

Cooperative Connections



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Counting Our Blessings



Ken Schlingen

General Manager

“Reflect upon your present blessings of which every man has many, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have few.” - Charles Dickens

The Holiday season is when we traditionally look back on the past year and count our blessings. Charles Dickens made a famous quote regarding blessings. He said, “Reflect upon your present blessings of which every man has many, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have few.”

As I was preparing to write this month's column, I came across a message I kept from a year ago that was given by Dick Johnson, General Manager of West River Electric Cooperative in Wall, SD. In his message, Dick referred to the many things that an electric cooperative is blessed by. I consider Dick a mentor and a friend, and I am sure he will not mind if I share that information with you.

We are blessed: We have a wonderful Board of Directors, team of employees, and members that support the cooperative through this journey of providing reliable electric energy and services. It takes time to understand the cooperative business model, but one can't help but be grateful that we can serve fellow members by using the 7 cooperative principals. They are the best in the world.

We are blessed: We have a reliable, low cost source of electric energy from East River Electric Cooperative, Basin Electric Cooperative and the Western Area Power Administration. These organizations work hard on our behalf to make sure we have electricity ready to work for us at the flip of a switch. I am grateful that Basin continues a slow and steady path towards a balanced energy mix of renewables, coal, and natural gas so that our members have low cost electricity available, every minute of every day.

We are blessed: Both Central Electric and East River Electric have nearly completed another season of construction and system improvements. We had a busy year with an aggressive maintenance program to reduce outages and outage time.

We are blessed: Our employees came home safely every night to their families. Our employees, board of directors and management team make safety a priority. We realize that we are all responsible for our safety and the safety of others around us.

We are blessed: The cooperative's member safety program “Powering Your Safety” is educating members and the general public about being safe around high voltage power lines. While we continue to experience instances where equipment and vehicles are coming into contact with poles and cooperative infrastructure, there have not been any injuries.

We are blessed: Many of us have the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country for business or pleasure, but we still love coming home. We are blessed to live in such a great area of the United States.

We are blessed: Your cooperative is performing very well this year with margins that are well above budget. We are considering our needs for 2019 and developing a budget and plan of work to serve our members in the coming year.

We are blessed: We have the opportunity to create another plan of work for 2019 through 2022. This plan of work will identify problem areas on the electric distribution system and the best options for making improvements. This plan will include a more aggressive strategy for replacing our aging overhead distribution lines. We anticipate a finalized 4-year plan of work in early 2019.

Yes, we should be truly grateful for all the blessings we enjoy each and every day. Sometimes we don't realize the blessings we have until we no longer have them. I hope that you include Central Electric and the services we provide as one of the blessings you receive each day. Happy Holidays.

Until Next Month – Be Safe



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

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

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

Assistant Editor: Patrick Soukup

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

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

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Postmaster: Please send address changes to Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Address all other correspondence to: Cooperative Connections, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301 Telephone: (605)996-7516; Fax: (605) 996-0869; e-mail: cec@centralec.coop; website: www.centralec.coop.

Office Information

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
800-477-2892 or
605-996-7516
www.centralec.coop



Mission Statement

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

District Meeting Dates

Mark your calendar for your local district meeting! Each evening meeting includes a meal, presentation, and gift for members.

Jerauld County*
January 3
Springs Inn
Wessington Springs

Miner County*
January 14
4-H Building
Howard

Sanborn County*
January 15
4-H Building
Forestburg

Davison County
January 17
Davison County 4-H Grounds
Mitchell

Hanson County
January 22
St. Mary's Catholic Hall
Alexandria

Aurora County
January 24
Ag Building
Plankinton

Brule County
January 28
Ag Building
Pukwana

Buffalo County
January 29
St. Joseph Catholic Parish Hall
Ft. Thompson

*Designates an election. See page 6 for details.

Employee Years of Service

DeEtte Bohr

December 1 - 21 years

Thank you for your service to the cooperative!

Open House

Visit our office along Betts Road for cookies and coffee during our Christmas Open House!

December 17 - 21
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



Holiday Closings

Our office will be closed on the following days in observance of the holiday season:

Thanksgiving, November 22
Christmas, December 25
New Year's Day, January 1

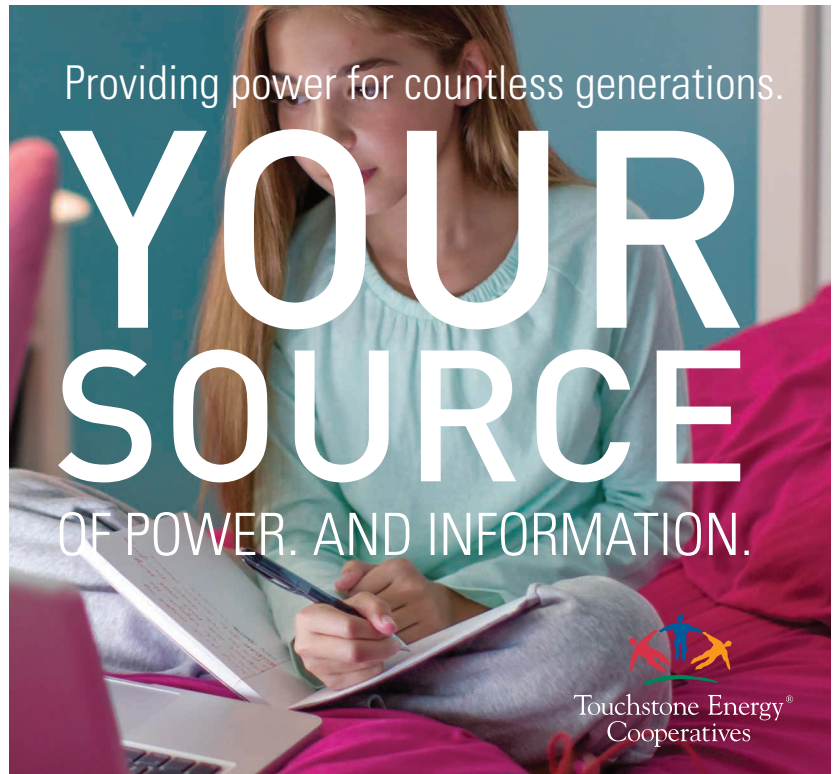


Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

While decorative lights and other electrical decorations add to the splendor of the season, they can increase the risks of fire and electrical injuries if not used safely.

- **Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.** Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- **Do not overload electrical outlets.** Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage into each outlet at a time.
- **Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.** More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.
- **Keep trees fresh by watering daily.** Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.
- **Use battery-operated candles.** Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (National Fire Protection Association).
- **Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.** A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations (NFPA).
- **Protect cords from damage.** To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.
- **Check decorations for certification label.** Decorations not bearing a label from an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.
- **Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.** Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).
- **Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.** Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. (NFPA).

Source: esfi.org



Providing power for countless generations.

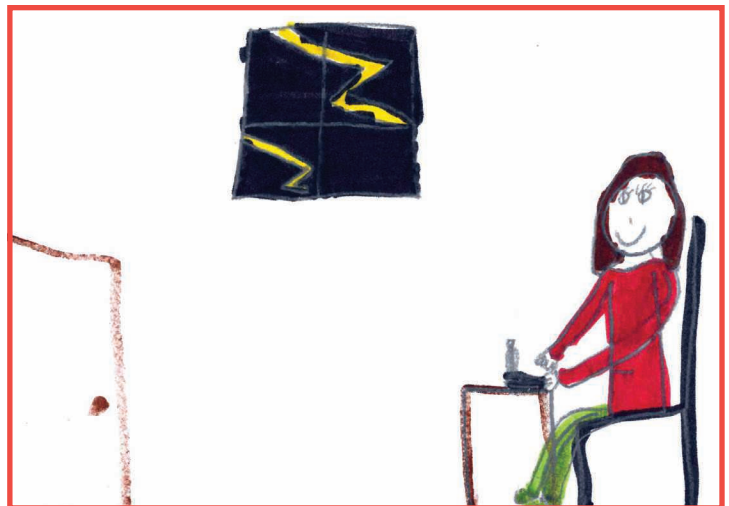
YOUR SOURCE

OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not use electronics when there are thunderstorms."

Hope Wagner, 8 years old

Hope is the daughter of Bryan and Lynita Wagner, Wetonka, S.D. They are members of FEM Electric Association, Ipswich, 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.

Holiday Favorites

Holiday Streusel-topped Squash

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 butternut squash (2 to 2.5 lbs.) peeled, seeded and cut in 1/2-inch chunks, about 4-1/2 cups | 1/4 cup brown sugar |
| 1/4 cup water | 1/4 cup chopped pecans |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 2 T. softened butter |
| 1/3 cup flour | 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice |
| | 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries |

In an 11x7-inch microwavable dish, spread squash cubes. Add water and sprinkle with salt. Cover with plastic wrap, folding back one edge or corner 1/4-inch to vent steam. Microwave on high 5 minutes or until crisp tender. Meanwhile mix flour, brown sugar, pecans, butter and pumpkin pie spice together using a fork. Top squash with sweetened cranberries. Sprinkle streusel evenly over cranberries and squash. Bake at 350°F. uncovered 40 to 45 minutes or until streusel is brown. Serves 8.

Michelle Ommen, Mitchell, SD

Coconut Macaroons

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2/3 cup sweetened condensed milk | 2-1/2 cups flaked coconut |
| 2 T. flour | 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | |

Combine sweetened condensed milk, flour and vanilla. Stir in coconut and chocolate chips. Drop by spoonfuls onto well-greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350°F. 10 to 12 minutes until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Maxine Smith, Owanka, SD

Honey Chew Candy

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 1/2 cup chopped dates |
| 1 cup honey | 1 cup chopped walnuts |

Cook butter and honey for 20 minutes, stirring constantly. Add dates and nuts; mix well. Put into an 8-inch buttered pan. Cool. Cut candy into bite-sized pieces; wrap each piece in waxed paper. Makes about 48 pieces.

Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD

Gingerbread Whoopie Pies with Lemon Crème

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 3 cups flour | 1 tsp. vanilla extract |
| 2 tsp. ground ginger | 1/4 cup granulated sugar |
| 1 tsp. ground cinnamon | 1 cup crushed peppermint candies |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | Lemon Crème: |
| 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg | 1 (7 oz.) jar marshmallow creme |
| 1/4 tsp. salt | 1/2 stick butter, softened |
| 1-1/2 sticks butter, softened | 4 oz. (1/2 pkg.) cream cheese, softened |
| 3/4 cup packed brown sugar | 1 tsp. lemon extract |
| 1/2 cup molasses | |
| 1 egg | |

For the Gingerbread Whoopie Pies, mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt in large bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and brown sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg and vanilla; beat well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into a thick flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar to coat. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350°F. 8 to 10 minutes or until edges of cookies just begin to brown. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Meanwhile, for the Lemon Crème, mix marshmallow creme, butter, cream cheese and lemon extract in medium bowl until well blended. To assemble whoopie pies, place about 1 T. filling on the flat side of 1 cookie. Top with a second cookie, pressing gently to spread the filling. Repeat with remaining cookies. Roll edge of cookies in crushed candy. Store whoopie pies between layers of wax paper in airtight container in refrigerator up to 5 days. Makes 30 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 203, Total Fat 7g, Protein 2g, Cholesterol 28mg, Sodium 135mg, Protein 22g, Carbohydrates 33g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Please send your favorite soup, brunch or seafood recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Director Nominating Petitions Available

Any member residing in District 6, Jerauld County, currently held by Mark Reindl; District 7, Miner County, currently held by Bernetta Burghardt; or District 8, Sanborn County, currently held by Todd VanWalleghen; with an interest in serving on the Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should pick up and return a nominating petition for director at Central Electric's Betts Road Service Center, Mitchell, within the dates provided.

When filed, forms must bear the names of at least ten (10) Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. members from the director district in which the candidate is seeking election. Completed petitions must be filed at least twenty-five (25) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect directors.

District 6, Jerauld County

Petition Pickup Date: November 20, 2018
Petition Deadline: December 10, 2018
Election Date: Thursday, January 3, 2019
Meeting Location: Wessington Springs, SD

District 7, Miner County

Petition Pickup Date: December 1, 2018
Petition Deadline: December 21, 2018
Election Date: Monday, January 14, 2019
Meeting Location: Howard, SD

District 8, Sanborn County

Petition Pickup Date: December 2, 2018
Petition Deadline: December 22, 2018
Election Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Meeting Location: Forestburg, SD

Qualifications of a Director

Any Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. member in good standing is eligible to seek election to the board from the director district where he or she lives. The candidate must be willing to commit at least 25 working days per year for board meetings and affiliated cooperative organization meetings and director training as a requirement stated in the bylaws. However, certain eligibility requirements are stipulated in the cooperative's bylaws. Among them:

Director Qualifications

1. The candidate must be a natural person receiving electric service from the cooperative or meet the qualifications for corporate representation.
2. Must have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts.
3. While a Director, and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, not be, nor have been, convicted of a felony; or plead, nor have pled, guilty to a felony (to include a nolo contendere plea);
(Will be subject to a background check when elected)
4. Within six (6) years of becoming a Director, and unless excused by the Board for good cause, receive a Director

Certificate or similar certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association;

5. Unless excused for good cause by the Board Members, attend at least ten (10) out of twelve (12) of the regularly scheduled monthly board meetings during any calendar year;

6. Comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board.

While a Director, a Director or Director Candidate must:

1. Be a member in good standing, and except for the Director at Large, permanently reside in the Director District from which elected; and
2. Have the Director's primary residence served by the Cooperative or: provided that the operating or chief executive of any Member which is not a natural person, or designee, shall, notwithstanding that such member does not receive service from the Cooperative at such Member's primary residence, be eligible to become a Director, from the Director District in which such Member is located, if such Member or its designee is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction of use of the premises served by the cooperative; and is a permanent

and year round resident within or in close proximity to an area served by the Cooperative, but provided further that no more than one (1) such person may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time; but provided further that no more than one (1) such person from any one (1) non-individual Member may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.

While a Director, a Director or Director candidate must not be:

1. A close relative of any existing Director, other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one (1) year;
2. An existing, or a close relative of an existing, non-Director Cooperative officer, employee, agent, or representative;
3. Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with any other Director; or
4. Engaged in, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, or have material financial interest in, any individual or entity: (a) Directly and substantially competing with the cooperative; (b) or selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or to a substantial number of members.

Bylaws - Director Election

SECTION 4.05 Director Nominations

A. Nominating Petitions. An individual desiring to be a nominee for a Director position for which an incumbent Director's Director term is expiring must take out a nominating petition no more than forty-five (45) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors. Said member shall return the completed Nominating Petition to the Cooperative at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors.

The completed nominating petition shall contain the name of the Nominating Petition Nominee; the Director position for which the Nominating Petition Nominee will run; and the printed names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and original signatures, of at least ten (10) Members residing in the Director District in which said nominee is seeking a directorship, or if for the Director-at-Large, ten (10) members residing in the Cooperative Service Area. After verifying that a Nominating Petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall post the Nominating Petition nominees at the Cooperative's principal office.

B. Notice of Director Nomination. At least ten (10) days nor more than twenty-five (25) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the Director positions for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring; and Names and corresponding Director positions of all Nominating Petition Nominees;

SECTION 4.06. Director Elections.

Members located or residing in each Director District shall elect Directors, except for the Director-at-Large, which shall be elected by the Members of the Cooperative Service Area, as follows:

A. For District Director positions at the District Meeting for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring.

B. For the Director-at-Large position at the Annual Meeting by all Members located or residing in the Cooperative Service Area.

C. From the Nominating Petition Nominees.

D. At the Director District meeting by Members residing in said Director District by Member's written ballot, except for the Director-at-Large who shall be elected at the annual meeting by Members located or residing in the in the Cooperative Service Area by Member written ballot.

E. By a plurality of the votes cast by a quorum of Members in person who are entitled to vote for the Director position. In case of a tie Director vote, the Director elected shall be determined by a drawing by lot. A quorum at any Member meetings, to include a Director District meeting and/or an Annual Meeting, shall consist of the minimum number of Members required by South Dakota law at the time of such meeting. If a quorum is not present within one (1) hour after the appointed time, no meeting shall be held. If an election of Directors is not held, a special Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors shall be held within a reasonable time.

G. Tellers shall be appointed to collect and count the ballots.

H. If only one (1) nominating petition

has been turned in for a Director position for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring, no election shall be held in that District and the Nominating Petition nominee shall be deemed elected as the Director from said District.

I. Names of Nominating Petition nominees shall be printed on ballots in an order determined by drawing prior to the printing of ballots.

SECTION 4.07. Director Terms.

A Director's term is three (3) years ("Director term"). A Director elected at the Annual District Meeting or at the Annual Member meeting will be seated following the adjournment of the recessed portion of the first regular monthly board meeting following the Annual Member Meeting and will terminate with the adjournment of the recessed portion of the first regular monthly board meeting following the Annual Member Meeting. The Cooperative shall stagger Director terms by dividing the total of authorized Directors elected from the Director Districts into three (3) groups of three (3) Directors each. Members thereafter will annually elect one (1) Director group. Decreasing the number of Directors or length of Director terms may not shorten an incumbent Director's Director term. Despite the expiration of a Director term, the Director continues to serve until a new Director is elected, or until the number of Directors is decreased. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Director term of a Director filling a vacant Director's position is the remaining unexpired Director Term of the vacant Director's position.





WREA employees gathered for a Day of Service in the town of New Underwood, S.D. The cover photo features one of the projects the group undertook: painting the community's fire hydrants.

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

Electric Co-ops Active Locally

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Across South Dakota and western Minnesota, the region's electric cooperatives – and their employees and members – can be found not only providing reliable, affordable energy to thousands, but also rolling up their sleeves and helping to improve their local communities.

This fall, West River Electric Association in Wall undertook a Day of Caring project that saw dozens of co-op employees on the streets of New Underwood, a western South Dakota town with a population of about 660.

Working with local community leaders, the co-op identified a variety of projects they could assist with. Crews helped remove trees, paint fire hydrants, fences, a walking bridge and prepare a wall for a future mural. As they worked, community members joined in the effort.

At Colman, S.D., on a Saturday in September, co-op employees and members gathered in the



Sioux Valley Energy Customer Electrical Technician Dana Foster sands a board as part of the co-op's Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build project.

Investing in Youth: Scholarships

Each year, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, offer more than \$100,000 in scholarships to students – usually children and dependents of co-op members – to further their educations.

For nearly 30 years, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has partnered with its member cooperatives to offer more than 180 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 for each school year. This program is for dependent children of member cooperative employees, member cooperative consumers and children of Basin Electric employees. Thirty-one of those scholarships go to students in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Basin Electric offers scholarships for dependent children of employees of Basin Electric and its subsidiaries who are in college or will be entering college in the fall. Five scholarships are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school, and five are designated for qualified applicants who plan to achieve an engineering degree. Up to two awards are designated for students majoring in information services and telecommunications. Basin Electric also offers 20 \$1,000 scholarships to children of member cooperative employees. A handful of these scholarships are awarded to South Dakota and western Minnesota students each year.

Many local cooperatives also offer additional scholarships.

- One co-op uses monies from their Operation Round Up® program to fund more than \$10,000 in scholarships. Other co-ops offer scholarships in conjunction with other programs such as the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Scholar of the Week program.
- And, some co-ops offer scholarships to students seeking a specific career path, such as becoming a line worker.
- For more than 20 years, the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association, which is made up of those in charge of cooperative operations managers, have awarded scholarships to students pursuing a career as a line worker, particularly those attending Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D.
- Students selected to represent their co-op on the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., are eligible to apply for a \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships once they are a sophomore in college through the Glen English Foundation. English was the former CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Cam Wal Electric's Scott Artz conducts a safety demonstration for Selby, S.D.-area youth.

Sioux Valley Energy parking lot east of town along S.D. Highway 34 to construct beds for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a volunteer organization that builds, assembles and delivers bunk beds to children and families in need.

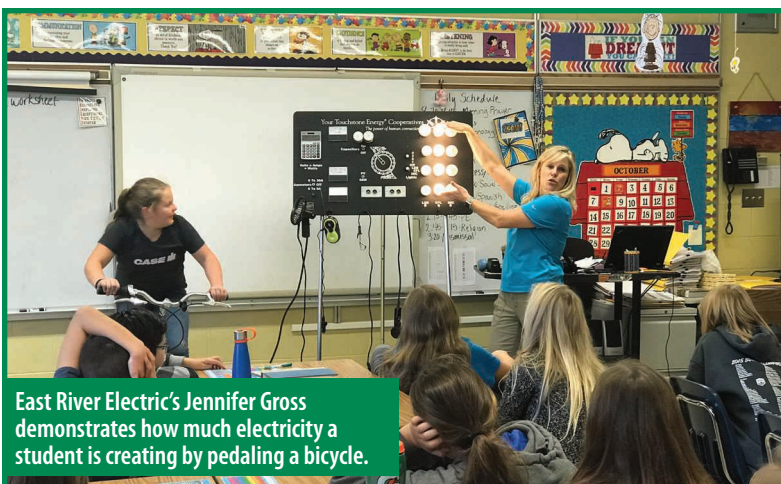
During the Sioux Valley Energy build, 20 beds were constructed, which is 10 percent of the Brookings chapter's goal of 200 beds built in 2018. The Brookings Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is one of 69 in the country.

Co-op employees have also assisted with clean-up projects in Sioux Falls and also at an abandoned rural cemetery near Dell Rapids, S.D.

These examples are in addition to the on-going local community commitment cooperatives throughout the state have.

Throughout the year, electric cooperatives can be found working to educate area youth on the importance of energy efficiency and safety around power lines.

And, heading into the holiday season, co-op crews can be seen in various towns hanging municipal holiday decorations in towns like Bison in northwestern South Dakota and other communities in the state.



East River Electric's Jennifer Gross demonstrates how much electricity a student is creating by pedaling a bicycle.

Members to Receive Capital Credits on Next Bill:

Capital Credit Refunds



The Central Electric Board of Directors has approved a capital credit general retirement of \$500,000 for 2018.

Members with active accounts with Central Electric will receive their refund as a credit on their bill received in early December. By doing this, your member-owned cooperative saves the cost of printing and mailing checks. Inactive members will receive a check in the mail.

When transferring service out of your name or moving off the service territory, ensure that Central Electric has your updated contact information for future capital credit

payments.

Cooperative members are “owners” of the cooperative. As a non-profit cooperative, any margins are allocated back to members each year. Funds are retained by the cooperative to maintain cash flow and good financial standing. Then, the Board of Directors approves capital credit retirements when financially possible. That’s something customers of an investor-owned utility do not see.

Remember to keep a copy for your records. If you have questions, please contact us at 1-800-477-2892 or 1-605-996-7516 or visit www.centralec.coop.

Proud to Power Our Schools

Join us for “**Free Popcorn Night**” sponsored by Central Electric Cooperative and cheer on your local team at the upcoming basketball game. *Regular admission required.*

Tuesday, December 18

Mount Vernon/Plankinton

vs.

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket

**Double-Header Girls & Boys
Basketball Game**

Location: Plankinton Gym



Uher Joins Central Electric

Dean Uher began with Central Electric on November 5 as the Manager of Finance and Administration, following the upcoming retirement of Scott Kroger.

Uher and his wife, Jeanette, live in Mitchell, and they have six children.

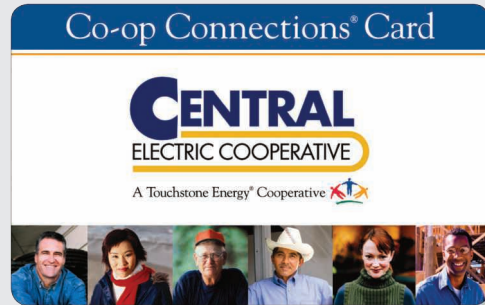
Uher earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from USD, and has been working

in telecommunications consulting since 2000. Prior to that, he worked at Tessier's, Inc. in Mitchell, SD.

In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, and is an active member of his church through Knights of Columbus, parish council, and the education committee. He adds that he's most looking forward to working with the people here and in the position itself at Central Electric.



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) **Village Bowl, Mitchell, SD;**
Bowl 2 games, get the 3rd game free.
- 2) **Westside Sinclair, Mitchell, SD;**
5 cents off per gallon of fuel.
- 3) **Williams Musical and Office Equipment, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off regular price.
- 4) **Woelfel Jewelry, Mitchell, SD;**
15% off all diamond purchases and watches.
- 5) **605 Vision, Chamberlain, SD;**
15% off services and materials; cannot be combined with insurance or other offers.
- 6) **AAA South Dakota, Mitchell Branch, Mitchell, SD;**
Save \$15 on new membership by waiving entrance fee for SD residents only. Free atlas with insurance quote.

For a full list of ways to save, visit www.connections.coop.

To request a card or become a participating business, visit www.centralec.coop or call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.



RECIPES NEEDED FOR
THE
**COUNTRY
COOKIN'**
cookbook

Your recipe could be featured in the 35th volume of East River Electric's Country Cookin' cookbook!

Help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite recipes as well as recipes for the cookbook's "Light Side" section.

Submit recipes via email to kstone@eastriver.coop, fax to 605-256-8057, or contact your local cooperative for more information.

Submission deadline is
Monday, January 28, 2019.

Success in Community Investment by Cooperatives

REED Fund Powers Local Communities

REED FUND QUICK FACTS:

- Incorporated in 1997
 - Loans issued - 323
 - Total funds loaned - \$84.3 million
 - Total employment by REED borrowers - 8,900
 - Total project investment \$666 million
 - Real estate financed - 2.1 million square feet
- 2017 REED Fund Annual Report



More than 25 fire departments, such as the Wolsey Fire Protection District in Wolsey, S.D., have been recipients of REED Fund investments.

The Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund provides business and community project financing in partnership with commercial and other economic development lenders to leverage private investment and make a difference in the region it serves. Established in 1996 and governed by 25 electric cooperatives, REED assists projects that promote growth and contribute to job, business and wealth creation, as well as improve the infrastructure, community facilities/services and economic base of rural areas.

Nearly 83 percent of REED's lending goes to communities with populations of less than 5,000 people and the majority of the projects have local ownership.

Community Success Stories

Community facilities and services are necessary for quality of life and sustainable development. REED Fund provides a

wide range of financing for community projects. Loan applicants include, but are not limited to, civic and philanthropic organizations, educational institutions, local governments and special purpose districts. Success stories illustrate the broad spectrum of different types of projects the fund has assisted, including education, public safety, emergency services, recreation, arts, community infrastructure, facilities and equipment.

Health Care Success Stories

Health Care Financing has been an important sector for the REED Fund. Whether it is a medical clinic, hospital, long term care facility or emergency services, REED fund recognizes the importance of access to quality care. Financing can be for buildings or equipment. These projects may be



Ag-based projects also benefitted from REED Fund investments.



The expansion of Clark, S.D.-based Dakota Butcher to two Watertown locations was financed in part by a REED Fund loan through Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative as well as South Dakota Department of Agriculture financing.

Investing to build a stronger region, REED partners with numerous financial institutions, regional loan funds and government programs to develop financing packages that help create and expand businesses and employment opportunities, sustain and expand health care and education, as well as develop and support community facilities, services, infrastructure and rental housing.

eligible to seek zero percent financing through a USDA program available through the local cooperative..

Business Success Stories

REED Fund’s business loans support business growth and development and contribute to employment and business ownership opportunities. The loans benefit retail, service, tourism, manufacturing, and technology sectors. REED also finances nonprofit development organizations for activities such as industrial parks, leasehold facilities. Financing to nonprofit development corporations receive a reduced interest rate.

Agri Business Success Stories

To recognize agriculture’s impact on the region’s economic base, REED makes loans to support projects that add value to local agriculture production through innovation, improved services, further processing, or marketing. Loans are not made for traditional production agriculture.

Housing Success Stories

Loans that support housing development are also available. To qualify the project needs evidence of broad base of community support and must be

able to show need for additional housing and/or infrastructure to support development. REED does not finance home loans to owner occupants.

For more information on the REED Fund, contact a participating cooperative or visit <http://www.reedfund.coop/reed>

Who REED Has Helped

- 48 Retail and service businesses
- 37 Office facilities or industrial buildings for lease (all to non-profit owners)
- 31 Health care facilities (clinics, hospitals, nursing care centers)
- 25 Fire protection projects (trucks and buildings)
- 22 Community Infrastructure projects (water, wastewater, Main Street)
- 24 Manufacturing firms (plant and/or equipment)
- 18 Ag processing businesses (nine producer-owned) – \$156 million capital investment
- 22 Education (schools, distance learning, technology), including four childcare centers
- 19 Tourism-related businesses
- 20 Grain handling/agronomy firms (15 are cooperatives) – \$126 million capital investment
- 12 Ag retail/service businesses
- 14 Recreation and arts facilities, non-profit, including community centers
- 11 Partner regional and local loan funds
- 11 Multi-family housing projects (three site development, three elderly housing, five multi-family)

Looking to the future of your operation: Growth and Electric Needs



Brian Bultje

Manager of Operations

Growing up in farming families, we both know the importance of growing your operation so that future generations can have the opportunity to carry on the farm.

Many of you might have future thoughts or plans of adding additional facilities, including new grain bins, shops, or even building a new home. Our request is that you involve your cooperative and your electrician in that conversation prior to making any decisions or purchases. We can make sure that you have the electricity available where and when you need it on your operation.

Ensuring the Right Size Equipment

After adding a grain bin or a heated shop, your current electrical equipment might not be able to power everything that it could before. Don't wait until you damage equipment or can't power your load until you contact us.

When you're busy on the farm, the last thing you need is an inconvenience that's completely preventable. We will work with the member and their operation to ensure that you have the proper equipment size/voltage for your needs and understand your electric rate.

Avoiding Unexpected Costs

We do our best to manage our costs at your cooperative and know that you do the same for your operation. Overloading the cooperative's transformer, or damaging your own personal equipment, can be very expensive. For larger members exceeding 50 kVA transformer capacity, they require a demand charge, and those demand charges can also add up quickly.

Our team can help you plan for what you need today versus what you'd like in the future, and placement of that equipment to avoid moving it or additional costs. If you are on a demand rate or have the potential to be, we can also work with you on how and when to run your equipment for maximum efficiency.

In summary, I ask that you visit with your electric cooperative for any addition or change on your farm that could impact your electric needs.

As we wrap up harvest, we wish you all a safe and successful end of the season. Please call our office with any concerns or questions, and we will help you and your operation the best that we can.



Patrick Soukup

Manager of Member Services/Marketing

good things, for life.



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October 20-January 6

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

November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

November 20-December 26

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

November 23-24, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

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

November 24

Mid-Winter Fair, Memorial Auditorium, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Gregory, SD, 605-830-9778

November 29-30

Festival of Trees, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 1

Christmas Stroll and Holidazzle Parade, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

December 1

Rapid City Garden Club's 57th Annual Wreath Sale, Canyon Lake Activity Center, Canyon Lake Senior Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-0710

December 1

Christmas in the Village Craft Fair, Community Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oacoma, SD

December 1-2

Living Christmas Tree, Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-6349

Dec. 1, 7-8, 13-15, 20-21

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071



December 1: Christmas Parade, 5:30 p.m., Downtown, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

Photo courtesy: Kathy Braden

December 2

Festival of Trees and Chili Cook-Off, Cookie Walk and Luncheon, Event Center, De Smet, SD

December 8

Christmas Musicale, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2161

December 8

Frontier Christmas, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

December 8-9

Black Hills Cowboy Christmas, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 8-9

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Astoria Hotel, Dickinson, ND, 701-336-7533

December 9

REO Speedwagon, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

December 9

41st Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575

December 14

A Green Dolphin Jazzy Christmas Concert, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

December 15-March 31

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

January 18-19

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

January 18-20

Winterfest: A Three Day Snowbash, Lead, SD, 605-584-1100

January 25-26

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

January 25-February 3

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

January 26

Sioux Empire on Tap, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

February 8-9

Strawbale Winery Valentine Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

February 8-10

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

February 21-23

Sno Jam Comedy Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxfallssnojamcomedyfest@gmail.com

March 9-12

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

March 15-16

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

March 29-30

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

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.