



Cooperative Connections

**Reasons to
Love Your
Electric Co-op**

Page 8

**Outhouse
Racing in
Nemo**

Page 12

December 2019 Board Minutes and October 2019 Financial Information

The Dec. 17, 2019, 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, Finance Officer Dahlgren (Delegated Recorder of Minutes) and Attorney Burke.

- 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 SDREA Metering School, Technology in the Cooperative Workshop and viewed director tour of power plant pictures.
- The operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included pole changes, Ridgeview transmission line outage, underground school, metering school, visit to BJC line program and hoping to schedule one with MTI after the holidays and SDREA safety meeting.
- Manager Maher gave the manager's report that included Ridgeview transmission line, FEMA 404 pre-mitigation funds, physical inventory, SB66 update, SDREA annual meeting confirmations, SDAC annual meeting confirmations, Basin Electric financials, SDREA News Bulletin, SDREA board report, Rushmore board report, collections and new Midwest

October 2019 Financial Information			
	October 2019	October 2018	YTD 2019
Operating Revenues	\$980,298	\$1,097,868	\$10,399,364
Cost of Power	\$513,546	\$484,962	\$5,148,249
Cost of Electric Service	\$1,014,505	\$958,324	\$10,184,476
Margins	\$(31,614)	\$141,309	\$367,573
kWh Purchased	8,605,429	8,058,022	90,736,385
kWh Sold	7,585,183	8,136,238	82,896,654

- executive director.
- Manager Maher presented the 2020 budget and work plan to the board.
- The directors completed and returned their Conflict of Interest surveys for the Form 990.
- The board paid their ACRE® memberships for 2020.
- Director McLellan gave the SDREA board meeting report that included an NRECA update, Summer Study update, legislative update, West River Electric presentation, Southeastern Electric presentation, approved S.D. Wind Energy dues, approved Legislative Committee recommendations, annual meeting and viewed Touchstone Energy® video on fatal contact.
- The directors who attended the BLC training courses gave a report that included cooperatives need to be involved in the community, renewable energy and facility charges.
- Director Lawrence gave the Midwest annual meeting report that included a presentation on the Pick Sloan Act, supplying power, energy storage, panelist discussion, new directors, reorganization meeting and resolutions passed.
- Director Lawrence gave the Rushmore board meeting report that included a financial report, SDREA board seat, RCI budget, safety meeting, new Midwest executive director, Basin Electric financial forecast, board meeting dates, retain legal firm and member cooperative issues.
- The board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the November meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, write-overs in the amount of \$19,232.61, the 2020 budget and work plan, manager and staff salaries for 2020 and changed the January board meeting date to Jan. 20, 2020.
- The next board meeting was scheduled for Jan. 20, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

Comparative Report	Current (Nov. 2019)	1 year ago (Nov. 2018)	10 Years Ago (Nov. 2009)	% Change in 10 years
Number of Meters	6,989	6,986	6,412	9%
Kilowatt Hours Sold	9,107,526	9,487,863	7,756,035	17%
Cost of Purchased Power	\$586,881	\$602,308	\$302,373	94%
Overall Ave. Rate / kWh Per Member	0.1206	0.1205	0.098	23%

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
Sheila Scherer, Office Manager
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.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Timber Lake, S.D., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656; Phone (605) 865-3511; Fax (605) 865-3340; e-mail mge@mge.coop; Web site www.mge.coop. This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Design assistance by SDREA



Dec. 31, 2019

Board Approves 2020 Budget



Melissa Maher

melissa@mge.coop

Closing in on another year – 2019 will go down in the record book as the year of moisture! Those of us in western South Dakota have lived through many years of drought and the stress that comes with such but have now discovered a different level of stress created from excess moisture. One doesn't have to drive very far to see corn still standing in the fields. Farmers with air dryers have been fortunate – no doubt making the difference in getting their wet corn harvested.

The board approved the 2020 budget at the December meeting, with margins being adequate under our current rate schedules. As reported last month, plans are to construct a new steel 80x100x16 warehouse here in Timber Lake along with a new 40x40x16 equipment building in Eagle Butte. The building in Eagle Butte is needed to house a new four-wheel drive bucket truck that was ordered in 2019 and should be arriving the first part of 2020.

Enhancements to the office lobby entrance and security cameras for our facilities were also approved in the 2020 budget.

Ram Pole Testing Company will once again be on site to test poles in 2020. Isabel and area running west of Isabel will be the footprint for inspection. Plans will be for our own crews to replace the reject poles once again. With that said, due to the extreme wet conditions, some reject poles remain to be changed from testing done in 2019 thus will be completed when conditions permit.

As I write this report, employees are accounting for inventory which is a normal procedure at year-end. A representative from our audit firm Ketel Thorstenson from Rapid City will be on site Jan. 3 to spot-check various inventory items. The full financial audit will then take place in March.

Well, only the Good Lord knows what is in store for all of us in this New Year. One thing is for sure, that each of us here at Moreau-Grand Electric comes ready to answer the call of duty each and every day. God Blessings to all...



Space Heater Safety

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fires result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.

Portable electric space heaters can be a convenient source of supplemental heat for your home in cold weather. Unfortunately, they can pose significant fire and electric shock hazards if not used properly. Fire and electrical hazards can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in.



Safety should always be a top consideration when using space heaters. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe and warm when it's cold outside:

- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.

Source: esfi.org

Getting Involved

The state legislatures of both Minnesota and South Dakota convened in early January. Need to contact your legislator while in Pierre or Saint Paul? Here's how:



Contacting Members of South Dakota's Legislature:

Go to <http://sdlegislature.gov/> From there, you can search your senator or representatives, see the committees which they are assigned and send them an email. Need to reach them by phone? You can call and leave a message with the Senate at 605-773-3821 or with the House of Representatives at 605-773-3851. You can also send a fax to 605-773-6806.

Contacting Minnesota Legislators:

For contact information on Minnesota house members, visit:

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members>

For contact information on Minnesota senators, visit:

<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members>

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't let anything get near your extension cords!"

Sierra Staufacker, 9 years old

Sierra is the daughter of Cory and Staci Staufacker, Balaton, Minn. They are members of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Tyler, Minn.

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.

Bountiful Brunch

Pineapple-Zucchini Bread

3 eggs	3 cups flour
2 cups sugar	1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla	1 tsp. soda
1 cup oil	1 cup crushed pineapple, drained
2 cups peeled and grated zucchini	

Beat eggs, sugar, vanilla and oil. Mix in zucchini and dry ingredients; stir well. Fold in pineapple. Bake at 350°F for 1 hour. Makes 2 loaves.

Geraldine Dahlin, Beresford, SD

Apple Pie Breakfast Bake

2 cans refrigerated French bread	1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
1 cup butter, melted	1 tsp. apple pie spice
1 (21 oz.) can apple pie filling	1 tsp. vanilla

Bake loaves as directed on can; cool 20 minutes. Cut 1-1/2 loaves into 1/2-inch cubes to equal 7-1/2 cups. Reserve remaining 1/2 loaf for another use. Increase oven temperature to 375°F. In a 9x13-inch glass baking dish, evenly layer melted butter, apple pie filling and bread cubes. In a medium bowl, stir together milk, apple pie spice and vanilla. Pour over bread, pushing bread down to absorb liquid. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and bubbly. Cool 15 minutes. Serve warm with maple syrup. (Note: You may also use day-old French bread cut into 1/2-inch cubes.)

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Breakfast Casserole

1 (8 oz.) can crescent rolls	1-1/2 cups shredded cheese
1 (16 oz.) pkg. bulk sausage, cooked and drained	8 eggs, lightly beaten
Diced onion, green pepper and mushrooms, optional	1/2 cup milk
16 to 32 oz. hash brown potatoes, depending on number of servings desired	1 pkg. country-style gravy mix, prepared according to package directions

Press crescent rolls in a lightly greased 9x13-inch pan. Spread with sausage crumbles and veggies. Layer hash browns on top. Sprinkle with cheese. Combine eggs with milk; pour over all. Spread on gravy. Bake at 325°F for 1 hour or until cooked through in the middle.

Kim Jost, Agar, SD

Grilled Fruit with Cinnamon Oatmeal Crumble

6 T. butter, softened, divided	2 ripe peaches, halved and pitted
2 T. light brown sugar	2 ripe plums, halved and pitted
1 tsp. cinnamon, ground	
3/4 cup quick-cooking oats	

Mix butter, brown sugar and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Reserve 2 T.; set aside. Add oats to remaining butter mixture, stirring until well blended. Brush fruit with reserved butter mixture. Place cut-side down on grill over medium heat. Tent with foil or close grill lid. Grill 2 minutes or until grill marks appear. Turn fruit cut-side up; spoon oat mixture evenly on top of each piece. Return foil tent or close lid. Grill 3 minutes longer or until fruit is tender and topping is crisp. Serve topped with whipped cream or ice cream, if desired. Cooking over a campfire? Place grill grate over top of campfire. Grill fruit as directed, rearranging hot coals as needed to maintain even direct heat. Makes 4 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 290, Total Fat 18g, Fiber 3g, Cholesterol 45mg, Sodium 137mg, Carbohydrates 29g, Protein 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Omelet in a Bag

2 large eggs	Green pepper, diced
Ham or bacon pieces	Mushrooms, chopped
Onion, chopped	Grated cheese
Tomato, diced	

Give each guest a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag and have them write their name on the bag with a permanent marker. Crack 2 eggs into each bag (not more than 2). Shake to combine them. Put out a variety of ingredients and let each guest choose what they want in their omelet. Shake the bag. Zip the bag after making sure to get all the air out. Bring a large kettle of water to a full rolling boil. Place the bags into the water. When the water begins to boil again, boil for exactly 14 minutes. You can usually cook 6 to 8 omelets at a time. For more, make another kettle of boiling water. Open bags and the omelet will roll out easily. Serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake.

Roxanna Streckfuss, Mansfield, SD

Please send your favorite seafood, appetizer and beverage 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.

Your Seven-Step Efficiency Upgrade Checklist



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

Making your home more energy efficient can be done by taking one step at a time, or you can take it on all at once as a larger project.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Dear Pat and Brad: I used to live in a newer, energy efficient home, but I recently moved into an older home that's definitely not as efficient. I want to make some upgrades, but I'm not sure how much work to do or what steps I should take. Can you offer any advice? – Katie

Dear Katie: Making your home more energy efficient can be done by taking one step at a time or you can take it on all at once as a larger project. Either way, it's helpful to have a plan in place before you dive in so you don't end up doing unnecessary work or repeating steps along the way.

Here's a seven-step checklist we've compiled to help you get organized.

Step 1: Set goals and constraints. Start by setting your primary goal. Are you mainly looking to save money on your home's energy bills, make it more comfortable, increase the resale value or help the environment? Then, set a deadline for when you need the project completed. This may affect whether you do some of the work yourself and which contractor you choose.

Last but not least, set your budget. How much is it worth to you to live in an energy efficient home? One way to look at this is to review your annual energy bills. If they're around \$2,000 per year, you might ask yourself how much you'd be willing to spend if you could cut that expense in half. Maybe you'd be willing to spend \$10,000 to save \$1,000 each year? That would be a 10 percent rate of return on your investment. Or, if your home is drafty and cold, how much are you willing to spend to make it more comfortable?

Step 2: Educate yourself. This step is crucial so you can weigh the costs and benefits of each potential improvement. There are many helpful lists of small and large energy efficiency upgrades available online. There are also some great resources like the Department of Energy, ENERGY STAR® and *Consumer Reports*. Your electric co-op may have a home energy advisor on staff or available literature that can help.

Step 3: Schedule an energy audit. An energy audit will help you prioritize so you can spend your money on the measures that will bring you the most benefit. And an energy auditor can help in other ways. My neighbors hired a contractor to do some major energy efficiency upgrades. They asked an energy auditor to take a look at the work before they paid for it and the auditor found it wasn't even close to the level agreed to in the contract. It took three or four return visits for the contractor to get the work up to the promised level of efficiency. So, the energy auditor saved the day!

Step 4: Plan your projects. Now that you have set your budget and priorities and have a sense of the work and costs involved, make a list of the items you want to include in your energy efficiency upgrades.

Step 5: Are there tasks you can take on yourself? Some work, like caulking windows or adding weather stripping to doors, can easily be done by the homeowner, especially with the help of online tutorials. Other work, like insulating an attic, can be dangerous and may require special equipment or know-how.

Step 6: Identify and select contractors. This can be challenging. You want a contractor who really knows how to do energy efficiency work. And you may need two or more contractors, such as one for your heating system and another for insulation. Maybe you'd like to find one who can do air sealing or duct sealing. In some rural areas, contractors may not specialize in the efficiency measures you are interested in. Are they willing to learn what they don't know?

Be sure to get several quotes if possible, as well as references from past clients. Create and sign a contract with guaranteed work and completion dates, with payments due only as work is completed and inspected.

Step 7: Oversee the work. The quality of the work makes a big difference in the amount of energy savings and added comfort you desire. Keep an eye on the project and don't be afraid to ask questions – lots of questions. Remember, it's your home and you're the one paying the bills!

Congress Passes RURAL Act, SECURE Act and Cadillac Tax Repeal

The integrated campaign shaped by NRECA to carry the voice of electric cooperatives was heard in Congress! As one of the year's final legislative actions, the House and Senate passed –and the President signed – the RURAL Act and other major electric co-op priorities as a part of the 2020 spending package.

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson said the legislation “preserves the electric cooperative business model, protects co-op members from unfair electric rate increases and provides certainty to co-ops that leverage federal and state grants to meet the needs of the communities they serve.” He thanked Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Reps. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.) and Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) for leading the RURAL Act through Congress.

Louis Finkel, NRECA senior vice president of Government Relations, credited the strategic advocacy campaign by electric co-op leaders and NRECA for passing the legislation that protects electric co-ops' tax-exempt status when they receive federal and state grants for disaster relief, broadband deployment and economic development.

“None of this would have been possible without the tireless commitment of our membership to work together in carrying our message to Congress and the steadfast collaboration and leadership from our NRECA team,” said Finkel.

The effort included co-op leaders going to Capitol Hill, co-ops sharing stories on local impacts, grassroots messages and NRECA media and ads directly targeting lawmakers.

In addition to the inclusion of the RURAL Act, the final spending package includes several other electric co-op priorities.

- **SECURE Act:** The landmark SECURE Act (H.R. 1994), legislation to reform and promote retirement saving, will save co-ops in NRECA's Retirement Security (RS) Plan more than \$30 million per year in Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation insurance premiums. This premium reduction will help reduce the cost pressure on participating employers by offsetting to some extent future RS Plan cost increases that could be necessary. It also provides relief from IRS regulations for co-ops in the RS Plan, or in their own defined-benefit plans, that continue to provide benefits after being “closed” to new employees.
- **Cadillac Tax Repeal:** Eliminating the 40 percent Cadillac Tax on employer health plans will help protect health care benefits for all co-op employees, whether their co-op participates in NRECA's Group Benefits Trust or other providers. NRECA, a founding member of the leading coalition for the Cadillac Tax repeal, stressed that taxing any part of co-op employees' health care benefits would result in less comprehensive health coverage for families, and at a higher cost for many.
- **Parking Lot Tax Repeal:** The parking lot tax repeal helps an estimated one-third of tax-exempt electric co-ops. The law treated parking lots at tax-exempt businesses and organizations as employer-paid qualified transportation and parking benefits covered under a corporate tax on “unrelated taxable business income.” In addition to the tax, compliance costs were a burden for co-ops.



BIG Idea Wins

High school students with big business ideas competed for \$30,000 in cash and scholarships during the BIG Idea Competition Dec. 11 at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D.

Korbin Leddy of Milbank High School took first place with Korbin's Steak Express which aims to sell convenient meat grill packs to customers, such as active camping families for example. His prizes include a \$1,000 cash prize, a \$2,000 scholarship to NSU, a \$2,000 scholarship to Presentation College and a \$2,500 scholarship to the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

The 2019 BIG Idea Competition had 276 entries involving more than 389 students from 29 schools.

Second place went to The Urban Garden, by Megan Nash of Northwestern High School, which aims to provide the urban population with fresh, quality fruit through hydroponic and vertical farming techniques. Jordan Edwards and Paige Evans of Aberdeen Central High School also placed second with Smart Rides, which aims to help parents transport their children to and from school or extra-curricular activities while providing the children with a snack along the way. Second place prizes include \$500 cash and \$1,000 scholarships to Presentation College, NSU and SDSM&T.

Other finalists included Wild Yarrow Design by Elizabeth Wright from Rapid City Stevens High School, Hoffman Manure Hauling by Miles Hoffman from Leola High School, Vandy's Lawn Care by Paul VanDover from Milbank High School, CattleHome Fencing by Jessie Lux and Kodi Retzer from Eureka High School and New Home by Quentin Eck from Brookings High School. Each received \$100 cash and \$1,000 scholarships at Presentation College, NSU and SDSM&T.

Four category awards were given, with the winners in each receiving a \$500 cash prize and \$500 NSU scholarship.

- **Marketing Design winner:** Leeper Farms Custom Work by Phoenix Leeper of West Central High School.
- **Food Animal Agriculture Category winner:** Large Animal Immunization Robot (L.A.I.R.A) by Liberty Thompson and Payton DeGroot, Brookings High School.
- **Wellness Category winner:** Romulus and Remus by Paul Wehrung of Spearfish.
- **Agriculture Innovation winner:** Feather-Lite Mix by Jacey Orthaus of Florence High School.



ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES

We're led by members like you. Which means we're not out to make money. Instead, we're building communities by listening to your needs. We're shaped by the people we serve.

REASONS TO LOVE YOUR ELECTRIC CO-OP

Delivering More than Just Electricity

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

From reliable energy to community involvement, there are a lot of reasons why co-op members love their electric cooperatives.

Co-Ops Are Local, Community-Focused Organizations

Co-ops have a rich history of serving their members and are facing the future with innovative ideas to help their members and grow their local communities.

Local people helping out. From billing clerks to line workers and every job in between, the people working at your local electric cooperative are the ones you'll see in your communities. They are serving on volunteer fire departments and as first responders, serving on school boards and county commissions, as ushers at church and as youth sports coaches.

Sioux Valley Energy employees get final instructions before embarking on their meal delivery routes.



Some cooperatives have launched employee community service days where local communities or organizations benefit from a day of service, whether it be a town clean up, restoring a rural cemetery, delivering meals to shut-ins or helping others in need.

Keeping Members Informed

Whether it's through this magazine, which reaches members each month or through social media channels like Facebook and Twitter or mobile apps like SmartHub, cooperatives continually strive to inform their member-owners about events and issues that matter. From a quick post or tweet about why the power may have blinked or celebrating the achievements of area youth, co-ops are communicating with their members and connecting them to their community. As storms approach, co-ops offer helpful tips for preparing for inclement weather and how to deal with the aftermath of storms.

Helping Members Save Money

Co-op demand response and load management programs have helped members save money for decades. And now, with interactive tools like SmartHub, an increasing number of co-op members are accessing information about their home's energy use right from their mobile device or computer. Several co-ops offer energy audits and other ways to reduce energy use.

Appliance rebates, loans for heating and cooling equipment and reduced rates for some energy use

are offered by some co-ops in the state. Check with yours to find out what programs could benefit you.

Diversifying Energy Resources

Cooperatives have a history of using an all-of-the-above approach to meeting members' energy needs. The first utility-scale wind project in South Dakota was built by co-ops and several co-ops have solar demonstration projects to help members learn about solar grid interconnection and other aspects of the resource.

Investing in Youth

When it comes to looking to the future, co-ops have the youth in their communities in mind. Each year, co-ops invest more than \$100,000 in scholarships for students pursuing further education at colleges or

technical schools. Dozens of students have the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., for the annual rural electric youth tour, courtesy of their local electric cooperative. Several co-ops in the state send students on the four-day Youth Excursion to North Dakota each summer to explore energy careers and cooperatives. And throughout the school year, Co-ops in the Classroom and other safety demonstrations visit schools across the region to help younger students learn about using electricity wisely and how so be safe around it.

A participant on the 2019 Youth Excursion to North Dakota gives the view from the Antelope Valley Station power plant two thumbs up.



Co-op member service personnel receive training on blower door tests which can be a useful tool in a home energy audit.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations/policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal/retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA; not all bases apply to all programs; remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Continuity of Service

The Cooperative shall use reasonable diligence to provide a constant and uninterrupted supply of electric power and energy.

If the supply of electric power and energy shall fail, be interrupted, or become defective through an act of God, government authority, action of the elements, public enemy, accident, strikes, labor trouble, required maintenance work, premature obsolescence of equipment or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of the Cooperative, the Cooperative shall not be liable therefore or for damages caused thereby.

How to Get Paid \$50 and Make a Big Difference

When you flip on a light switch, electricity travels in an instant to your home and the bulb glows – that's called demand. When all of us turn on lights, heaters, run a hot bath or any of the other appliances at the same time it increases the demand load system wide.

We offer a one-time incentive of \$50 to our members for the opportunity to install a Demand Response Unit (DRU) on water heaters and central air conditioning units. After a licensed electrician (hired by Moreau-Grand Electric) has installed the DRU, we begin managing your energy consumption on average four to eight days out of the month.

If you would like to be one of the nearly 500 other members of Moreau-Grand Electric in the Demand Response Program, you can contact Member Services at 800-952-3158 to set up a time to have a DRU installed.



MotorSavers Do What Name Implies

Moreau-Grand strives to provide you with the high quality power your valuable equipment needs. Unfortunately, Mother Nature and other issues may intervene. This is why we encourage you to consider protecting equipment with devices such as the MotorSaver.

MotorSaver power monitors can protect motors from low and high voltage and rapid cycling conditions and voltage unbalance, single-phase and reverse-phase conditions on three-phase systems. Typical applications include: air handlers, conveyor drives, oil and gas pumps, elevator drives, lift station pumps, commercial/industrial air conditioning and refrigeration compressors and irrigation pumps.



All MotorSavers are microcontroller based and factory calibrated for accurate voltage and current measurements to provide high sensitivity while minimizing nuisance tripping. The high accuracy of MotorSavers allows unbalance and single-phase detection even with regenerated voltages present.

SymCom's Model 77C and 777 overload relay family can be used to protect any single- or three-phase motor drawing 1 to 800 amps. They combine overload (high current), underload (low current) and voltage and power monitoring functions in one package and have a three-digit display for viewing real-time voltage, current and last fault information.

Model 77C and 777 are complete motor, pump and system protection devices. The monitoring of both current and voltage provide ideal, robust motor management.

This is not an endorsement of this item, just an example of what equipment is available. More information is available about this South Dakota-made product on the web at www.symcom.com.

Go to D.C. for Free

**and become eligible for
a \$10,000 scholarship!**

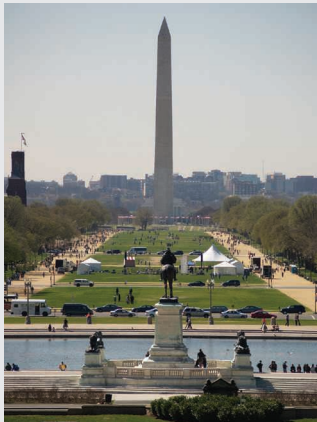
Moreau-Grand Electric will send one teenager to Washington, D.C., June 18-25, 2020, for the 2020 Rural Electric Youth Tour. The Moreau-Grand Electric representative on the tour will team up with more than 1,700 other teens from across the nation. All expenses associated with the tour – airfare, lodging, transportation in Washington, meals and admittance to various activities – are paid for. The student is responsible for their own spending money for items such as snacks or souvenirs.

While in the nation's capitol, students will get a behind-the-scenes look at government in action by meeting with South Dakota's congressional delegation and having the opportunity to job shadow in the delegation's offices. Among the sites that are part of the tour are the Lincoln Memorial, The White House, The Air and Space Museum, a boat cruise on the Potomac River and much more.

To apply for this year's tour, the teenager must be a dependent of a Moreau-Grand Electric member and must be either a junior or a senior during the 2019-2020 school year. If selected to participate in the Youth Tour, you will be eligible to apply for a \$10,000 scholarship after completing your first year of college.

Forms may be picked up at the counselor's office at all schools in the Moreau-Grand service area or the Moreau-Grand Electric offices in Timber Lake and Eagle Butte. You may also download an application from the Moreau-Grand Web site at www.mge.coop or call the Timber Lake office at 800-952-3158 or 865-3511.

The letter of application should be returned to: Member Service Department, Moreau-Grand Electric, PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656. Deadline is March 11, 2020.



Standby Generating Plants

**Standby generating plants owned by
members shall be properly connected.**

No other source of supply of electricity shall be introduced or used by any member/consumer in conjunction with the electric service supplied by the Moreau-Grand without the prior approval of the cooperative. All installations of standby or emergency generating equipment shall be required to be wired through a UL-listed double-throw switch device of a type that prevents electrical feedback into Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative facilities. It shall be the member/consumers responsibility to notify the cooperative at the time of installation of emergency or standby generating equipment.

If a co-op employee should discover a generator installed without a double-throw disconnect switch, he may shut down or isolate the generator to protect Moreau-Grand personnel while doing their work. He must inform the member of the hazards to members' equipment and to cooperative personnel. A 30-day notice will be given for installation of a double-throw disconnect switch by the member or cooperative crews. Noncompliance with this policy may subject the member/consumer to discontinuance of service at once and without prior notice. Generator safety information is available at Moreau-Grand Electric offices and on the web at www.mge.coop.

Tips to use portable generators safely:

- Connecting a portable electric generator directly to your household wiring can be deadly to you and others. A generator that is directly connected to your home's wiring can 'back feed' onto the power lines connected to your home and injure neighbors or utility workers.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- NEVER run a generator indoors or in partly enclosed areas such as garages.
- Gasoline is extremely flammable and explosive. Do not overfill the fuel tank. Always allow room for fuel expansion.
- Always start or stop the generator only when no electrical loads are connected.
- Overloading your generator can seriously damage your valuable appliances and electronics. Do not overload the generator.
- The generator must be properly grounded. If the generator is not grounded, you run the risk of electrocution. We strongly recommend that you check and adhere to all applicable federal, state and local regulations relating to grounding.
- Allow at least five feet of clearance on all sides of the generator when operating.
- Operate the generator only on level surfaces and where it will not be exposed to excessive moisture, dirt, dust or corrosive vapors.
- Inspect the generator regularly and contact the nearest authorized dealer for parts needing repair or replacement.



Nemo 500 Outhouse Races

NAJA Shrine Transportation Fund for Kids Benefits from Outdoor Event

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

We called it the Nemo 500 because it sounded good.

When one thinks of racing, cars, horses or motorcycles likely come to mind. But, in the Black Hills community of Nemo, outhouses – equipped with wheels, skis or both – are the vehicle of choice.

While each outhouse must be equipped with a seat with one hole, there are additional basic requirements in this competition designed to raise funds for the NAJA Shrine Kids Transportation Fund.

First, each outhouse will have a rider. And during the race, that rider will trade places with a teammate.

“There always has to be someone on the throne,” said Ervin “Red” Alspaw, a Shriner with the Oasis of Deadwood and one of the contacts for the race.

The outhouse must be at least five feet tall and the door (if there is one) has to stay open during the race.

The outhouse must have four walls and a roof and the team’s name must be on each of the walls.

“It’s a hoot,” said Alspaw.

Money raised at the event helps Shriners cover the transportation expenses of some 630 children in western South Dakota who seek care at Shriners Hospitals



A team prepares to race their outhouse in the 2017 competition.

nationwide.

“We called it the Nemo 500 because it sounded good,” said Troy Saye, race organizer and owner of the Nemo Guest Ranch where the event is held.

“We stepped it off a few years ago and it’s actually about 970 feet. You start at the restaurant and at midway everyone runs around the outhouse, retrieving a colored roll of toilet paper which must be placed in the correct order on a plunger.

Alliterations, euphemisms and creativity may make for memorable team names, but speed is the name of the game as the fastest team to complete the



Kids compete in the scoop shovel races.



The costumed Sesame Streak team poses with their People's Choice outhouse trophy after the 2016 race.

race is the winner.

Winners in each of the age divisions get an outhouse trophy hand-made by Troy and Willie Saye.

The Sayes created the event after a 2006 visit from Willie's cousin, shortly after they bought the Nemo Guest Ranch.

"He said he had to get home for an outhouse race. We didn't know what it was," said Troy. The couple researched the event and found that several other

states held races. They developed their rules for the Nemo event. Early races were held just for fun or to raise money for different organizations. The race has been a benefit for the NAJA Shrine Kids Transportation Fund for the last eight or nine years.

The creative names don't stop at the race team names. It takes a certain fortitude to dip a spoon into some of the entries in the chili cook-off contest where cooks serve up three gallons of chili with names like "Presidential Poopers Chili" and "Dave's Chunky Pork and Beef Chili."

Kids can compete in the Scoop Shovel Races, but competitors must provide their own scoop shovel.

If you're going, check-in for the three divisions is at 10 a.m. and race time is 1 p.m. Preregister your team by Feb. 1 to receive a T-shirt.

If you have a team but don't have

an outhouse to race in, contact the Nemo Guest Ranch to see if theirs is available.

Advice for first-time attendees? Arrive early, dress warm and be prepared for

a bit of a walk (late-comers have had to park a half-mile away from the event.)

Attendance at the event varies with the weather, Saye said. Crowds range from 1,000 people up to 2,400 people when the race time temperature was 53 degrees.

"You have got to see it to really enjoy it," said Saye.

"When we first started, we never imagined it would take off the way it did," said Saye.

Interested? Visit nemo500.com for more information or contact the Nemo Guest Ranch at 605-578-2708.

When we first started, we never imagined it would take off the way it did.

The Rules

OUTHOUSE RACE RULES and STRUCTURE

- 1) Outhouse can only be human powered. No electric-, solar- or gas-powered assistance. The outhouse must have four walls, roof, doorway and seat with at least one hole. It may have a door, but the door must remain securely open during the race.
- 2) The outhouse must be a minimum of nine square feet at the base and a maximum overall width not to exceed six feet (including grasping or pushing devices). A minimum height of five feet from the floor to the highest point of the roof.
- 3) Any number and size of wheels or skis may be used.
- 4) Any device for pushing or pulling the outhouse may be used except ropes. All pushing or pulling devices must be secured solid.
- 5) Outhouses may be built from any material but glass and must be structurally sound.
- 6) Each entry must have an outhouse name that is to be displayed on each side of the structure. Sponsors' names may be displayed anywhere on the outside.
- 7) There will be three age divisions. (Age divisions will be determined by average team ages. Add all team members' ages and divide by the number of team members.)
 - Division 1: Ages 12 to 25
 - Division 2: Ages 26 to 45
 - Division 3: Ages 46 and over

Good to know:

Teams consist of two to five people, one of which must ride inside the outhouse.

Safety gear including helmets are required for all members and ice cleats are recommended.

Outhouse passengers must be 12 years old or older. Handles or seatbelts are required for the outhouse passengers.

Teams' dress is to reflect the theme of their entry.

Teams make a mandatory pit stop at mid race for a fire-drill. Each member must run around the outhouse three times and the rider must switch places with one of the pushers. Each team member will be required to place a color-coded roll of toilet paper on a color-coded plunger in order of color scheme provided at race time. The race will be timed from start to finish, the objective is to get the lowest time to win.



Kianna Knutson and Shane Binger left their 2018 wedding reception with a sparkler send off.

YOUTH TOUR SPARKS

Participants Make Lifetime Connections

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sarea.coop

The annual Rural Electric Youth Tour is billed as a trip-of-a-lifetime, which it is for the thousands of teenagers who have participated since it began in 1963. But for a certain few, the weeklong trip filled with congressional visits, sight-seeing and co-op educational opportunities was more life altering than they possibly dreamed.

Kianna and Shane, 2011

Kianna Knutson and Shane Binger participated in the 2011 trip. Kianna, from Philip, S.D., represented West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D., while Shane, from Tulare, S.D., represented Northern Electric Cooperative in Bath, S.D.

During the week of travel, the two would talk some and share experiences. A visit to the Pentagon Memorial was particularly memorable for the two.

“For me, we hit it off right away on the tour,” said Kianna.

“But we went our separate ways. Whenever I’d head west, I’d try to stop in Philip and see her,” said Shane. “We kept in touch until we got to SDSU together.”

They started dating while attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D. Shane graduated in December 2015 and Kianna in May 2016 and the two married in September 2018. They live in Redfield, S.D., and Kianna works in Aberdeen while Shane works in Tulare.

“The Youth Tour was one of my most favorite trips,” said Kianna. “It was a great way to meet people and make friends. It turned out one of them stuck for life.”

A sign at the Bingers’ wedding reception highlights the sparks that started with their 2011 Youth Tour.



For Shane, an additional outcome of the trip was that it sparked an interest in politics.

"It was an opportunity to see congress-people as actual people. That drove me to go back and intern with Sen. John Thune in 2015," said Shane.

Riley and Kailee, 2009

Riley Schwader and Kailee Koester attended the 2009 Youth Tour together. Riley, of Winifred, S.D., represented Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., while Kailee of Redfield, represented Northern Electric.

They married in June 2014 on the heels of that year's Youth Tour, which Riley's sister participated (as did Kianna Knutson's sister.)

The Schwaders live in Howard where they raise their two sons and where Kailee teaches fourth grade. The family was recently featured in a "ReEnergizing Rural" commercial talking about the Co-ops in the Classroom project.

Doug and Roberta, 1973

Roberta Johnson, a 4-Her from Parker, S.D., chosen to represent Turner County and Doug Stoebner, a 4-Her from Olivet, S.D., selected to represent Hutchinson County, met on the 1973 Youth Tour as the delegates for Turner-Hutchinson Electric Cooperative (now Southeastern Electric Cooperative), based in Marion, S.D.

"We started dating on Thursday, Oct. 18, 1973, when he asked me to go to the Hobo Week street dance at SDSU," said Roberta, noting that Doug often wondered how she could remember the date. "I told him it was easy to remember because it was two days before her sister got married."

Things clicked for the two and they made plans to marry.

"If I hadn't been the South Dakota Pork Queen, we probably would have been married in December of 1975. But I needed to be single to compete at the national level, so Doug was willing to wait until the national competition was held in March of 1976. When someone else was crowned the national pork queen, Doug and I moved forward with our wedding

The Youth Tour was one of my most favorite trips.

plans and were married on Father's Day, June 20, 1976. Even without the title of pork queen, I could still educate others about the nutritional value and versatility of pork when I became involved with the Porkettes."

The two graduated from SDSU with majors in ag education and home economics education and were preparing to head to Marietta, Minn., when an opportunity to take over his grandparents' farm came up.

"Entering farming had been a long-range goal, but when the farming opportunity arrived earlier than expected, we accepted. So, once again, Turner-Hutchinson Electric influenced our lives since they provided the electricity for our home and farming operation.

We continued farming until June of 2006 when Doug had surgery for brain cancer. Initially, we were told the life expectancy for this type of treatable, but not curable, cancer was 18 months to two years. But by God's grace and through hundreds of prayers, he has outlived that life expectancy by 11 years," said Roberta.

The two moved into Menno in 2008 where Roberta continues teaching high school family and consumer sciences and middle school social studies.

Ethan and Vanessa, 2012

Ethan Ryberg of Buffalo Lake, Minn., was selected to represent McLeod Co-op Power in Glencoe, Minn., on the 2012 Youth Tour, the same year that Vanessa Peterson of Rosholt, S.D., was selected to represent Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn. The two traveled with the Minnesota Youth Tour delegation that year.

While the two lived three hours apart, they began dating that fall and in 2013, they attended North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D., together, majoring in pharmacy.

After their 2019 graduation, they have settled in the Bemidji area where they both work.

Electric cooperatives in South Dakota and Minnesota are once again taking applications for the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The 2020 participants might not find their future mate, but they will definitely have experiences of a lifetime.



The Schwaders live in Howard where Kailee teaches. They were recently featured in the electric cooperative "ReEnergizing Rural" campaign.

December 15-March 31

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

January 24-25

Pro Snocross Races, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

January 25-26

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, National Field Archery Building, Yankton, SD, 701-361-9215

January 31-February 2

12th Annual Winterfest of Wheels, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-231-3100

January 31-February 2

Winterfest, Lead, SD, 605-584-1100

January 31-February 9

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

February 1

Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby, Hendricks, MN, 507-828-2113

February 1

Living History Fair, Brookings Renegades, LATI, Watertown, SD, 605-693-4589, dhuebner@itctel.com

February 1-2

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Dakota Event Center, Aberdeen, SD, 701-361-9215

February 8-9

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 701-361-9215

February 10-16

Frost Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6125



Photo courtesy, travelsouthdakota.com

February 14

Snow Ball, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

February 15-16

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD, 701-361-9215

February 21

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

February 22

Cabin Fever Games, Yankton, SD, 605-665-8994

February 22-23

48th Annual Farm, Home & Sports Show, Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD 605-224-1240

February 26

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

February 27-March 1

35th Annual SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

March 14-15

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, 701-361-9215

March 18, June 11, August 13 and October 8

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

March 20-21, 27-28

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

March 21-22

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show, Codington County Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 701-361-9215

March 28

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

April 3-4

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876 or 800- 999-1876

April 17-19

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

April 18

Design Challenge, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-731-2348

April 25

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.