

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Hooked on Fishing

**South Dakota Fish  
Hatcheries**  
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**Methods of  
Moving Structures**  
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*Photo Credit:  
Markus Erk*



# Reliable electric power – together, we make it look easy



**Ken Schlimgen**  
General Manager

I attended the Annual Meeting and conferences sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in early March. It gave me opportunities to learn about employee retention and recruitment, good governance, pending legislation and the Inflation Reduction Act. These are all important topics, but energy reliability and resiliency were the most pertinent topics.

Each year your cooperative creates a plan of work to provide safe and reliable electric service and maintain the financial integrity of the cooperative. Achieving the goal of safe and reliable electric service requires a large cooperative family working together. Our cooperative family each has different roles, but all are necessary for us to be truly successful.

For most of us, providing reliable electric service means maintaining our system to withstand the forces of nature. We are doing just that by investing more than \$6 million annually in new facilities and the replacement of older overhead power lines.

Your cooperative has about 1,500 miles of overhead lines that we intend to rebuild over the next 20-plus years. This is a needed investment to maintain reliability and to be able to deliver more electric power to our members.

No matter how well Central Electric maintains the local distribution system, our members would not have electric service if the power wasn't generated and delivered to us. East River Electric Power Cooperative of Madison delivers our power. They build and maintain the electric transmission system and substations that support the electric cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and southwest Minnesota.

Central Electric is represented on the East River Board by board member Duane Wolbrink. East River Electric's

2023 plan of work includes a \$78 million investment in new facilities and improvements. The goal is also to maintain high reliability and increase the capacity of the electric system.

The third member of our cooperative family is Basin Electric Power Cooperative from Bismarck, ND. Basin Electric owns generation and transmission assets to create and deliver electric power to 131 electric cooperatives across nine states. Every year, Basin surveys the members and monitors trends to forecast what is needed for generation and transmission assets in the next ten years. They invest hundreds of millions of dollars annually in their fleet of generators and transmission lines. Central Electric is represented on the Basin Electric Board by an East River Electric board member.

Other members of the family include the South Dakota Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Each organization provides training to board members and employees and supports safety programs. These organizations also monitor and introduce legislation to protect your cooperative and keep electric rates affordable.

Despite the millions of dollars invested to provide reliable electric service, your average cost of energy per kilowatt hour is well below the national average. If you were to break down how our dollars are spent, about 70 cents of each dollar pays for generating and delivering electric power, and the remaining 30 cents is used to operate the cooperative.

You can easily see that there is a lot of work behind the scenes to provide reliable and affordable electric power at the flip of a switch. Inflation, higher interest rates and material delays are ongoing challenges. We will continue working together with our cooperative partners to overcome these challenges.

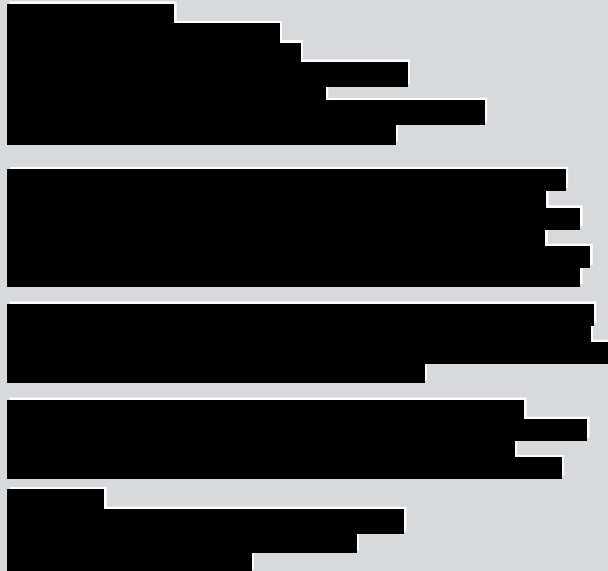
Until next month, stay safe!

## CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

(USPS 018-963)

### Board of Directors

Duane Wolbrink - President (Aurora County)  
 Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President (Sanborn County)  
 Mark Hofer - Secretary & NRECA Director (Hanson County)  
 Mark Reindl - Treasurer (Jerauld County)  
 Donita Loudner - SDREA Director (Buffalo County)  
 Roger Campbell - Director (Brule County)  
 Jeff Gustafson - Director (Davison County)  
 Robert Banks - Director (Miner County)  
 Merl Bechen - Director At Large (All Counties)



### Our Mission

Provide reliable energy and services with a commitment to safety and member satisfaction.

### Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. Central Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

## Board meeting summary

The board of directors met on Jan. 23, 2023, at Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters for the regular board meeting. They reviewed reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, special projects, the service department and financials.

### BOARD REPORT

General Manager Schlimgen updated the board of directors on East River Electric happenings, Basin Electric happenings, Rural Electric Economic Development activities, electric rate adjustments, the proposed soybean processing plant near Mitchell, contribution in aid, S.D. Rural Electric Association (SDREA) Annual Meeting and strategic planning items.

Manager of Finance and Administration Dean Uher discussed the cooperative's proposed revenue deferral plan and the 2023 operating budget.

The board reviewed proposed by-law updates. Recommended updates to the by-laws will be discussed at district meetings and presented for approval of the membership at the annual meeting.

Directors Banks, Bechen and Gustafson reported on recent National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) training.

Director VanWalleghen reported on S.D. Association of Cooperatives activities.

Director Loudner reported on SDREA activities. Directors Loudner, Bechen and VanWalleghen discussed the SDREA Annual Meeting.

Director Wolbrink reported on East River Electric activities. The board reviewed monthly director expenses.

### BOARD ACTION

The board considered or acted upon the following:

- A motion was made and seconded to adopt a resolution to implement the plan to defer \$1,200,000 of revenue in increments of \$400,000.00 in 2024, 2025 and 2026. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 operating budget. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting was scheduled for Feb. 20, 2023.

FINANCIAL REPORT	PRIOR YEAR TO DATE JAN. 2022	YEAR TO DATE JAN. 2023
Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Sales	36,304,087 kWh	33,517,876 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$ 3,406,455	\$ 3,228,784
Total Cost of Service	\$ 2,647,628	\$ 2,775,779
Operating Margins	\$ 758,827	\$ 453,005



# Practicing Electrical Safety Inside and Outside the Home

Electricity is a vital resource South Dakotans depend on daily, but when used unsafely, the consequences can be costly and sometimes even deadly.

Many tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. Sadly, most of these deaths and injuries are preventable.

To help reduce electric safety casualties and injuries, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are dedicated to raising awareness of electric safety information to educate people of all ages on the dangers of electricity.

### Inside the Home:

- Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- When trying to unplug something from an outlet, pull on the plug, not the cord.
- Keep in mind that turned off appliances are still connected to electricity until they are unplugged. Always unplug appliances before cleaning or repairing.
- Use extension cords only for short-term purposes, and make sure the cord is adequately suited for the amount of electricity it will be transferring.
- Turn off and unplug all portable electrical appliances, like hairdryers, irons and shavers, when you're finished using them.
- Be familiar with the location of your breaker box and make sure the switches are clearly labeled so you can shut off electricity quickly in the event of an emergency.
- Teach children never to put their fingers in electrical outlets and appliances.
- Keep appliances and cords away from children and use plug covers in outlets.

### Outside the Home:

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- Teach children to stay away from power lines and substations and make sure they can recognize "Danger-High Voltage" signs.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.
- Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path and if you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.



### Power Line Safety

#### Annette Tschetter, age 9

Annette Tschetter, age 9, offers a great safety tip for power lines. Planting trees near power lines can be dangerous and problematic. Annette is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, members of Whetstone Valley Electric based in 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.

# SMOOTHIE SENSATION

## WAKE UP COFFEE SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

1 cup milk  
1/8-1/4 cup instant coffee granules  
1 envelope chocolate or vanilla instant breakfast drink mix  
3 cups ice cubes

### METHOD

In a blender, combine all the ingredients except the ice. Blend until well mixed. Add the ice and blend until well mixed and slushy.

**Catherine Peterson**  
Viborg, S.D.

## STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

2 cups fresh strawberries, stemmed and halved  
1 cup plain yogurt  
1/2 cup ice cubes or chips  
1/2 tsp. ground cardamom  
1/4 tsp. ginger

### METHOD

In a blender, combine all of the ingredients. Blend on high speed until it has a smoothie texture. Makes two 12 ounce glasses.

**Dar Duncan**  
Milbank, S.D.

## MINT CHOCOLATE BREAKFAST SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

1 cup ice  
1/2 medium avocado, peeled, pitted and chopped  
1/2 cup frozen sliced banana  
1/2 cup packed baby spinach leaves  
1/2 cup reduced fat milk  
1 tablespoon agave nectar  
1/2 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract  
1/4 teaspoon Pure Peppermint Extract  
2 tablespoons finely chopped chocolate

### METHOD

Place all ingredients except chocolate in blender container; cover. Blend on high speed until smooth. Stir in chocolate. Serve immediately.

[mccormick.com](http://mccormick.com)

Please send your favorite 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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



# Plankinton senior named Scholar of the Week

Central Electric Cooperative and Plankinton High School are pleased to recognize Cally Faulhaber, daughter of Chuck and Sue Faulhaber, as the Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Week for April 2-8, 2023.

According to Plankinton High School Guidance Counselor Dani Johnson, Faulhaber is a great role model for younger students because she is active in the classroom and the community.

Faulhaber is involved with National Honors Society, student council, quiz bowl, yearbook, choir, band, FCCLA, volleyball, basketball and track. She is the 4-H club president, 4-H Legislative representative, 4-H Teen Lead, 4-H Ambassador and a S.D. Junior Beef Ambassador. She also volunteers in her community. After high school, Faulhaber plans to study Agricultural Education at South Dakota State University.

“Motivated students like Cally prove there is a bright future ahead. She should be proud of her accomplishments in the classroom and community,” said Tara Miller of Central Electric Cooperative.

Faulhaber receives a \$250 scholarship from Central Electric Cooperative and is eligible for additional scholarships that will be given away at the annual Scholar of the Year banquet.

Faulhaber will be featured on Dakota News Now during the 6:00 p.m. news on Monday, April 3, and again on the morning news Tuesday, April 4, between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. If you miss the live broadcast, you can find the story at [www.dakotanewsnow.com](http://www.dakotanewsnow.com) by typing Cally Faulhaber in the search tool.

The Scholar of the Week program is a partnership between Dakota News Now, Central Electric and other regional Touchstone Energy Cooperatives that captures the commitment electric cooperatives have to the communities they serve. School administrators and faculty submit nominations based on excellence in the classroom and the community.

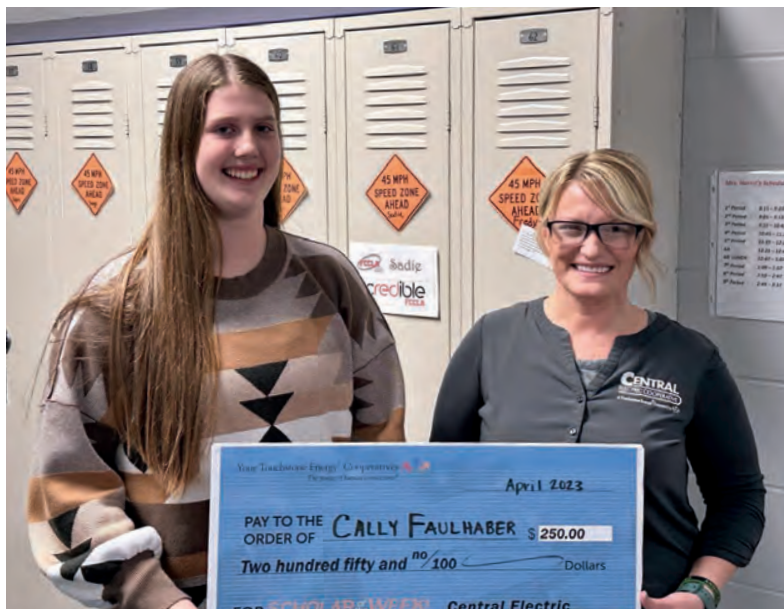
## Farm safety reminder

Each year, Central Electric crews respond to incidents involving farm machinery contacting power lines and equipment.

Remember to look up and look out for overhead and underground power equipment during planting season. If you contact a power line, please follow these safety guidelines.

- STAY PUT and CALL 911 or your electric utility. Stay in the tractor or vehicle.
- If there's a fire, JUMP CLEAR from the equipment. Do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time.
- SHUFFLE with your feet together or HOP at least 40 feet away from the equipment. Walking or running puts you at risk for electrocution.

Accidents can happen to anyone, and many occur while completing routine activities that are performed on a regular basis. This is a dangerous situation that can be avoided.



Cally Faulhaber (left) accepts her Scholar of the Week award from Central Electric Cooperative Manager of Communications Tara Miller.





## LAURA KLOCK EARNS FINALIST SPOT IN THE 'WHO POWERS YOU' CONTEST

As the founder of Helping With Horsepower, Laura Klock (left) lifts up children, military veterans and individuals with special needs.

### Tara Miller

Manager of Communications

Ethan entrepreneur Laura Klock has held the theoretical reins in several different arenas of life. Because of her work helping others, Klock has been named a finalist in the Who Powers You contest hosted by Central Electric and the region's other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives.

Klock is president and founder of Helping With Horsepower, a non-profit that strives to create opportunities and connections through

horses and motorcycles – horsepower! The guiding mission of Helping with Horsepower at Reclamation-Ranch is to deliver programs that empower, encourage and inspire. While her Bike Rebuild program is the foundation of the non-profit that began in 2011, Klock's partnership with Crystal Young, owner of Reclamation-Ranch, resulted in the addition of equine services in 2015. Klock and Young have expanded their offerings to serve at-risk youth, military veterans, students and individuals with special needs.

Klock was the pilot of the first “world's fastest bagger,” a modified Harley-Davidson Road Glide that was featured on Discovery Channel's Biker Build-Off series in 2006. Her daughters followed her racing tracks and by 2009 Klock and her daughters, Erika and Karlee, are the first mother-daughter-daughter trio in land-speed racing history to set records at the same time on the Bonneville Salt Flats. The documentary “Klocked: Women with Horsepower” tells the story.

Having experienced the power of two wheels in her own life, she wrote a curriculum to demonstrate that motorcycles are an incredibly effective tool to teach life lessons to at-risk youth in residential treatment centers through rebuilding a motorcycle hands-on. The Helping with

Horsepower Bike Rebuild program was born and has positively affected lives since.

Now 54 years old, she proudly calls herself a serial entrepreneur after reflecting on all the start-up businesses and transformations that she has been a part of. Klock is a member of the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum Hall of Fame and a founder of the Sturgis Buffalo Chip Biker Belles (15 years in 2023). She taught the basic rider course for the state of South Dakota for ten years and enjoys giving sidecar rides to her two grandchildren at her farm in Ethan, where her current business, Farm Life Creamery, is based. Klock shared that she loves helping others achieve their dreams in both business and life.

Klock is one of 20 finalists in the region that will be featured on the Keloland Living television program. Of those finalists, three top winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on the community. The grand prize winner receives \$3,000, second place receives \$1,500 and third place receives \$500.

Nominations will be accepted through April 7, and contest winners will be announced on Keloland Living on May 25. To learn more about the Who Powers You contest, visit [WhoPowersYouContest.com](http://WhoPowersYouContest.com).



Helping With Horsepower's bike rebuild program helps kids in residential treatment programs, including Mitchell's Abbott House.



# HOOKED ON FISHING

A Game, Fish and Parks employee consolidates fish in a raceway at McNenny State Fish Hatchery for loading and stocking.

## South Dakota Fish Hatcheries Meet Growing Demand

Frank Turner

Fishing guide Dave Spaid, of Pierre, has a passion for helping anglers pull fish out of South Dakotan waters. When a customer catches a memorable monster along the banks of the Missouri River, Spaid knows he has had a successful day.

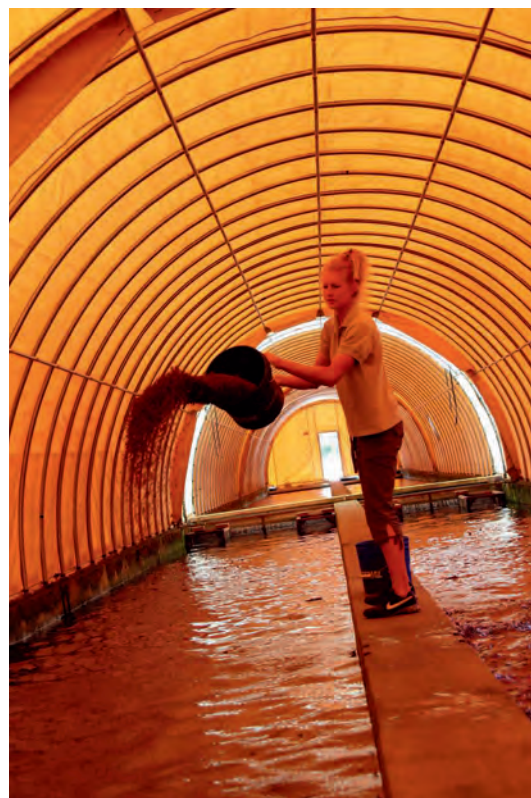
"I basically enjoy watching other people catch fish," said Spaid, who has been a guide for fishermen from across the Midwest for more than 37 years.

Over the course of his long-standing career, Spaid says he observed more anglers on the water and improved fishing technologies and capabilities, yet fewer sizable fish. "There's a growing amount of people out there that are fishing every day and having success," said Spaid. "It puts a detrimental dent in our fishery and sometimes the fish just don't have a

chance to grow to those bigger sizes."

According to data from Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), fishing continues to be an important part of South Dakota's outdoor heritage, confirming Spaid's suspicions. And while fishing guides, like Spaid, have earned a living by taking fish out of the water, managers of fish hatcheries have taken on the responsibility of putting new fish back in.

Fish Hatcheries administrator Mike Barnes said GFP is being proactive in the development of its three hatchery locations to meet the needs of South Dakota's anglers. Recent improvements to South Dakota's three hatcheries located in



Regular feedings help bolster fish before their introduction to South Dakota lakes and rivers.



Spearfish, Rapid City and Waubay have significantly improved the state's abilities to produce and rear mass quantities of fish – everything from walleye to rainbow trout to largemouth bass – for stocking across the state.

The fish produced at these state hatcheries can even bolster South Dakota's larger fisheries, and without them, there would be significantly fewer fish to catch. In 2022, GFP and other entities stocked a total of 66 million fish, including 19 different species, in 138 lakes and streams in South Dakota. Over 60% of the walleye fisheries in South Dakota depend on stocking, and walleye stocking is increasing in Lake Oahe, South Dakota's largest reservoir. Other fisheries, like those for Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and paddlefish, only exist because of hatcheries.

So how does the state manage to raise millions of fish? When raising walleye, hatcheries collect and fertilize fish eggs collected during the spawning season in the spring. The eggs incubate in upwelling jars, which circulate fresh water and gently roll the eggs. When the eggs hatch,

the small fry are either stocked directly into lakes or kept for further growth in ponds or newly installed re-circulating aquaculture system (RAS) tanks.

Due to the recent addition of RAS technology in 2019, Barnes said it is now possible to grow more fish and different species of fish to sizes never before possible. "Anglers are going to feel a huge impact from what we have done with these new systems, even as soon as this summer," said Barnes. "We are increasing small walleye production, and will be stocking bass at 10 inches or bigger, bluegills at eight inches, and muskies at 16 inches or longer – we've never had the opportunity to grow and stock these species of fish at these sizes before. This is all happening at the same time as increased numbers of walleyes returning from traditional rearing ponds and trout production at record levels. I'm extremely proud of the people I am privileged to supervise."

Rearing fish in RAS is complex, and Barnes compares the process to a factory. The scale of production is massive and energy intensive. Barnes is also the

manager of McNenny Hatchery in rural Lawrence County. As a co-op member of Butte Electric, Barnes said the McNenny hatchery in Spearfish has had consistent support from its local co-op to keep the operation rolling.

"There is no way we could do what we do without reliable electricity," said Barnes. "It's just a tremendous blessing for us to have Butte Electric as our provider. They are just so good to work with and so responsive and helpful."

The state is keen on keeping the momentum rolling. In fact, GFP has plans for a new hatchery facility on SDSU's campus. Increasing production, increasing rearing efficiencies, saving money, developing student interns, and enhancing fisheries education, are all reasons for the new facility. Barnes estimates that the project could be completed within the next three years.

"Keep an eye out for new projects because they are happening and underway," he said. "And at the end of the day, it's all about maximizing the satisfaction of our customers, South Dakota's anglers."



Game, Fish and Parks uses trucks equipped with livewells to stock fish directly into South Dakota fisheries across the state.



# RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

### April 10 is Lineworker Appreciation Day

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers deal with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all weather conditions.

Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and then learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 126,600 jobs in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

### Safety comes first

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year

and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power lineworkers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use

bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.





# Grants available for area non-profit groups

Grant applications for Central Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-Up® program are due May 1, 2023. Through Operation Round-Up, funds are awarded to organizations that benefit area communities. Applicants do not need to be members of Central Electric Cooperative, but eligible projects should have a positive impact in Central Electric's territory which includes Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn County.

Past projects supported through Operation Round-Up include fire department equipment upgrades, 4-H projects, youth programs, public beautification efforts, community building upgrades and various non-profit projects.

Operation Round-Up is a voluntary program in which members round their electric bill up to the next whole dollar each month, and the extra cents are used to fund grants. A number of cooperative employees and board members also contribute to the fund. Since 2015, Central Electric members, employees and board members have invested more than \$170,000 to support projects.

Local residents from the cooperative's eight-county territory serve on the board of trustees that awards grant funds. Julie Dykstra of Stickney represents Aurora County, Jill Ekstrum of Kimball represents Brule County, Ellen Speck of Gann Valley represents Buffalo County, David Jorgenson of Mitchell represents Davison County, LeAnn Moe of Alexandria represents Hanson County, Amber Kolousek of Wessington Springs represents Jerauld County, Tami Moore of Howard represents Miner County, Dawna VanOvershelde of Letcher represents Sanborn County and Merl Bechen of Mitchell represents the cooperative board.

Complete funding guidelines and a fillable application can be found online by visiting [centralec.coop/operation-round-up](http://centralec.coop/operation-round-up) or by contacting Tara Miller at 1-800-477-2892.



Last year, the Kimball Fire Department received \$2,000 from Central Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-Up grant program to help purchase wildland-certified firefighting boots.



The Davison County 4-H Horse Committee completed arena improvements with a \$1,000 Operation Round-Up grant in 2022.





A home is moved in Fargo, N.D., due to flooding.

# Reasons to Move and Methods to Get it Done

Jocelyn Johnson

You found your dreamhouse. It's affordable and everything you ever wanted. The catch? You must move it across town.

It's not an easy thing to do, but moving a complete structure from the past to its future home can be done and is done for the right reasons.

Milbank House Movers, Inc., located in Milbank, S.D., has been in business since 1965 and serves all of South Dakota, North Dakota, and the Mid-Western parts of Minnesota.

Josh Wendland from Milbank House Movers said, "The demand for moving structures remains high across all of our service area...we have multiple crews, that, at times, move multiple houses every week."

A house, sentimental barn or historical

church are all structures that people have moved in South Dakota. Sentiment, safety, time, cost, convenience, and restructuring could all be reasons why this occurs.

Throughout the United States,

intimidating structures are moved regularly – lighthouses, hotels, movie theatres, airport terminals, barges, ships, bridges, grain elevators, houses, libraries, transformers, draglines, and viaducts are a few examples.

"Relocating structures is the world's oldest and largest recycling industry," Wendland stated. "Why people move structures varies greatly, but a few of the most common reasons occur in a



Two buildings are moved from Augustana University campus due to expansion of the college athletics complexes.

vast state like South Dakota. People that would like a home built may have difficulty finding builders that will work in their parts of the state, or the local builders are simply booked out and cannot help in the timeframe that works for them.”

In these circumstances, ready-built companies offer pre-built homes that could be moved to the customer’s site and set it on their basement as if it were built there all along.

A homeowner wanting to upgrade homes in their current location while also wanting to make a profit over the home they currently live in, is another example to move a home. Out with the old and in with the new! This philosophy can be true with barns, buildings, garages, and other types of structures that are in the way of new opportunities, but still hold value.

Flooding is an additional reason why some in the Midwest may want to move their homes to higher ground. Wendland observed that structural movers have seen an increase in the number of requests to elevate houses permanently, so owners

would not have to pay for expensive flood insurance. This move would elevate the long-term value on their home.

“We also work with numerous historical societies to help preserve historic structures, trains, churches, hotels, and schoolhouses by moving them to historical society grounds where they can be saved for future generations to learn from and enjoy,” Wendland stated. “We like to say, Moving the Past to the Present for the Future!”

## Things to Consider When Moving a House

Despite professionals making it look somewhat easy, getting from Point A to Point B may not be that simple. It requires constructive planning and forethought. The following are just a few considerations to take before any structure is moved.

1. Size – the bigger the house, the more expensive it is to move.
2. Obstacles – trees, overhead utility lines, bridge weight limitations, traffic signals, and railroad crossings should be considered

with every route taken.

3. Price of moving the house
4. Distance of the move
5. Cost of the new lot
6. Cost to purchase the house or building
7. Fees associated with moving overhead utilities, tree trimming, and any permits or inspections required to move and place the house
8. Fees associated with disconnecting all of the current utilities, HVAC, and electrical and plumbing systems
9. Remodeling costs
10. Financing costs

Moving a structure can be an exciting process if done correctly. It’s saving a piece of history from destruction or putting in something new without the headache of waiting. Whatever the reason behind the move, the ability to do it is astounding. Homes can be saved, history can be preserved, and future options are made more available.



A home is moved due to flooding near Waubay, S.D.



### April is National Safe Digging Month

The S.D. Public Utilities Commission recognizes April as National Safe Digging Month and encourages South Dakotans to call 811 before beginning any digging project.

#### About 811

A quick phone call to 811 at least two business days before you dig starts the process of getting underground utility lines marked. S.D. One Call Center personnel then notifies affected utility companies, and underground utility lines are marked for free.

#### When to call 811

- Installing a mailbox
- Putting in a fence
- Planting trees or shrubs
- Excavating a garden area
- Building a deck or patio

These are common examples of when to call. You or your contractor should call at least two business days before any digging project.

#### What happens if I don't call?

You could be fined. Besides that, failure to call before digging may result in an unintentional hit, leading to repair costs, utility outages, severe injury or death. Knowing the location of underground utility lines before each digging project helps prevent these situations. Thanks for your cooperation!

## Can You Dig It?

**An underground utility line is **damaged once every 9 minutes** because someone didn't call 811.**

**Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 business days** prior to digging.**

**811 locators **do not detect** underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.**

**Even if you have previously had underground utilities marked, **utilities can shift**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.**

**Once **all of your utilities** have been located, then you can start your digging project!**

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

# ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER?



*Make sure your HOUSE is too.*

## AIR CONDITIONER

Spring Check-Ups

## MINI-SPLIT

Installation

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

Heating & Cooling Solutions



1-800-477-2892  
[www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)







**April 22, 2023**  
**RiverRat Run**  
 Gavins Point Recreation Area  
 Yankton, SD  
 605-660-9483

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.

**MARCH 31-APRIL 2**  
**70th Annual Hayes Play:**  
**Trouble in Tumbleweed**  
 Hayes Community Hall  
 Hayes, SD  
 605-280-6556

**APRIL 1**  
**Hill City Easter Egg Hunt**  
 9:45 a.m.  
 Visitor Information Center  
 Hill City, SD  
 605-574-2368

**APRIL 1**  
**Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt**  
 10 a.m.  
 City Park  
 Groton, SD  
 605-397-8422

**APRIL 1**  
**East Dakota Chapter**  
**NWTF 30th Banquet**  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-940-0702

**APRIL 2-4**  
**"The Psychic-a Murder**  
**Mystery of Sorts"**  
**Community Theater**  
**Performance**  
 Town Players Theater  
 Watertown, SD  
 605-280-6556

**APRIL 8**  
**East Dakota Chapter**  
**NWTF 30th Banquet**  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-940-0702

**APRIL 8**  
**Easter Egg Hunt for Helping**  
**with Horsepower**  
 2 p.m.  
 Reclamation Ranch  
 Mitchell, SD

**APRIL 21**  
**Museum After Dark**  
 7 p.m.  
 Children's Museum of  
 South Dakota  
 Brookings, SD

**APRIL 21-22**  
**Rummage Sale Fundraiser for**  
**Helping with Horsepower**  
 3-8 p.m. Friday  
 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday  
 Ethan American Legion  
 Ethan, SD

**APRIL 22**  
**RiverRat Run**  
 8 a.m.  
 Gavins Point Recreation Area  
 Yankton, SD  
 (605) 660-9483

**MAY 6**  
**Helping with Horsepower**  
**Open House & Expo**  
 12 p.m.-4 p.m.  
 Reclamation Ranch  
 Mitchell, SD

**MAY 17**  
**Helping with Horsepower**  
**County Fair Booth**  
 3-6 p.m.  
 Collecting County Fair stamps  
 to benefit programs  
 Mitchell, SD

**MAY 20**  
**Buggy Museum Open House**  
 10 a.m.  
 Stockholm, SD  
 605-938-4192

**MAY 25**  
**Wine Walk**  
 5 p.m.  
 Downtown Businesses  
 Aberdeen, SD  
 605-226-3441

**MAY 27**  
**Back When They Bucked**  
**All-Day Rodeo**  
 9 a.m.  
 Days of '76 Event Complex  
 Deadwood, SD

**Note: Please make sure  
 to call ahead to verify the  
 event is still being held.**