

Cooperative Connections

**S.D. is open for
business**

Page 8

**Co-op history
and why it
matters**

Page 12



August 2020 Board Minutes and June 2020 Financial Information

The Aug. 18, 2020, board of directors meeting was held 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 annual meeting, discussed back to school scholarship opportunities and SDREA Editors Workshop.

The Operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included storm outages, SDREA field inspection, WAPA substation transformer, The Bay underground cable replacement, substation outages, RAM pole changes, working on several road move estimates, line replacement projects staked and ready to proceed, discussed line replacement areas found during pole testing, new services, discussed renting/purchasing trencher, line move near Thunder Butte by river and update on summer help.

June 2020 Financial Information

	June 2020	June 2019	YTD 2020
Operating Revenues	\$950,409	\$918,809	\$6,499,499
Cost of Power	\$492,937	\$448,656	\$3,224,547
Cost of Electric Service	\$942,047	\$920,309	\$6,214,951
Margins	\$17,554	\$18,703	\$330,042
kWh Purchased	7,438,943	6,883,083	57,165,626
kWh Sold	7,154,006	5,912,735	52,689,955

Manager Maher gave the Managers report that included SD Electrical Commission correspondence on rules for installing meters at new services, new building progress pays, Sheldon Peterson CFC CEO announced retirement in 2021, attended CFC special meeting via Zoom, Tribal CARES Act Funding, WAPA Tribal contract, CFC Capital credits, Load Management report, NRECA cancelled in person annual meeting for 2021 and will be held virtual, FERC filings and RESCO capital credits.

The Board discussed the NRECA Regional meeting scheduled for October 12-16.

Directors Clark and Wall gave the Board

Leadership Training report that included a motivational speaker, leadership skills, building a successful business while utilizing intergenerational personnel and developing high performing board of directors.

Director Maher gave the CCD Training courses attended online 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 report on the SDREA Legislative Committee meeting that included engaging your political delegation, SDREA Task Force, support and build relationships with Legislators, develop advocates and a review of the 2020 session.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the July meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, annual meeting meal bid from Country Market, rent trencher with option to buy, safety report, annual donations to the area fire departments, Director Maher as the online voting delegate for the NRECA regional meeting, NRECA medical insurance rates for 2021 and NRECA R&S pension plan rates for 2021.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Sept. 22, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

Committed to Serving Your Cooperative

EMPLOYEES

Melissa Maher General Manager
 Kyrie Lemburg Accountant
 Linda Dahlgren Finance Officer
 Roger Lawien Director of Member Services
 IT Director
 Karen Salzer Operations Clerk

Sue Sherwood Billing Supervisor
 Tara Simpson Consumer Clerk
 Wendy Shupick Eagle Butte
 Member Service Representative
 Deb Thill Custodian

Operations/Construction Personnel

Kent Larson Line Superintendent
 Hunter Smith Staking Foreman
 Jessica Keller Material-Work Order Clerk
 Josh Lemburg Timber Lake Line Foreman
 Jamey Pateneau McLaughlin Line Foreman
 Justin Thorstenson Eagle Butte Line Foreman
 Neil Hahne Eagle Butte Service Lineman

Chad Mettler Journeyman Lineman
 Garret Simon Journeyman Lineman
 Troy Long Journeyman Lineman
 Jace Vrooman Journeyman Lineman
 Brock Fischer Apprentice Lineman
 Jody Pateneau Mechanic/Groundman

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
Hunter Smith, Staking Foreman

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, 405 Ninth St., Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008, for the members of electric cooperatives across South Dakota. Families subscribe to Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

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Design assistance by SDREA



Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the membership of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Timber Lake Community Center, Timber Lake, South Dakota on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, with a prepared box dinner beginning at 5:00 pm (MT), with the meeting to follow the meal.

Note: Membership registration will be open at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be for the following purposes:

1. Reports on business for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.
2. For the purpose of electing directors in Districts 2, 3 and 5. You are hereby notified that the following members have filed petitions as candidates for directors.

▪ District 2 – Ryan Maher

▪ District 3 – Kelly Landis

Warren D. LeBeau

▪ District 5 – Kerry McLellan

If you are disabled and require a special accommodation to have full and equal participation in this Annual Meeting, call 1-800-952-3158.

*Lois Bartlett, Secretary-Treasurer
Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 8, Timber Lake SD 57656-0008*

What Members Can Expect at the 2020 Annual Meeting

Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. is naturally concerned about keeping our members safe. Therefore, social distancing will be encouraged, masks will be available upon request and this year's annual meeting will be very brief. The primary focus of the 2020 annual meeting will be director elections. Doors will open, registration will begin, and box dinners will be distributed promptly at 5 p.m. The annual meeting will begin as soon as possible with the following agenda:

- Verification of Quorum
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Financial/Secretary Reports
- Approve 2019 Minutes
- Director Elections
- Any other business
- Adjournment

Note: Instead of vendor prizes, Moreau-Grand will be giving a \$10 bill credit to each member attending the annual meeting. Member grand prizes will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Use Safety as Your Guide When Planting Trees

If the trees in your yard have grown so tall that they touch overhead power lines, they can cause all kinds of trouble. Branches that sway in the wind and rain can snap an electric line, sending a live wire to the ground, where it can electrocute anyone who touches it.

Plus, power lines that are broken by fallen trees will cause you and your neighbors to lose electricity and require a costly trip from your electric cooperative.

That's why any tree that poses a danger—even an old or favorite tree—could be slated for removal by your electric cooperative.

You can prevent problems on the front end by planting smart.

Here are a few tips:

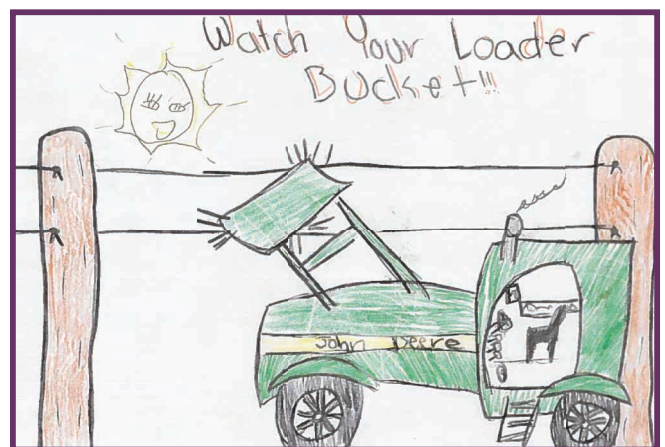
- Do some research and learn all you can about the particular type of tree you want to plant. Learn how tall it will grow when it matures and how wide the full span of its mature branches will become. Use those dimensions to determine how far away from an existing power line you should plant it. Some trees are safe only when they grow 30 feet or more away from a line.
- If the landscape design you like requires you to plant trees in close proximity to electric lines, choose a low-growing variety that will never be tall enough to pose a hazard.
- Before digging any holes to plant trees, call 811, the state's "call before you dig" service. If you don't call and hit underground utility lines, you could be liable for damages.
- Avoid planting in the right-of-way on the edge of your yard or personal property. Your local electric cooperative and other utility companies must maintain that space and could wind up trimming trees out of the way of power lines, possibly leaving the tree looking lopsided.
- Don't plant shrubs too close to your home's outdoor air conditioning unit. AC units require breathing room and should never be crowded by shrubbery or debris.
- If your yard is already home to trees that are close to power lines, keep the trees trimmed so they don't touch any overhead wires. Hire a professional tree trimmer with the proper tools and training to provide this service for you. Don't risk doing it yourself.

From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric cooperatives are proud to serve 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

#PowerOn



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Watch Your Loader Bucket!"

Adalin Homola, 11 years old

Adalin Homola is the daughter of Joe and Sonja Homola from Lake Nordin. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

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.

People-Pleasing Pasta

Pasta Florentine

16 oz. penne pasta	1 zucchini, cut in thin strips
1 red pepper, thin cut	2 cans mushrooms, drained
1 onion, chopped	1/8 cup butter
1 cup tomatoes, chopped	1/4 cup flour
1 cup skim milk	1 cup chicken broth
1/2 tsp. nutmeg	1/2 tsp. pepper
1 pkg. frozen spinach, thawed, drained	1/4 cup Parmesan

Prepare pasta, cooking 7 minutes. Drain. Spoon into greased 9x13 baking dish. Cook and stir zucchini, peppers, mushrooms, and onions for 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in tomatoes. Spoon mixture over pasta and gently mix. Whisk flour with drippings in skillet. Whisk in milk. Add broth, nutmeg and pepper. Cook over medium heat and stir until mixture comes to boil and thickens. Add spinach and cheese. Pour sauce over casserole. Cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

Glen and Linda Erickson, Chester, SD

One Pan Chicken Alfredo

3 tablespoons olive oil	1/2 lb. penne pasta, or any bite-sized shape pasta, uncooked
1/4 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts	2 c. freshly shredded real parmesan cheese
2 cloves garlic, minced	Salt and pepper
2 c. low sodium chicken broth	Flat leaf parsley for garnish
1 c. heavy cream or half and half	

Cut chicken breasts into half-inch and 1-inch pieces. Season with salt/pepper. Brown chicken in olive oil over medium heat. It will finish cooking as it simmers. Add minced garlic and saute for 1 minute. Add broth, cream or half and half and uncooked pasta and stir. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce to a simmer. Keep pan covered while simmering. Simmer for 15-20 minutes or until pasta is tender. Remove from heat, stir in shredded parmesan cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

Judy Mendel, Doland, SD

Pizza Hot Dish

2 lb. hamburger - brown, sprinkle with onion and garlic salt	1/2 cup water
1 10-oz. can pizza sauce	1/2 tsp. salt
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce	1/4 tsp. pepper
	1 tsp. oregano

Simmer above ingredients 20 minutes. Add 1-1/2 cup grated American cheese (Velveeta) and 8-oz. package of wide noodles, cooked. Put 1/2 of sauce in 9x13 cake pan. Top with noodles. Add rest of sauce. Top with mozzarella cheese and sprinkle generously with parmesan cheese. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees.

Shirley Miller, Winfred, SD

Shrimp Scampi

8 ounces pasta linguine	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons butter	1 dash crushed red pepper flakes
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil	1-1/2 pounds large or extra-large Aqua Star shrimp, shelled
4 garlic cloves, minced	1/3 cup parsley, chopped
1/2 cup dry white wine or seafood broth	1/2 lemon, juice only
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt	

Cook pasta according to package directions. In large skillet, melt butter and oil. Add garlic and saute until fragrant. Add wine or broth, salt, red pepper flakes and black pepper. Bring to simmer and reduce by half. Add shrimp and saute until shrimp turn pink and opaque, approximately 2-4 minutes depending on size. Stir in parsley, lemon juice and cooked pasta. Provided by www.aquastar.com.

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Commitment to Community

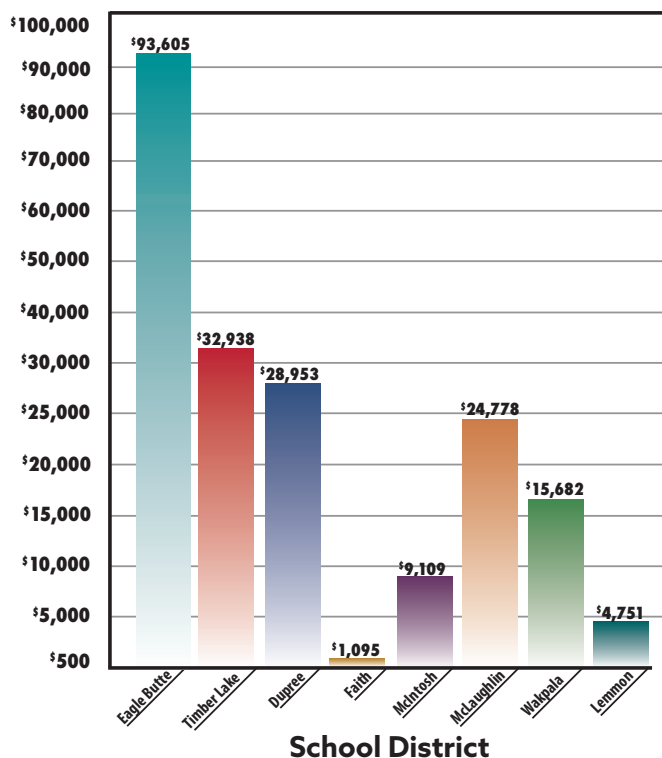
Cooperative Taxes Benefit Schools

Your electric cooperative pays a generation tax in lieu of real and personal property taxes.

The tax is .016 percent of the kilowatt sales in each school district of Moreau-Grand's service area.

All of this tax amount is allocated directly to the school districts and is used for school purposes.

Total 2019 taxes paid in 2020 were \$210,910.94.



Taxes Paid by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in 2019

S.D. Generation Taxes	\$210,910.94
Real and Personal Taxes	8,837.50
Sales, Use and Excise Taxes	457,859.66
U.S. Unemployment Taxes	2,460.01
Employers Share FICA	135,399.98
TOTAL TAXES PAID	\$815,468.09

Balance Sheet

What we **own** as of Dec. 31, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2019

	2018	2019
Assets:		
Electrical system that costs:	\$53,639,886	\$54,075,199
Plus construction in progress:	1,440,642	2,306,799
Less depreciation to date:	(19,716,011)	(21,026,652)
Our net plant is:	\$35,364,517	\$35,355,346
IN ADDITION		
Non-utility plant:	—	—
Cash on hand and checking deposits:	183,746	227,435
Time and savings deposits:	215,784	329,799
Owed to us for electricity and other supplies:	2,002,865	1,445,895
Material on hand:	1,052,020	1,100,307
Investments in associated organizations:	5,905,377	5,927,009
Other investments:	599,764	495,236
Deferred debits:	525,556	410,308
FOR TOTAL ASSETS OF:	\$45,849,629	\$45,291,335

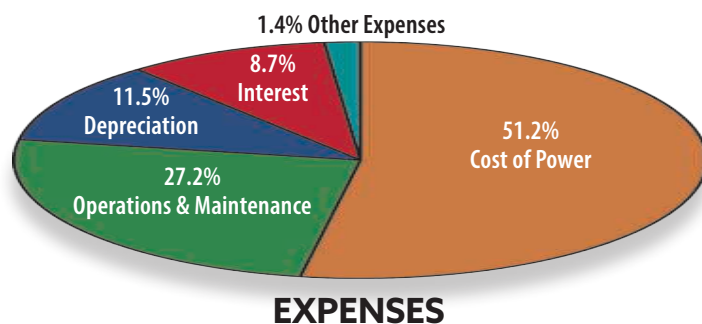
What we **owe** as of Dec. 31, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2019

Liabilities:		
RUS and CFC:	\$23,982,558	\$25,640,058
Power bill, short-term notes, accrued taxes and supplies:	5,141,024	2,410,402
Consumers and others for deposits:	450,750	464,453
Deferred credits:	351,576	269,762
TOTAL LIABILITIES OF:	\$29,925,908	\$28,784,675

Net Worth:

Patronage capital credits:	\$12,756,288	\$13,966,080
Other equities and donated capital:	3,167,433	2,540,580
TOTAL NET WORTH:	\$15,923,721	\$16,506,660

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH:	\$45,849,629	\$45,291,335
PERCENT EQUITY:	34.73%	36.45%



Statement of Revenue and Expenses

What we **took** in as of Dec. 31, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2019

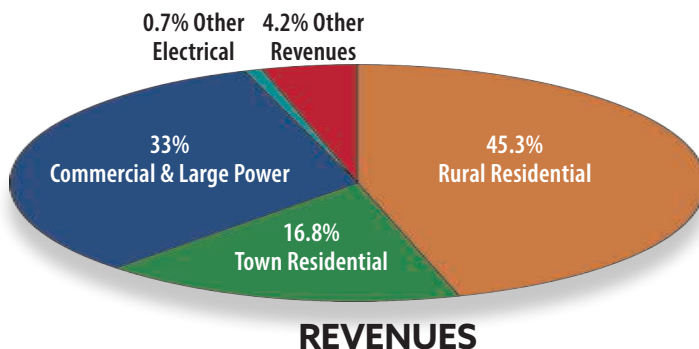
	2018	2019
Operating Revenue:		
Farms	\$5,883,314	\$5,837,188
Residential	2,189,004	2,168,321
Commercial	4,235,610	4,250,873
Street Lights	91,835	91,887
Penalties	95,347	89,168
Miscellaneous Revenues	473,857	459,765
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$12,968,967	\$12,897,202

What we **spent** as of Dec. 31, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2019

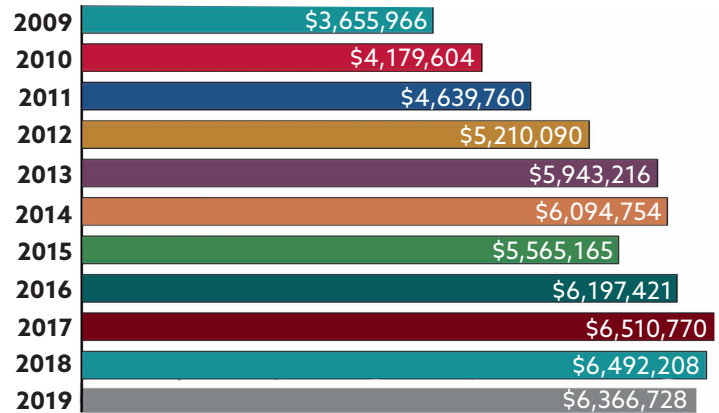
Operating Expenses:		
Purchased Power	\$6,492,208	\$6,366,728
Transmission Expenses	41,887	48,297
Distribution – Operations	991,717	1,078,976
Distribution – Maintenance	728,994	640,986
Consumer Accounting	495,679	547,183
Customer Service and Information	119,953	123,547
Sales Expense	11,482	9,866
General and Administrative	898,669	925,627
Depreciation	1,369,244	1,426,843
Taxes	165,434	165,376
Interest	1,095,169	1,076,166
Other deductions	15,499	11,764
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$12,425,935	\$12,421,359

What we **have left** as of Dec. 31, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2019

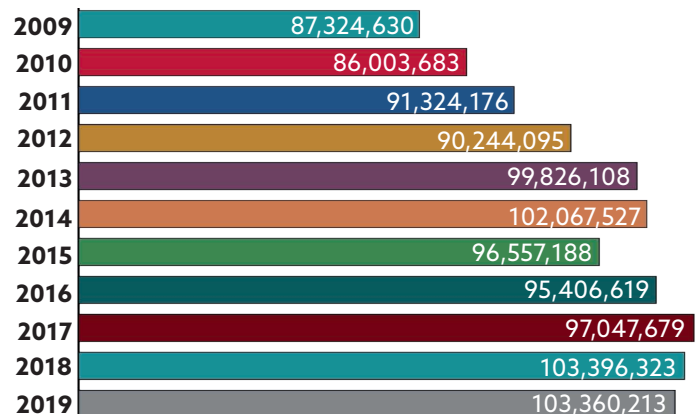
Operating Margins	\$543,032	\$475,843
Non-Operating Margins	66,265	68,937
G & T Capital Credits	957,243	269,326
Other Capital Credits	113,522	92,415
TOTAL MARGINS	\$1,680,062	\$906,521



WHOLESALE POWER COSTS



TOTAL KWH USED



Your Cooperative

Incorporated: May 6, 1946

Counties Served: Dewey, Corson and Ziebach

Power Supply: Basin Electric – 85% WAPA – Hydro 15%

Source of Loan Funds: USDA/Rural Utilities Service and CFC

2019 Year End Statistics

Members.....	3,861	Underground line.....	427 miles
Meters.....	7,013	Overhead line.....	3,260 miles
Service Area	6,950 sq mi	Ave Residential Usage	844 kWh
Cost of one mile single-phase line:		Ave Residential Stmt	\$111.34
Underground.....	\$44,500	Ave Residential kWh	\$0.13
Overhead.....	\$31,000	Ave Commercial Usage ...	3,677 kWh
Cost of one mile three-phase line:		Ave Commercial Stmt	\$373.28
Underground.....	\$75,000	Ave Commercial kWh	\$0.10
Overhead.....	\$43,000	Ave Revenue/kWh.....	\$0.12
Transmission line	210 miles		



While the ag markets have experienced shifts and changes, rural South Dakota continues to offer a favorable business climate for many industry sectors.

S.D. IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

REED Fund supports business growth in rural areas

Billy Gibson

editor@sdra.coop

The old adage about making hay while the sun is shining is not lost on the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

During the summer months, the department launched an aggressive regional advertising campaign called "South Dakota Means Business," aimed at encouraging companies from surrounding states to relocate to a more business-friendly environment.

The timing of this marketing strategy was intended to take advantage of the favorable national publicity the state has received for its response to COVID-19 and also to lure disaffected businesses weary of increasingly onerous and burdensome regulatory policies in other states.

The promotional initiative was based on a long list of advantages that make it easier in South Dakota for companies to maximize positive margins and plan for future growth.

The campaign featured Gov. Kristi Noem emphasizing the fact that South Dakota has been ranked best in the nation in several categories: lowest business costs; most accessible financing; two-year college graduation rates; lowest regulatory restrictions; lowest state tax revenue volatility; and more.

"We hear over and over from business owners in other states that increased government regulations are making it difficult to earn a profit and plan for growth," said Commissioner Steve Westra. "We want to get the word out that it doesn't have to be this way."

"As out-of-state businesses become more frustrated with

Dakota Style is a thriving business that has received REED funding through Codington-Clark Electric.



overreach by their state governments, they're turning to South Dakota," said Gov. Noem. "The number of new businesses interested in moving to South Dakota has increased dramatically. We're ready to show these businesses what South Dakota can do for them."

While Gov. Noem pushes to attract more businesses to South Dakota, the state's rural electric cooperatives continue to be engaged in efforts to spark community development. Twenty of the state's electric cooperatives collaborate with five western-Minnesota co-ops to support local business growth through the Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund. The non-profit corporation provides financing in all or parts of roughly 70 counties in the two states.

The REED Fund was created in 1997 to boost business growth in small communities and has issued nearly 400 loans totaling more

than \$102 million. That financial support has resulted in more than 9,000 jobs.

While the fund is used by rural electric cooperatives to boost economic activity in their service areas, it is not restricted to co-ops. Many loans have gone to retail entities, manufacturing facilities, agriculture processing and marketing and support services. The fund has also been used to support rural health care, education, recreation, arts, public safety, community infrastructure, housing and office space.

The fund is supported by state and federal government entities, including the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, and also private groups such as Dakota Resources, Basin Electric Cooperative and banking institutions.

The REED Fund had a record year in 2019, with \$12.8 million in new loans. REED and Avera Health also signed a new workforce housing development financing partnership as Avera committed to a \$2 million investment in the fund. This investment, along with an additional \$1 million pledge from SDN Communications and another \$1 million from First Bank & Trust, will expand efforts to finance workforce housing.

Two loans issued in August went to Lesterville Fire and Rescue from Bon Homme Yankton Electric, and to 605 Sires, LLC, from Southeastern Electric.

Bon Homme Electric Manager Stephanie Horst said the money would go toward the purchase of new air packs and a new building addition for the local volunteer fire department.

"A big part of our guiding principles as locally-owned, locally-controlled electric cooperatives is to do whatever we can to improve the quality of life in our service areas and to expand the range of economic opportunities available to our members and our communities," Horst said. "It's very gratifying for us to know we're making a positive impact."

She noted that more than 80 percent of the REED Fund's lending is established in communities of fewer than 4,000 people and 98 percent of REED-financed projects have local ownership.

At Southeastern Electric, General Manager Brad Schardin said 605 Sires, LLC, used its financing to expand its family-owned, full-service bull collection and donor facility. The company opened in 2017 and delivers its products to customers both domestically and internationally.

According to Schardin, "Delivering electrical power that is safe, affordable, reliable and accessible is a tall order in itself. But our commitment goes beyond providing electricity. We also have an obligation to enhance and improve the communities we serve. The REED Fund is an excellent resource to help us fulfill that commitment."

For more information on the REED Fund, visit www.reedfund.coop or call 605-256-8015.

Future of Energy Storage

Energy storage technology is extremely versatile - it's small enough to fit in your phone, or large enough to power your entire home.

Many people are familiar with small-scale batteries for handheld devices, but utility-scale batteries take energy storage to a whole new level. The ability to store energy helps to ensure that energy demand meets supply at any given time, making electricity available when you need it.

The most widespread form of energy storage in the U.S. is through pumped hydropower, a form of mechanical energy storage. Pumped hydropower has been used for several decades now, and currently makes up about 97 percent of the country's utility storage capacity.

Energy is stored by pumping water uphill from a lower elevation reservoir to store in an upper water basin. When energy is needed, the water is allowed

to flow through an electric turbine to generate energy, the same way it flows through a hydroelectric dam. This method is largely dependent on surrounding geography and any potential resulting ecosystem issues.

Battery technology is also gaining a lot of ground. In 2018, the power capacity from battery storage systems more than doubled from 2010. The most common type of battery chemistry is lithium-ion because of a high-cycle efficiency and fast response time. Some less-common battery types for utility storage include lead acid batteries, nickel-based batteries and sodium-based batteries. However, each chemistry has varying limitations. Beyond pumped hydropower and batteries, there are a few other forms of energy storage used at the utility scale: thermal, hydrogen and compressed air.

Energy storage currently plays a crucial role in incorporating renewable energy into our electric grid. Solar and wind energy are weather-dependent, so when energy demand is low but energy supply is high from the sun or wind, storing the excess energy makes it possible to use it later when demand is higher. As renewable energy becomes more prevalent, energy storage will help to create a more resilient grid.

Although battery prices have been decreasing steadily over the last several years, energy storage can be expensive to attain. Currently, there are 25 gigawatts of electrical energy storage capacity in the U.S., and many experts expect capacity to grow.



2020 Director Candidate Profiles



Ryan Maher

Ryan Maher – District 2

Ryan Maher, Isabel, is an insurance agent at Western Dakota Insurance, serving the Timber Lake, Isabel and Eagle Butte areas. Ryan graduated from Isabel High School in 1996 and went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in accounting and business from Black Hills State University. In 2007, he graduated from Colorado Graduate School of Banking. In his free time, Maher has obtained a pilot's license and enjoys flying.

Maher is currently a member of the Isabel City Council and an active member of the South Dakota State Senate. He has been a senator for 13 years, holding the position from 2007 to 2014 and currently 2017-2022. "I feel that my work in the capitol has provided insight that serves the board and Moreau-Grand members," says Maher.

Maher expressed that he is honored to serve the members of Moreau-Grand and will be running unopposed for his second term filling the District 2 director position.

Kerry McLellan – District 5

Kerry McLellan, Lantry, is a fourth-generation rancher/farmer. Kerry and his wife, Mariah, have four children: Kennedy, Klayte, Kami and

Kross. Kerry is a graduate from Dupree High School and also has completed the Utility Lineman Program at Mitchell Technical Institute. Kerry enjoys spending time with his family, snowmobiling and hunting.

McLellan is currently a director for the Ziebach County Conservation District, the SDREA director for Moreau-Grand and has served as parish council member for the Sacred Heart Church in Dupree.

As a Moreau-Grand Electric board member, Director McLellan completed the NRECA CCD (Credentialed Cooperative Director) Program. The purpose of the NRECA director level education program is to prepare directors to make informed business decisions. Kerry says, "My greatest take away from the course has been to help me understand the co-op world and the finances of the cooperative."

McLellan is running unopposed for the District 5 director position. Kerry has been a board member at Moreau-Grand for six years and enjoys representing the members and employees of Moreau-Grand. McLellan says, "The most challenging part of being a board member is trying to keep rates low without compromising reliability and service. Regulations and legislation have a huge impact on rates."



Kerry McLellan

2020 Good Neighbor Ronald and Evelyn Bierman

By Roger Lawien

rlawien@mge.coop

Since 2014, the Moreau-Grand board of directors has presented the Good Neighbor Award. This award is presented annually to exceptional members who go above and beyond giving their time and talents to their communities.

Editor's Note: I have done many interviews in my career here at Moreau-Grand and this interview is one of my favorites. My only regret is that we do not have more room for all of the wonderful conversation. We laughed and reminisced about life and so much more. Such a pleasure to visit with these two wonderfully witty people. Ron served his community 26 years as a Ziebach County Commissioner. He, along with other community leaders, lobbied for many of the gravel and paved roads we travel today. As a young lad in the late 1940s, he remembers being one of the first families in the area to get electricity. Ron took over the family's Moreau-Grand account in the early 1950s.

M-G: What was one of the first items you got after electricity came to your farm?

Ron: One of the first things we purchased was a Philco refrigerator from Adolph Silverman in Dupree, S.D. Anything we want to keep good goes in that refrigerator in our basement. It was quite a deal, we had ice cubes in the middle of summer." You read that right folks. The refrigerator is still in use! "I remember getting an electric stove as a wedding present. At that time anyone buying an electric appliance got a free trip to Ft. Randall dam. We went over to Timber Lake, the bus broke down before we left so we took cars and drove down. Effie Lopez and Ma Miller rode with us.

M-G: What was it like when electricity came to your farm?

Ron: We were used to doing chores by hand. Milk cows using

kerosene lanterns and doing things in the dark. The lights and the fridge were the big thing. We had a 32-volt wind charger for lights but if the wind didn't blow, we didn't have the light. We had battery radios and we would have to take them to the light plant in Isabel to get charged. Sometimes, we took the 6-volt battery out of the car and hooked up one side because the radios were 2-volt. We didn't dare listen to the radio too long, didn't want the battery to go dead. When electricity came one by one, we watched the country light up with yard lights.



M-G: Who were your neighbors about that time?

Ron: Within a five-mile radius, there were three Dragset families – Walden's, Gebhart's, Harris's, Andersons, Garnett's, Silks, Reeves, Beer's. Not many left now.

Evelyn: We were married in 1954. I remember about a few weeks after we were married, Andersons lived a few miles cross country from here and she asked me over for an extension club meeting. My gosh there were 32 kids there! I couldn't believe there were that many kids in the whole county let alone in our neighborhood. I just about turned around and went back home. I didn't know what to think, Evelyn said with a big smile on her face.

M-G: How long have you lived here?

Laughing, Ron's response was, "I was born out here where that REA pole sits about a hundred feet away. I think they put that up for a monument for me."

Evelyn smiled and said, "We have been married 66 years."

District 3 Interviews

2020 Director Candidate Profiles

Kelly Landis – District 3

Kelly Landis is a man of many hats. Landis is a machinist, mechanic and farmer/rancher. He's primarily self-taught but does attribute his knowledge of mechanics in part to his education at NDSCS in Wahpeton. Kelly's interests include making various scale model steam engines, collecting chocolate molds, firearms, old engines, stationery, and steam engines, as well as other items.

Landis is an active member of the Trail City Fire Department, Trail City Community Hall, TC&G Water System and Friends of NRA.

Incumbent Landis is running for the District 3 director position.



Kelly Landis

M-G: You have served the membership as a director for three years. What are some of your takeaways?

Landis: I never felt there was anything wrong or that needed changing at Moreau-Grand. I don't think it is crazy what we charge for electricity. I have been on the board for three years, I feel it is exactly what we have to charge to deliver the high-quality service our members expect. Government regulations have a huge impact on how Moreau-Grand operates. I am honored and humbled to serve the membership as a NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director.

M-G: What has the NRECA board leadership training afforded you?

Landis: The leadership training is of great value. It has fortified my belief that a good board member doesn't micromanage or kowtow to special interest groups but provides oversight to management and operations. We have a great group of employees facing tough challenges every day. Another thing that is important to me is the cooperative model of one membership, one vote. No matter if you have one meter or 20, each member gets one vote. That is the only way it can be to be fair.

Warren LeBeau, District 3

M-G: Can you tell us the journey you have taken to get where you are today?

LeBeau: I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, so my roots run deep here in this land and community. Although I grew up in a multitude of states and on various reservations because my father worked for the BIA, I always came back here as a child during the summer months to work on my grandfather's ranch in old Armstrong County. After graduating from Poplar High School in Montana, I went to Dawson Community College in Glendive, Montana on a basketball scholarship. To further my education and continue my interest in Criminology, I went to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona where I received my bachelor's and master's degrees. My first real job was working for the tribe as an Adult Probation Officer and



Warren LeBeau

then moving onto the defunct Cheyenne River Sioux Swiftbird Project. From there, I worked for the Arizona Department of Corrections in both their adult and juvenile prison complexes, until I got recruited by the BIA to work in their newly created corrections division. That was a start of a 25-year career where I worked in both law enforcement and administration until I retired in 2015.

M-G: Did your job require moving a lot?

LeBeau: Yes, I move frequently, and I believe it gave me so much in experience and insight. I started my BIA career in Tucson, Arizona, and I was stationed at the Indian Police Academy. From there I was promoted up to the Washington, DC Central Office and stayed there until I became an Agency Superintendent at Pima Agency in Sacaton, Arizona. I was also an Agency Superintendent at the Fort Totten Agency in North Dakota and Yankton Agency in South Dakota. Because of fulfilling what I saw as my mission for working for the BIA, I also worked in Albuquerque, New Mexico and finally wound up in Aberdeen, South Dakota where I retired from. Out of all the places I lived, I like Pickstown, South Dakota the best. This town was created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when they built the Fort Randall Dam back in the 1950's. Thus, the town was basically directly hooked up to the dam and not once did the little community ever lose electricity.

M-G: I noticed when you talk about your girls your face lights up. Tell us about them and why you returned to the old agency area and Cheyenne River.

LeBeau: Oh, my yes, my three daughters are the blessing of my life. Family means the world to me. I raised them by myself for the last 15 years and I do believe they are not only beautiful but bright and intelligent. My oldest daughter is KaTe' and she will be graduating this December from the University of North Dakota out of Fargo, North Dakota. My middle girl is ShaHa'la and she received her bachelor's degree from Creighton University at Omaha, Nebraska, and has just started working on her master's degree at LIM College downtown Manhattan, New York. And my youngest is KiTu. She too began her college career at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota this fall, which means a major change in my life because I am now an Empty Nester.

M-G: What has inspired you to run for the director position at Moreau-Grand Electric?

LeBeau: Being retired, I have had the time to evaluate what means the most to me and what and how I would like to give back to a community that is sacred to me, in that my ancestors are buried here as I will be and my children too. Plus, being a boss my whole career I know the best way to facilitate change is to jump into the deep end of the pool and make waves. Thus, every time there is a storm and the winds blow, I wait for the electricity to go out, which has always been a concern to anyone who lives out in the country. But what is unacceptable is when my lights go off and I look out my kitchen window and see all the lights are still all on across the river. Thus, I would like to be part of improving things instead of doing nothing, and I see being part of Moreau-Grand as that opportunity for me to be truly part of a team that brings changes for the betterment of all who count on Moreau-Grand for their services.



Life on farms and in small towns changed for the better when electric co-ops brought power to the countryside.

CO-OP HISTORY

Co-op legacy provides a road map to success

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

On Nov. 29, 1935, a handful of local farmers huddled together in a nondescript general store near Vermillion.

They knew that six months earlier President Franklin Roosevelt had signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). They knew the purpose of this new federal entity was to provide low-interest loans so that small communities all across the nation could build the power delivery infrastructures required to bring power to the countryside. And they knew this would be their best opportunity to accomplish something for themselves that the for-profit corporate utilities were unwilling to do: energize rural America. They were all in.

While there were a few fits-and-starts along the way, what emerged out of that meeting was South Dakota's first rural electric cooperative, Clay-Union Electric Corp.

Meanwhile, this exact scenario was being replicated in other small towns and villages from coast-to-coast as the rural electrification movement gained momentum and transformed the lives of millions. From those humble beginnings, the movement has swelled to more than 900 locally-owned and locally-controlled cooperatives serving 42 million Americans in 47 states.

The improbable feat of individuals coming together, organizing, planning and building such a vast power delivery system through the most sparsely populated and inhospitable landscapes has been recognized as one of the country's crowning achievements.

America's electric cooperatives take a great deal of pride in their legacy of service, their spirit of independence, their ability to work together for a common purpose and their democratic system of control and decision-making. It's a system rooted in the



Local citizens got together in the 1930s to organize electric co-ops.

very ideals that made the country great.

So why should today's generation care about this legacy?

Dan Lindblom thinks he knows. Lindblom, along with his fellow co-op leader Verdon Lamb, recently received the South Dakota Rural Electric Association's (SDREA) Legacy of Leadership Award for 2020. He said the rich history of the cooperative movement is important because it provides a model for success that both current and future generations can use to overcome obstacles and challenges, to help navigate through difficult and seemingly intractable situations.

Having served 27 years on the board at Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer and 23 years on the SDREA board, Lindblom certainly knows about how to approach difficult dilemmas. As a statewide board officer, Lindblom found himself in the middle of many imbroglios and political squabbles over the decades.

Whether the battleground was in Pierre or Washington, Lindblom fought to protect the interests of electric cooperative



Co-ops led the way in energizing rural America and today lead the way in developing new technologies such as electric vehicles.

members through a wide range of issues such as service territory disputes, state and federal environmental regulations, taxation, transportation and more.

In the process, he learned the art of compromise and the virtue of demonstrating mutual respect. He recalls the not-too-distant past when political



Co-ops improved the lives of all citizens in their communities.

opponents maintained personal, respectful relationships despite any ideological or policy differences they may have had. He also learned the meaning of the old axiom, “United we stand, divided we fall.”

“Speaking with one voice pays off, especially in the political arena,” Lindblom said. “We had situations where an issue may impact one or two co-ops, but we all had to stand together to provide the strength we needed to win. It’s a difficult decision to engage in a fight when you think you don’t have a dog in the hunt, but it’s necessary if you’re going to do what’s good for co-op members across the state. The next time, it may be your issue that comes up and you’ll need the support.”

Lindblom said the secret sauce of success is adopting a posture of give-and-take while standing in solidarity behind a set of shared values.

Verdon Lamb, the other 2020 Legacy of Leadership recipient, served 40 years on the board at Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative in Watertown and also served on the SDREA board. He said the history of the electric co-op movement is a prime example of what can be accomplished when people work together.

“It’s about leadership, sacrifice and working in harmony to do something that’s worth doing for other people,” Lamb said. “I always felt it was worth the sacrifice of giving up my personal time and my farming time to represent the members who put their faith in me and elected me to serve on the board.”

While some say the sense of community, sacrifice and selflessness are lost on the current generation, Lamb said he has hope that young adults will come to understand those ideals exemplified by electric co-ops.

“You know, people said the same things about us when we were kids,” said Lamb, who graduated from high school in 1953. “They said we weren’t going to amount to much, but we turned out okay.”

Chris Larson is manager at Clay-Union Electric Corp., where South Dakota’s electric cooperative system began. He pointed out that the legacy of electric cooperatives is rooted in friends, family and the community. Because cooperatives have always been owned, operated and controlled independently, and have always been geared for local service, they demonstrate the power of human connections and the strength that comes with

teamwork. He said this is especially clear to see as cooperatives and their members deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

“When times get tough, you look to your family and friends, and those are the people who make up our cooperative,” Larson said. “Cooperative communities work together to accomplish things that would be impossible to do alone. That’s what the cooperative legacy is all about, and we see how it lifts us up and sustains us through troubling times.”

Larson said electric co-op history points back to a time in the 1930s when the country was racked by a slumping economy. Co-op organizers went door-to-door to rally support and ask for a membership fee. It was money that many households simply didn’t have. He noted that the first attempt at forming the co-op failed because the start-up funds weren’t there. But by working together and staying focused on the goal, the community accomplished the mission of energizing homes, farms, schools and businesses.

“Friends and families in the Clay County area pulled together and found a way to improve the quality of life for all,” Larson said. “The result is that today we provide power to water districts, banks, grocery stores, elevators, hotels, ag supply stores and more. Electricity is the life blood that makes our local economy run. That’s why our history is so important – it shows the possibilities of what can be done. It’s a road map for achieving what some think is impossible. That’s a message we can all learn from and has no expiration date.”

Larson said that by being attentive to the legacy of electric cooperatives, members of the younger generation can make a real difference in the future of the country.



CO-OPS VOTE

Cooperative members encouraged to make their voices heard

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

The act of voting is not only a basic right of every American citizen, it's also a hallmark of the country's rural electric cooperative system.

The monumental rural electrification movement that began in the 1930s was founded on the principle of one member, one vote. As communities all across the nation began building infrastructures to deliver electricity to farms and schools and homes in outlying areas, the idea that every member had only one vote – regardless of that member's status, wealth or influence – quickly gained widespread appeal.

The same set of democratic principles that have served as the system's bedrock from the beginning continue to sustain the cooperative network today.

All of the more than 42 million electric cooperative members across the country are encouraged to cast their vote for their local board representative with the aim of installing competent, effective leadership. Exercising the right to cast a ballot in board elections ensures that the members maintain a measure of democratic control over the organization that they collectively own.

While voting power rests in the hands of cooperative members, as it does with the general electorate, that power is lost if those responsible for being engaged in the political process don't do their part. If electric cooperative members don't elect qualified, committed representatives to look out for their interests at the board table, this puts the future of the cooperative in doubt. The same applies to the national political system as well.

Participating in the political process is so paramount to maintaining and upholding democratic institutions that the more

than 900 member-owned electric cooperatives across the country have launched a promotional initiative called Co-ops Vote. The campaign is designed to raise awareness not only of the upcoming national elections but also the voting process that takes place each year at every cooperative.

Long before the launching of the Co-op Votes campaign came the formation of a federal political action committee called the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE). Founded in 1966, ACRE is a non-partisan organization that provides support for candidates who serve as advocates for the best interests of electric co-ops, their member-owners and their communities.

The grassroots organization is backed by a diverse group of more than 35,000 individuals in 47 states who make an average annual contribution of just \$65. Through the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action, an off-shoot of the original ACRE program, local cooperatives are able to reach out to their residential member-owners and invite them to be politically engaged in marshaling financial support for candidates and involved in other significant grassroots advocacy initiatives.

South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives are strong participants in the effort to make sure the voices of co-op members reach the halls of the statehouse in Pierre and also resonate on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. According to Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, those voices include calls for electrical power that is safe, reliable, affordable and accessible for all South Dakota citizens.

"Electrical power is essential to sustaining our way of life," Anderson said. "We need power to run our homes and farms

and businesses. With our relatively low population density, it's a challenge to keep power rates at a point where our members can afford their monthly electric bill. That's why it's critical that we make sure the decision makers in Pierre and in Washington are listening to our voices and listening to our concerns."

South Dakota's electric cooperative leaders, employees and members are stepping up to the plate by increasing their participation in ACRE and ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action. Roughly half of the 30 cooperative boards in the state boast 100 percent participation in ACRE at the \$100 per year (Century Club) level.

One of those cooperatives, Black Hills Electric based in Custer, also has an employee participation level of 100 percent, in addition to its management, key staff and seven-member board.

CEO and General Manager Walker Witt said supporting political leaders who can relate to the unique challenges faced by rural South Dakotans is important.

"The management, staff and employees have supported ACRE since its inception. We believe in the importance of electing representatives who believe in the importance of the rural electric program and

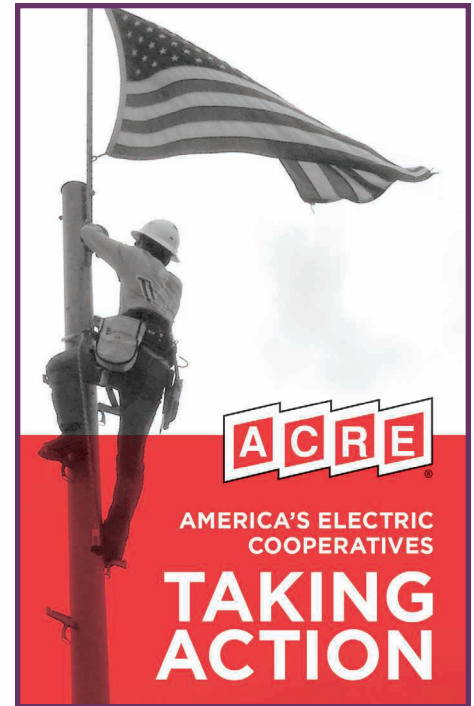
those co-ops on the front lines of rural electrification. ACRE dollars help keep the struggles of rural America in the forefront of the legislative arena. ACRE has helped us build political capital in South Dakota and Washington."

Tim McCarthy, General Manager and CEO at Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, echoed Witt's observations.

"Our Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) and Board of Directors believe it is important to be politically engaged. We view our role as advocates for our member-owners and it's part of our commitment to them. We are engaged at all levels of the political process and, in fact, employ a government relations professional to ensure continued involvement. ACRE supports candidates who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners."

Sioux Valley Energy has also made an effort to appeal directly to members by conducting community-based forums, a process that has been temporarily disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

According to McCarthy, "We have worked hard to engage our members in the political process, hosting what we call 'Take Action' forums. We invite



elected officials to speak at these events and it allows our members to hear about energy-specific legislation and regulation that may impact their rates and or service. They also have the chance to ask questions and hear directly from their elected officials. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, we will not be hosting any this year."

Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters.

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- ✓ Talk to your family and friends.
- ✓ Cast your vote.

**Election Day is
November 3, 2020**



Be an active participant in our democracy. Be a Co-op Voter.

www.vote.coop

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

September 24-26

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 25-27

Coal Springs Threshing Bee Featuring Massey Harris Tractors, Meadow, SD 605-788-2229

September 26

Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival, 526 Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

September 26

Chamberlain/Oacoma Harvest Festival, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-4416

September 26-27

Menno Pioneer Power Show, 616 N Fifth Street, Menno, SD

September 26

Wheelin' to Wall, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD

October 2-3

First United Methodist Church Rummage Sale, 629 Kansas City St, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-4294

October 2-3

Oktoberfest, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

October 3

Cruiser Car Show & Street Fair, Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

October 3

Cowboys, Cowgirls and Cowcatchers Soiree, 6 p.m., South Dakota State Railroad Museum, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9000



Sept. 26
Wheelin' to Wall, Wall, SD,

October 3-4

Marshall Area Gun Show, Red Baron Arena, 1651 Victory Dr., Marshall, MN, 507-401-6227

October 3-4

Harvest Festival, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

October 3-18

Pumpkin Festival, Canton, SD, 605-987-5171

October 10

Annual Fall Festival, 4-6 p.m., Fairburn United Methodist Church, Fairburn, SD 605-255-4329

October 10

Groton's 5th Annual Pumpkin Fest, Groton City Park, Groton, SD, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch Served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

October 10-11

Pumpkin Festival, 27249 SD Hwy 115, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

October 24

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 29-30

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

October 31-November 1

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

November 7

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November 7

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to Register Your Team

November 14

Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 21-22

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S Washington Street, Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

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.