

## Cooperative Connections

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# March 2020 Board Minutes and January 2020 Financial Information

The March 17, 2020, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hieb, Keckler, Landis, Lawrence, Maher, McLellan, Walker and Wall, and others present: Manager Maher and Finance Officer Dahlgren (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

- The large power users monthly report was given by Sue Sherwood, which included topics on large power usage and payments.
- The member services report was given by Roger Lawien, which included SmartHub, Basin Electric Scholarship winner, DC Youth Tour winner, Basin Electric has cancelled all tours until April due to the COVID-19, CRHA Home Ownership Class rescheduled until April, security camera update and discussed phone service issues.
- The operations report was not given since Kent Larson was gone on personal leave.
- Manager Maher gave the manager's report that included cancellations due to the COVID-19, discussed precautions being taken by cooperatives, phone service issues, DGC history with Basin Electric, Basin Electric financial report, CFC annual benefit of ownership statement, Federated capital credit statement, monthly load management report, HB1262 update, SDREA personnel retirements, slow activity on new service requests, loan draw, Red Can Artwork Program, Legislative Conference cancelled, temporary lineman interviews and discussed property for new shop.
- The board discussed the CFC Forum scheduled for June 15-17 in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- The board discussed the Co-op Day at the Capitol.
- Director Lawrence gave the

January 2020 Financial Information			
	January 2019	January 2018	YTD 2019
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	\$1,310,157	\$1,284,439	\$1,310,157
<b>Cost of Power</b>	\$678,790	\$696,933	\$678,790
<b>Cost of Electric Service</b>	\$1,171,327	\$1,266,705	\$1,171,327
<b>Margins</b>	\$140,838	\$19,775	\$140,838
<b>kWh Purchased</b>	12,793,007	12,457,751	12,793,007
<b>kWh Sold</b>	11,493,604	11,344,761	11,493,604

Rushmore board meeting report that included a financial report, annual audit review, Basin/Rushmore capital credit allocation, load forecast, solar projects, WAPA, Basin Electric consolidated earnings, future of DGC, FERC lawsuit and member cooperative issues.

- Staking Foremen Hunter Smith gave a report on the NRECA Next Generation Leadership Training and annual meeting that included accountability, learn from mistakes, create a common purpose, growth mindset versus fixed mindset, take chances, tough conversations, engaging, general sessions covering broadband, cooperative principles, engaging with members, need to keep the Youth Tour attendees engaged in the cooperative after their trips to Washington, D.C., and attended the TechAdvantage Expo.
- Director McLellan gave a report on the NRECA annual meeting that included the resolutions forum, Youth Leadership Council, session on Innovate or Die Trying, Building Member Trust Through Good Governance and Transparency, Power of Storytelling, CFC annual meeting, annual ACRE meeting, resolutions passed, business meeting, The Future of Member Engagement, After the Tour: Leveraging Youth Tour

Attendees, entertainment and next meeting scheduled for Feb. 21-24, 2021, in San Diego.

- Director Wall reported on the CCD Workshop Courses 2620 Board Operations and Process, 2630 Strategic Planning and 2640 Financial Decision Making he attended designed to help electric cooperative directors understand their roles and responsibilities and stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry.
- Director Maher gave a legislative update to the board.
- The board discussed the RESCO board position and there wasn't any interest among the board for the position.
- The board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the February meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, bank signature card resolutions. CFC resolution to update commercial paper investment program, Director Maher to attend the CFC Forum and a resolution to request RUS discounted prepayment through CFC.
- The next board meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

Comparative Report	Current (Feb. 2020)	1 year ago (Feb. 2019)	10 Years Ago (Feb. 2010)	% Change in 10 years
<b>Number of Meters</b>	6,962	6,999	6,405	9%
<b>Kilowatt Hours Sold</b>	10,331,755	11,727,972	8,014,182	29%
<b>Cost of Purchased Power</b>	\$615,058.94	\$651,079.94	\$301,298.46	104%
<b>Overall Ave. Rate / kWh Per Member</b>	0.112	0.1095	0.0949	18%

# Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-951)

**Manager:** Melissa Maher

**Editor:** Roger Lawien,  
Member Services & IT Director

**Directors**

Larry Hieb, President  
Kerry McLellan, Vice President  
Lois Bartlett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Clint Clark  
Bob Keckler  
Kelly Landis  
Paul Lawrence  
Ryan Maher  
Royce Walker  
Troy Wall

**Attorney:** John Burke

**Management Staff:**

Kent Larson,  
Operations Superintendent  
Linda Dahlgren, Finance Officer  
Kyrie Lemburg, Accountant  
Sheila Scherer, Office Manager  
Hunter Smith, Staking Foreman

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March 31, 2020

## Office Closed; Business as Usual



**Melissa Maher**

melissa@mge.coop

I'm writing this report on March 31. By the time it reaches members' homes the later part of April, we can only hope and pray that the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has been stabilized. As an essential service to our area, Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative takes this role seriously while protecting our employees, their families and our members.

As of March 23 until further notice, offices were closed down to public access. This included the Timber Lake, Eagle Butte and McLaughlin area. At this point, a complete renovation of the Eagle Butte office began with plans to re-open the office once completed. Sanitation of office facilities and service trucks are emphasized and ongoing. All meetings and travel have been canceled until further notice.

tation of office facilities and service trucks are emphasized and ongoing. All meetings and travel have been canceled until further notice.

Members' calls are being taken along with various options for members to pay their bills. Payment drop-boxes are available at every office site. Online payment and account management options are available at <https://www.mge.coop>. Outages are being handled.

Beginning the week of March 30, office employees began working in alternating shifts – with some from each department sent home for a period of time while keeping a core group to provide service to our members. Linemen have been broke-down into two-man or one-man teams. They are not meeting at a central warehouse with efforts being made to limit the amount of public contact and support social distancing. Having outposts in Eagle Butte and McLaughlin, along with our main headquarters in Timber Lake, helps facilitate the concept of isolation of our crews.

I liken this experience to a storm job – except we have ample practice in handling weather storm events at your co-op. With that said, we certainly hope and pray that we do not have a major storm during this pandemic as this would add to the challenge depending on the magnitude of damage. Rest assured Moreau-Grand employees will do our best to meet the needs of our members regardless of the conditions.

With the fluidity of COVID-19, plans can change rapidly to keep the health and safety of all. Please go to Moreau-Grand's website or Facebook page for the latest and most up-to-date information. Trusting and praying that life will get back to some kind of normal in the near future. May this new normal include spending more time in the Word of God, spending quality time with family and demonstrating thankfulness for everything!

God Bless each of you and God Bless our Country!

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# 10 Steps to Avoid Scams

There are thousands of new scams every year and you can't keep up with all of them (we know, we try!). But if you can just remember these 10 things, you can avoid most scams and help protect yourself and your family.

- 1) Never send money to someone you have never met face-to-face.** Seriously, just don't ever do it. And really, really don't do it if they ask you to use wire transfer, a prepaid debit card or a gift card (those cannot be traced and are as good as cash).
- 2) Don't click on links or open attachments in unsolicited email.** Links can download malware onto your computer and/or steal your identity. Be cautious even with email that looks familiar; it could be fake.
- 3) Don't believe everything you see.** Scammers are great at mimicking official seals, fonts and other details. Just because a website or email looks official does not mean that it is. Even Caller ID can be faked.
- 4) Don't buy online unless the transaction is secure.** Make sure the website has "https" in the URL (the extra s is for "secure") and a small lock icon on the address bar. Even then, the site could be shady. Check out the company first at BBB.org. Read reviews about the quality of the merchandise and make sure you are not buying cheap and/or counterfeit goods.
- 5) Be extremely cautious when dealing with anyone you've met online.** Scammers use dating websites, Craigslist, social media and many other sites to reach potential targets. They can quickly feel like a friend or even a romantic partner, but that is part of the con to get you to trust them.
- 6) Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, even at your front door.** This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate and Social Security/Social Insurance numbers.
- 7) Don't be pressured to act immediately.** Scammers typically try to make you think something is scarce or a limited time offer. They want to push you into action before you have time to think or to discuss it with a family member, friend or financial advisor. High-pressure sales tactics are also used by some legitimate businesses, but it's never a good idea to make an important decision quickly.
- 8) Use secure, traceable transactions when making payments for goods, services, taxes and debts.** Do not pay by wire transfer, prepaid money card, gift card or other non-traditional payment method. Say no to cash-only deals, high pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, overpayments and handshake deals without a contract.
- 9) Whenever possible, work with local businesses that have proper identification, licensing and insurance, especially contractors who will be coming into your home or anyone dealing with your money or sensitive information.** Check them out at BBB.org to see what other consumers have experienced.
- 10) Be cautious about what you share on social media and consider only connecting with people you already know.** Be sure to use privacy settings on all social media and online accounts. Imposters often get information about their targets from their online interactions and can make themselves sound like a friend or family member because they know so much about you.

Source: [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)



## Utility service has never been more important.

If you're planning landscaping or any other digging projects, contact 811 first – the kids telelearning and adults telecommuting will thank you.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call 811.com/811-your-state




Stay safe during social distancing by calling 811 before starting any new project, so you can stay connected to the internet and utility services you rely on.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call 811.com/811-your-state



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Do not play around electrical boxes."**

**Kayla Engelbrecht, 9 years old**

Kayla is the grand-daughter of Alan and JoAnn Engelbrecht, Brandon, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, 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.

# Comforting Casseroles

## Chicken-Broccoli-Rice Casserole

1 lb. chicken tenders or boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch strips	2 tsp. onion powder
1 cup long grain rice	1-1/2 tsp. rosemary leaves, crushed
1-1/2 cups Kitchen Basics® Original Chicken Stock	1/2 tsp. pepper
1 cup milk	1/2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. garlic powder	2 cups fresh or frozen broccoli florets
	1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slowly pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake at 400°F. for 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender. Makes 6 (1 cup) servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 317, Total Fat 9g, Cholesterol 69mg, Sodium 492mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Fiber 1g, Protein 28g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Ham and Rye Casserole

1 cup chopped onion	1 (8 oz) pkg. American cheese, cubed
1/2 cup chopped celery	2-1/2 cups milk
1/4 cup butter	3 eggs
4 cups cubed rye bread	1-1/2 tsp. prepared mustard
1 (8 oz.) pkg. ham, cut into strips or may use cubed ham	Salt and pepper, to taste

In a saucepan, saute onion and celery in butter until tender. In a 2-quart buttered baking dish, combine onion, celery, bread, ham and half the cheese. In a bowl, beat together milk, eggs, mustard, salt and pepper until well blended. Pour over all; top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour or until golden brown and puffed.

**Martha Mehlhaff, Aberdeen, SD**

## Corn Casserole

1 cup broken spaghetti, uncooked	1/2 cup milk
1 can cream-style corn	1 can whole kernel corn
1 cup cubed processed cheese	Diced onions, optional
	Salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a 1.5-quart casserole. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour, stirring after the first 30 minutes.

**Emily Luikens, Tea, SD**

## Cheesy Potato Beef Bake

1 lb. ground beef	2 tsp. butter
2 (4 oz. each) cans mushroom stems and pieces, drained	1 tsp. salt
2 (5-1/4 oz. each) pkgs. au gratin potatoes	1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
4 cups boiling water	1/2 tsp. pepper
1-1/3 cups milk	1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

In a skillet over medium heat, cook beef until no longer pink; drain. Place in a greased 9x13-inch baking pan. Top with mushrooms. Combine potatoes and contents of sauce mix packets, water, milk, butter, salt, seasoned salt and pepper. Pour over beef and mushrooms. Cover and bake at 400°F. for 30 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, for 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or vegetarian recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



# Five Steps

## to a Clear Decision on New Windows



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

**Sometimes home improvement projects can grow into something bigger.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency.

For more information on choosing windows, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).

**Dear Pat and Brad:** Thanks for answering my question last month about replacing older windows. Clearly there are benefits in addition to energy savings, so we've decided to go ahead with replacing our windows. Can you offer any tips on deciding which new windows to purchase? – Grace

**Dear Grace:** I'm glad to hear you're thinking this through. Here are five tips I'll offer as you think about the types of new windows you should purchase.

Think beyond windows. Sometimes home improvement projects can grow into something bigger. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. There are advantages to replacing windows and siding at the same time, for example. You could consider adding rigid foam insulation to the exterior wall before installing siding. You could also pump some additional insulation into the wall cavities. These measures will reduce heat loss through the wall and make your home more comfortable. Another advantage of replacing siding as you replace windows is to make it easier to install flashing around the window. Flashing is what prevents water from making its way into the wall from the outside.

- 1) **Are you replacing doors, too?** Maybe you'd like to reduce or increase the size of one or more windows. A larger window can let in more light and transform a room. A smaller window that lets in less sunshine can make a room less likely to overheat in the summer. Remember that high-efficiency windows are less efficient than a well-insulated wall, so increasing or decreasing window area can impact heating and cooling costs.
- 2) **What is your type?** Do you want fixed-pane units that don't open at all? Or casement windows that open with a crank? How about sliders or double-hung windows that open from the top and bottom? Maybe awning-style options that open out from the bottom? A bay window can add extra space and light. There are so many options that can fit many different situations. I recommend a thorough search online, or visit a local window store to see examples of these styles.
- 3) **Frame the issues.** If the number of styles wasn't bewildering enough, now you get to choose the frame and sash (the inner frame that holds the glass). Vinyl is the least expensive and most common option; it can also be quite energy efficient and does not require painting. Vinyl frames vary greatly in quality and the less expensive models may be susceptible to warping. Aluminum is an affordable option, but if the frames don't have a thermal break, they can lose heat and cause condensation. Wood windows offer high quality – but the biggest drawbacks are the price and maintenance requirements. There are wood options with vinyl cladding that never need painting. Fiberglass and composite windows are a newer option that fall between vinyl and wood in quality and price.

Also, you may be able to save money by not doing a full window replacement. If your existing frames and sills are free of rot and in good condition and you aren't looking to make any alterations to the walls around them, you could look into replacing the glass and keeping the existing frames.

- 4) **Glass assemblies.** Single-pane windows no longer meet building codes. Your two choices are double- and triple-pane. An add-on that is often well worth the price is a low-E coating that reflects heat back into the room. You can also boost energy efficiency with windows that have either Argon or CO2 gas between the panes.
- 5) **Compare the numbers.** Fortunately, there's an easy way to compare the efficiency of windows. Almost all windows are independently tested and rated by the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC). The most important number on the NFRC label is the U-factor. The lower the U-factor, the more efficient the window is. It's best if the window has an ENERGY STAR® label, but the NFRC label will tell you which ENERGY STAR® window is more efficient.

I hope these tips help in the decision of choosing your new windows. Remember, you'll have to live with them for several years, so be sure to do your research and consider all options. And because new window installation is a complicated process, it's best to have them installed by a qualified professional with solid references.

# WITC receives 2020 Climate Leadership Award

The Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC) was awarded an 'Innovative Partnership Certificate' at the 2020 Climate Leadership Awards in Detroit, Mich., recognizing the pioneering initiative that has brought together private and public leaders to drive the next generation of clean energy technology in the heart of coal country.



Awardees are honored for exemplary corporate, organizational and individual leadership in reducing carbon pollution and addressing climate

change in their operations and strategies.

The ITC is located at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station, a coal-based power plant located near Gillette. The plant processes sub-bituminous coal from the Western Fuels' Dry Fork Mine. The ITC provides space for researchers to test, in a real-life setting, carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technologies.

"Basin Electric supports the ITC because our cooperative believes in an all of the above energy generation strategy, utilizing multiple sources of fuel to serve our members. This critical research could help unlock a means to continue using an abundant and reliable fuel source while reducing our carbon footprint," said Paul Sukut, Basin Electric CEO and general manager. "It's exciting to see the ITC being recognized for their important research that will not only be a benefit to our members, but also the communities in which we live."

Another initiative that Basin Electric supports is CarbonSAFE in both North Dakota and Wyoming. These projects are focused on investigating the feasibility of practical, secure and permanent geologic storage of carbon dioxide emissions from coal-based electricity generation. Basin Electric provided letters of commitment for the Wyoming project, outlining up to \$1.5 million in cash and/or in-kind services to support that work.

More information about the Climate Leadership Award winners is available at <https://www.climateleadershipconference.org/awards/>

# Self-Care and Resilience Strategies

It is essential to take care of yourself. Just as you would tend to an acute physical injury by seeking support, alleviating symptoms of pain and taking steps to ensure recovery, the same is true for an emotional or psychological challenge or obstacle. And, just as the human body is often ingenious in the way it can mend itself, so too the mind and heart can be incredibly resilient.

## Building and Engaging Resilience

Below are some tips for taking care of yourself and engaging your resilience. Please feel free to use those ideas that you find most useful and continue to engage your own coping strategies.

### Physical self-care

- Get enough sleep
- Get regular physical activity
- Eat regular, well-balanced meals
- Reduce alcohol and caffeine consumption

### Emotional self-care

- Know your vulnerabilities
- Get help early on if you are feeling overwhelmed
- Use relaxation skills that work best for you
- Listen to music that soothes you
- Re-establish a routine, if possible

### Social self-care

- Be aware of withdrawal and isolation
- Get nurturance/care from loved ones
- Use friends and family and community for support

### Spiritual self-care

- Use religious and/or spiritual resources and communities
- Read inspirational works
- Pray
- Practice gratitude

### Remember to:

- Recognize signs of stress and look after yourself
- Identify what you can and cannot change
- Accept your limitations
- Keep expectations realistic

## Checklist for Resilience:

### Ask Yourself These Questions

- What are my strengths?
- What has helped me endure previous difficult times?
- What healthy things can I do to soothe myself when I'm faced with uncertainty?
- Is there something I can do to influence what will happen next? If so, what?
- What are my resources to increase my resilience?
- How can I ask for what I need?

[https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Strategies4Self-Care\\_Resilience.pdf](https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Strategies4Self-Care_Resilience.pdf)





# A DEADLY MISTAKE

## Family Shares Grief to Teach Others

**Shayla Ebsen**

sebsen@eastriver.coop

June 7, 2016, is a day that will be forever imprinted in Greg McCann's mind. It began as a normal June day on his farm in southeastern South Dakota. The crops had been planted and, like every year in June, they were needing to be sprayed. Greg's 35-year-old son, Grant, helped out on the farm and planned to spray the fields that day.

"He went and got the sprayer filled and ready. After he got the sprayer ready and conditions were right, well, then, he went to spray," said Greg. "He called me to see if I could move an irrigator for him and that was the last time I talked to him. He entered the field and the driveway to the field went under a power line."

Unfortunately, Grant didn't drive far enough into the field. He stopped at an angle close to the power lines. As he began unfolding the 90-foot sprayer booms, they touched the energized power line, which instantly electrified the tractor.

"He tried to call Wayne, the young man who runs my farm, but he wasn't able to get through because there was so much static, so we don't know what happened after that," said Greg.

The sprayer was caught in a Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative distribution power line. Co-op Electrician Kevin Meyer was just a few miles away when he and his apprentice received an outage call.

"A radio call came across that another neighbor farmer was out of power as it started out as an individual outage," said Meyer. "We packed up our tools and stuff and left the yard. As we were leaving the yard, I received another call from a supervisor saying that we got a call that there's a



Thirty-five-year-old Grant McCann was involved in a fatal accident involving a sprayer and a power line in 2016.

**There's  
no fix.  
There's no  
second  
chances."**



sprayer that looks like it might have made contact with a line that's probably the first place to go and it's looking like we have more consumers out."

Meyer and his apprentice didn't know what they might discover but knew they had to move fast.

"As we're rolling up on scene, one neighbor was there sitting on the road on his four-wheeler and he just said someone is down in front of the tractor," said Meyer. "It was very tough to see other than you could see someone was there but didn't know who it was and at that particular time, I knew that it could be Greg, Grant or my cousin, Wayne. So, in all that, you're mentally preparing yourself for what you're about to discover."

What they would discover is that Grant made a mistake that would end his life. Rather than staying in the cab and waiting for help, he had stepped out of the sprayer.

"The consequences of that mistake took my only son," said Greg. "He was my friend, my partner, my confidant. Now every day I remember that terrible morning and I see Grant lying dead on the ground. There's no fix. There's no second chances."

No one can know what was going through Grant's head at the moment he left the cab. But Greg wants others to learn from that mistake, so it doesn't happen to anyone else.

"If Grant would've stayed in the tractor and not touched anything, I think he'd be here today. But he didn't," said Greg. "I don't want anyone to have to experience the sadness and the emptiness that I and Grant's family and friends are experiencing and will be experiencing for a long, long time."

### The consequences of that mistake took my only son.

Do you know what to do if a vehicle you're in contacts a power line? First, stay in the vehicle and call 911 for help. If you must exit the vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump clear of any wires with your feet together, never touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Then shuffle or hop at least 40 feet away with your feet together. Stay away

from the equipment until the authorities tell you it is safe.

"People get in a hurry and they don't regard the risk as a risk and one mistake and it's too late," said Greg. "The consequences are so grim and terrible, that there's no good reason not to be really careful and be aware of where you're at and the machinery you're using and where it's located. Once it's done, there's no turning back."

With the spread of COVID-19 into our region as well as the pandemic's financial impacts, everyone has a lot on their mind this year. Letting distractions take your mind away from work in the fields significantly increases the likelihood of farming accidents. Minimize distractions and stay focused in the fields. If you notice your mind wandering at any point, bring it back to the task at hand.

As we enter this year's planting and spraying seasons, remain aware of where electrical equipment is located when you're working on the farm and remember the steps to take if your equipment contacts a power line. You could save your life, or the life of someone you love. Visit [poweringyoursafety.com](http://poweringyoursafety.com) to learn more.



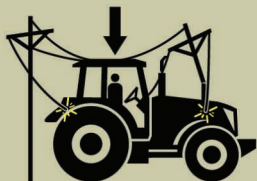
Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



## PoweringYourSafety.com

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

### STAY PUT



If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside.

**DO NOT EXIT. Call 911.**

### JUMP CLEAR



If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 40 feet away.

### STAY AWAY



When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.

## Commitment To Community

# We Are Your Source For Power and Information



**Roger Lawien**

rlawien@mge.coop

When the threat of the COVID-19 no longer has its grip on us and the crisis has passed, we must remember our friends and neighbors who have supported us during good times and bad. They are the ones that bring us the casserole when a loved one passes. They support benefits and school fundraisers. They are our local business owners. Our local businesses and their employees are struggling and are going

to find it very difficult to rebuild. Their survival is in our hands. So, let us eat in local restaurants, buy local groceries and support local businesses.

For now, let's wash our hands, practice our social distancing, pickup takeout from our favorite vendors and purchase necessary supplies locally. The reality of tomorrow may be different than the one of years past, but one thing is certain, by working together and supporting our communities, we will continue to be the land of free and home of the brave.

We may be apart, but we are not alone – we have each other.

### Useful links for Businesses

- <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>

### Useful links for Agriculture

- <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus> USDA Actions to Respond to COVID-19

### Useful links for Individuals

With everyone practicing our social distancing by staying home, we have seen a significant shift in energy usage. Personal electric bills are on the rise. Please, look around for ways to curb your energy consumption. I started looking for items around my home that were not being used but consume electricity. By leaving my personal computer/monitor/printer on all the time, it used the same as four 100-watt light bulbs! Moving from the heating to cooling season is a good reminder for

us to replace our furnace filter. Below are links to help you spend your energy dollars wisely.

- [www.mge.coop](http://www.mge.coop)
- <https://liheapassistance.org/>
- <https://dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/energyassistance/lowincome.aspx>
- <https://www.angieslist.com/articles/10-energy-saving-tips-save-money-your-electric-bill.htm>

### Why You Should Fill Out Your Census Form. Help Your Community Thrive.

COVID-19 is impacting how the 2020 census is taken. Be a part of the solution. Census numbers can help our communities with better roads and school funding. Many 911 emergency systems are based on maps developed for the last census. Census information helps health providers predict the spread of disease through communities with children or elderly people. When floods, tornadoes or earthquakes hit, the census tells rescuers how many people will need their help. It's a good way to tell our leaders who we are and what we need. The numbers are used to help determine the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal and state funds. We're talking hospitals, highways, community support and school lunch programs.

Make Government Work for You. Please fill out your form. If you didn't get one, call the number in the ad below. I did.

## Make some Civic Improvements while you Social Distance yourself.



It has never been easier to respond to the 2020 Census on your own without leaving your house.



Online



By phone



Or by mail

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts everyone living in the U.S. It is important for everyone to respond to the 2020 Census so communities like yours receive their fair share of federal funding for health care, accessibility services, and more.

Respond today at **2020census.gov**  
or call **844-330-2020**

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States  
Census  
2020



## Scholarship and Youth Tour Winners

Now in its 29th year, the scholarship program recognizes and encourages academic and community achievements of students in the region. It is considered an investment in the economic future of America. Applications from across the Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative service area were received. The applications were mailed to Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D., where a Scholarship Committee selected a winner. Selection was based on ACT or SAT scores, grade point average, high school/college honors, community and school activities, employment history, future career goals and references. In the member category, the \$1,000 scholarship provided by Moreau-Grand and Basin Electric has been awarded to **Maxwell Peacock**. Max is the son of Mark and Patty Peacock of Dupree. Max plans a career in graphic design. He has also been a member of the US Army/SD National Guard since his junior year of high school.



### Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

The recipient of the 2020 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is **Stormi Hulm**, a junior at Timber Lake High School. Stormi is the daughter of Archie and



Mandy Hulm of Timber Lake. We are disappointed that this year the tour has been canceled due to safety concerns related to COVID-19.

Cooperatives have been sending future leaders to Washington, D.C., since 1963!!

Congratulations, Max and Stormi

## Easy Steps to Greater Efficiency

Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience? Luckily, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. And, you won't have to hire a specialist or call in a favor from someone who is handy with tools to help you.

### Where to start

According to *Money Magazine*, "improving the envelope" of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooled and heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around overlooked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs. Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of typically 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. According to the Department of Energy, by replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR® rating, you can save \$75 each year.



### Wrapping up savings

Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 percent to 45 percent and save you about 7 percent to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the DOE. For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour. On a safety note, the DOE recommends that you not set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket; the higher temperature setting could cause the wiring to overheat.



Given that a large portion of your monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to ensure your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is performing at an optimal level. Checking, changing or cleaning your filter extends the life of your HVAC system and saves you money. Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly. A simple task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

### Take control of your energy savings

Take a look at your programmable thermostat. This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically. Most models come with an override option so you can make manual adjustments without losing overall programming.

Remember, there are easy steps you can take now to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

To learn about additional ways to save, contact Moreau-Grand Electric at 605-865-3511.



# 3M ABERDEEN PLAYING CRITICAL ROLE IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

Plant Is Producing Millions of N95 Respirators

**Ben Dunsmoor**

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Standing outside the 430,000-square-foot 3M plant in Aberdeen, S.D., you can hear the whirl of productivity. The Aberdeen plant makes N95 masks which have been one of the most crucial pieces of personal protective equipment for frontline personnel responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew Rehder, the manager of the 3M Aberdeen plant, told *Bloomberg Businessweek*, in a story published in March, that the Aberdeen plant has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since the end of January.

“I just think as we’ve continued to see things spread across the world, it’s put more responsibility on us to make sure that every day and every minute we’re making every mask we can,” Rehder told Bloomberg.

It has also put a responsibility on Northern Electric Cooperative to ensure the 3M plant has a consistent and reliable source of power. Northern Electric has served the plant with electricity since it was constructed in 1974.



N95 respirators are loaded onto a jet at the Aberdeen Regional Airport in April. The masks produced at the 3M Aberdeen plant are being shipped directly to areas of the country that need them the most. (Photo Courtesy: 3M Twitter account / [twitter.com/3M](https://twitter.com/3M))



“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic,” Northern Electric Cooperative CEO/General Manager Char Hager said. “Northern Electric also recognizes that our co-op plays a crucial role in supplying 3M with reliable electricity and we take that responsibility seriously.”

The masks being produced in Aberdeen are being shipped across the country just as fast as they are being manufactured. A jet has been sitting at the Aberdeen Regional Airport during April to transport N95 respirators from the Aberdeen plant directly to areas of the country that need them most.

3M CEO Mike Roman said in a blog post on the company’s website that 500,000 masks were shipped from the Aberdeen plant at the end of March to New York and Seattle. Both of those cities have recorded some of the largest number of COVID-19 cases in the country. 3M expects a total global output of 1.1 billion masks this year and they are planning investments in the next 60 to 90 days that will double that capacity to 2 billion masks globally within the next 12 months.

“We continue to act with urgency to address this crisis from every angle and do all we can to protect our heroic nurses,

doctors and first responders,” Roman said in a statement on the company’s website.

This isn’t the first time the Aberdeen plant has been called upon to increase production during an emergency. The plant has also played a critical role in making masks for the SARS, bird-flu and H1N1 outbreaks, as well as the Mount Saint Helens’ eruption, Hurricane Katrina and numerous forest fires.

**“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic.”**

– Char Hager, Northern Electric CEO/General Manager

Northern Electric Cooperative has been in contact with local and corporate 3M managers and executives to ensure the Aberdeen plant has the power supply it needs as the company responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have communicated our response plans to 3M officials and have assured them that our crews will be ready and

available to respond to any emergency or outage,” Hager said. “We have also been in contact with our wholesale power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative, and we have told 3M that supplying their plant in Aberdeen with reliable electricity is the top priority for our cooperatives.”

The Aberdeen 3M plant is the city’s second-largest employer with 650 employees. But, Rehder told *Bloomberg Businessweek* that the plant now has more than 700 employees who are working around the clock to make sure health care workers and first responders across the country have the masks they need to protect them from COVID-19.

“People are very proud to work in a place that is making respirators, especially with the need that is out there now,” Rehder said.

Hager said the increased production at the plant in Aberdeen and the hard work of 3M employees is a perfect example of rural America stepping up to help the country during this time of uncertainty.

“We are proud of the work they do at the plant and we are proud of our co-op employees who are dedicated to keeping the lights on for 3M and for all our co-op members,” Hager said.

Northern Electric Cooperative is the power supplier for the 3M plant in Aberdeen which has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since January in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.





## Understanding OPIOID ADDICTION

Jocelyn Romey

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One in four people who are prescribed opioids struggle with addiction. This is only one statistic from the South Dakota Department of Health that resonates how powerful and potentially dangerous opioids can be.

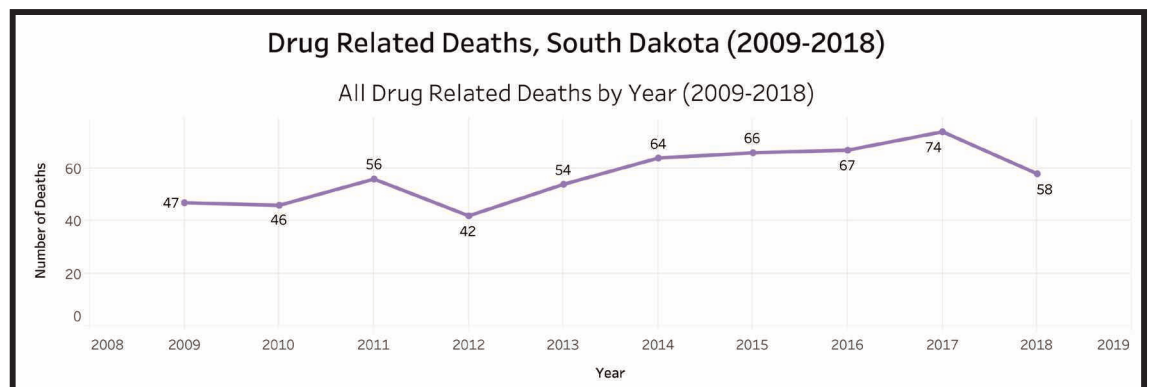
Opioids are a strong narcotic commonly prescribed for chronic pain after injury or surgery. Many know of the extreme addiction and destructive use of heroin – an unlawful opioid, but other opioid addictions may not be as visible if prescribed. A dependency can begin before anyone is aware of an addiction. Unintentional misuse or overdose of prescription opioids are also risks for anyone who takes them.

“My addiction started out very innocently. I had a back issue and so I was prescribed some Vicodin for it...and then I couldn't stop, I couldn't turn back. I felt hopeless,” said one woman from Pierre in an Avoid Opioid Prescription Addiction video. “Opioids deserve to be treated with respect. I think the seriousness of it isn't always understood by people until it's too late. People do recover and they can recover.”

An opioid addiction is actually considered a disorder and the National Institute on Drug Abuse has labeled drug addiction and opioid use disorder as a chronic disease characterized by drug use that is difficult to control despite harmful consequences. Many people mistakenly think that

### Prescription Opioid Side Effects

- Increased sensitivity to pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Constipation
- Sleepiness and dizziness
- Dry mouth, itching and sweating
- Confusion
- Low energy and depression
- Low levels of testosterone which can result in lower sex drive





those who use drugs lack willpower or moral principles and that they could stop their drug use simply by choosing to. In reality, quitting usually takes more than good intentions or a strong will.

Due to the harmful nature of these drugs, there are risks associated with taking opioids – addiction, long-term health problems, paralysis and death. In South Dakota, opioid-related deaths are lower than the national average, but the numbers have been on a steady rise since 2012.

Research shows that drug overdose deaths tend to overly impact rural communities despite having lower drug use rates than urban communities. In 2009, deaths from drug overdose surpassed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in the U.S. Sixty percent of these drug overdose deaths in rural areas are due to injection-related HIV, hepatitis C and other bloodborne infections while using illicit prescription opioids and heroin.

More in-depth statistics on opioid vulnerability assessments by county are available through South Dakota's Department of Health website or via <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/VulnerabilityAssessment.aspx>.

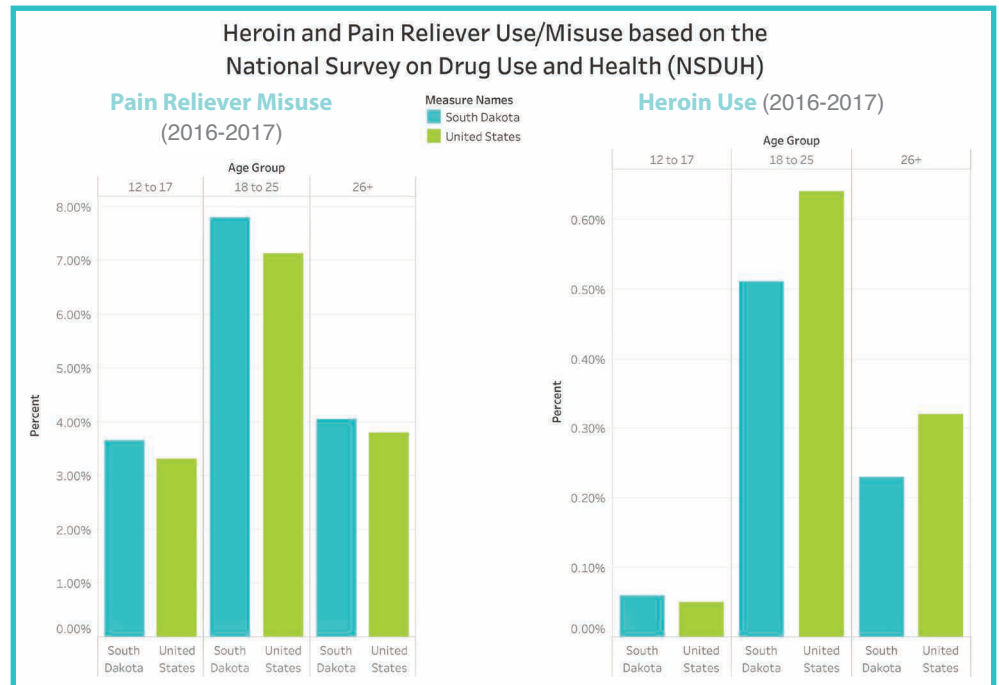
People who are addicted to opioids may seek and use them compulsively despite harmful consequences. The following are common warning signs of misuse, abuse or addiction to opioids given by South Dakota's Department of Health.

- Neglecting responsibilities at work, school or home because of drug use.
- Using drugs under dangerous conditions or taking risks such as driving while on drugs.
- Drug use that results in legal trouble such as stealing to support a drug habit.
- Drug use that causes problems in relationships such as arguments with family members and loss of friends.
- People affected by drug addiction may stop participating in activities they once enjoyed and may use drugs even when they realize the drugs could be causing problems.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

## Commonly Prescribed Opioids

- Actiq
- Astramorph
- Codeine
- Conzip
- Demerol
- DepoDur
- Dilaudid
- Duragesic
- Duramorph
- Endocet
- Exalgo
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin)
- Hydromorphone
- Fentanyl
- Lorcet
- Lortab
- Meperidine
- Methadone
- Morphine
- MS-Contin
- Norco
- Oxycodone (Oxycontin/Oxecta)
- Percocet
- Roxicet
- Roxicodone
- Tramadol
- Ultram
- Ventura



## Resource Hotline

Call **1-800-920-4343**. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's free and confidential.

Our trained specialists can connect you with **Opioid Care Coordination**, social support, counseling, treatment options, and services in your area.

Find out **what happens when you call the Resource Hotline**, and how we can help you or a loved one.

## Opioid Texting Support

Text **OPIOID** to **898211** to connect with local resources that best fit your needs. Answer a few questions and get help for yourself or a loved one who is struggling.



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

## May 2-3

Quilt Guild Show, Brookings, SD, 605-690-3246

## May 8-9

Craft Beer Fest: Hops and Hogs, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## May 9

Art Wine and Food Truck Festival, Spearfish, SD, 605-644-6585

## May 15-17

Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

## May 15-17

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

## May 23-24

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

## May 29-30

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

## June 4-6

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

## June 5-6

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterhaus at 605-722-1430

## June 5-7

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

## June 5-7

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD, 605-487-7694

## June 5-7

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

## June 5-7

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:  
 ■ Rodeo Grounds, Wall, SD, 605-529-5868  
 ■ Rodeo Grounds, Highmore, SD, 605-529-5868  
 ■ Tipperary Arena, Buffalo, SD, 605-529-5868  
 ■ Heartland Arena, Huron, SD, 605-529-5868

## June 6-7

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 866-489-9241

## June 11, August 13 and October 8

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

## June 12-14

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:  
 ■ Tripp County Fairgrounds, Winner, SD, 605-529-5868  
 ■ Rodeo Grounds, Sturgis, SD, 605-529-5868  
 ■ Rodeo Grounds, Dupree, SD, 605-529-5868  
 ■ Derby Downs Arena, Watertown, SD, 605-529-5868

## June 16-21

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

## June 25-27

Red Power Round Up, Fairgrounds, Huron, SD, 605-460-0197  
[redpowerroundup2020.com](http://redpowerroundup2020.com)

## June 26-27

Senior Games, Madison, SD, Contact Bernie Schuurmans at 605-270-3327

## May 9:

Traditional Wacipi at the Dignity Statue, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-5472



Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

## July 14

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org)

## October 7-8

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

**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.**