Speedwagon
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188
- September 30-October 4**
South Dakota Film Festival
Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2697
- October 2**
Elton John and His Band
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288
- October 3-4**
Quilt Festival, Watertown, SD
605-753-0229
- October 8-10**
Wild West Songwriters Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1187
- October 17**
27th Annual Fall Craft Fair
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Elementary
Gym, Wessington Springs, SD
Contact Cheryl Kleppin at
605-539-9753
- October 17-January 3, 2016**
2015 Pheasant Hunting Season
Opens Statewide, Pierre, SD
605-223-7660
- October 23-25**
Autumn Festival, An Arts &
Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD
402-331-2889
- October 30-31**
Haunted Heartland Country
Corn Maze, Harrisburg, SD
605-743-5984
- October 31**
11th Annual Holiday Shopping
Extravaganza, 10 a.m. to
4 p.m., Davison County
Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD
Contact Cindy Foster at
605-996-8563
- November 14**
RSVP Vendor & Craft Show
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
James Valley Community
Center, Mitchell, SD
605-995-8441

- September 24**
Business After-Hours Mixer
5:30 to 7 p.m., Darrel's Oil
Wessington Springs, SD
- September 26**
Family Health and Safety
Festival, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-371-1000