


## Cooperative Connections



Ione Fejfar welcomes veterans to Operation Black Hills Cabin in Custer as a place of healing and restoration

### A Healing Place for Veterans

Page 8

### Co-ops and the S.D. National Guard

Page 12



# Annual Meeting Report



**Melissa Maher**

melissa@mge.coop

With the non-traditional Annual Meeting format this year – a copy of my report was placed in the member handout.

## 2020 Annual Meeting Report:

“Well, only the Good Lord knows what is in store for all of us in the 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.” Little

did I know when I wrote this in my monthly newsletter report on December 31, 2019, what the year 2020 would hold in store. I certainly could not have predicted the extent of the stress and confusion that continues to embrace year 2020 from March on with the COVID Pandemic.

With that said, the one thing that has held true is that our employees continue to answer the call of duty each day to make sure our members have the essential service of electricity. Cancellations are the norm and virtual meetings a common occurrence, as we forge ahead in this new environment.

The theme of the 2020 meeting is “Power On.” I believe this appropriately describes how your employees have faced each day and each task; the employees take pride in keeping the “Power On” for the members around the clock.

Annual Meeting 2020 will certainly look different. The focus will be to conduct the director election process, while keeping members’ safety in mind. There will not be the normal entertainment and celebration as in years past. The format will consist of registration with voting to follow. The member then will pick up a to-go meal with the option to leave if they choose. We will have a shortened version of the meeting as follows: verify quorum; notice of meeting and proof of mailing; approval of 2019 annual meeting minutes; financial report provided in the member packet as copied from the annual meeting edition of the Cooperative Connections newsletter; followed by the director election results. Physical distancing will be identified with markings – and face masks will be available upon request.

I would typically provide a verbal report at the meeting, instead this written report will be part of the member packet.

This year saw more employee retirements and hiring. Retirees included: Cap Pearman, Eagle Butte Area Foreman; Sheila Scherer, Office Manager; and Mary Lou Kraft, Consumer Clerk. Each of these employees served the members for over 30 years. Note – in the past 10 years, MGEC has seen over half of our employees leave by way of retirement or resignation.

New Hires in 2020 – Kyrie Lemburg as Accountant, Shayla Beer as a part-time receptionist and four apprentice linemen who worked as summer help will come on full-time status this fall: Brad Schmitt, Camden Sawvell, Dalton Steiger and Tyler Olson.

## Other highlights from the year:

- Moreau-Grand refinanced \$4.3 million RUS debt with CFC (Cooperative Finance Corporation) saving over \$630,000 in interest expense over the remaining life of the loans.
- A new truck storage building was completed in Eagle Butte and the new warehouse and storage facility is in progress in Timber Lake.
- Front office remodels were completed in both the Eagle Butte and Timber Lake office lobbies with glass barriers to keep both our employees and members safe.
- A surveillance system was also installed at the Timber Lake facilities.
- RAM Utilities inspected over 13,000 poles with 500 rejects. As of this writing – nearly all poles have been replaced by our own crews. Some lines have been retired if the rejected poles run to an idle service.
- A new 4-wheel drive bucket truck was added to the fleet for the Eagle Butte area.
- A new underground trencher was added to the fleet on a lease to own arrangement.
- Service awards for 2020:
  - Justin Thorstenson, EB Area Foreman – 20 years
  - Josh Lemburg, Operations Foreman – 15 years
  - Larry Hieb, Director – 20 years
  - Bob Keckler, Director – 20 years
  - Paul Lawrence, Director – 20 years

May GOD continue to bless and keep us all safe in HIS loving care.

Comparative Report	Current (August 2020)	1 year ago (August 2019)	10 Years Ago (August 2010)	% Change in 10 years
Number of Meters	6,997	6,999	6,459	8%
Kilowatt Hours Sold	7,389,735	6,922,645	7,306,723	1%
Cost of Purchased Power	\$530,707	\$470,825	\$369,435	44%
Overall Ave. Rate/kWh Per Member	0.1207	0.1194	0.1019	18%

# Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-951)

**Manager:** Melissa Maher

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

## Directors

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

**Attorney:** John Burke

## Management Staff:

Kent Larson,  
Operations Superintendent  
Linda Dahlgren, Finance Officer  
Kyrie Lemburg, Accountant  
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](mailto:mge@mge.coop); Web site [www.mge.coop](http://www.mge.coop). This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Design assistance by SDREA



## Sept. 2020 Board Minutes and July 2020 Financial Info

The Sept. 22, 2020, board of directors meeting was held with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark via phone conference, 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 director scholarships, fiber to substations completed, TWACS equipment and annual meeting.

The operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included an update on the new buildings, new services and wiring permits, new trencher unit, underground projects, RAM pole changes, line rebuild south of Dupree and new bucket truck has been delivered.

Manager Maher gave the managers report that included annual meeting, CCD certificates for Directors Wall and Maher, 2021 update to the 2020 Basin Load Forecast, fire south of Eagle Butte, hail damage to vehicles and buildings, budget, Load Control report, SDREA News Bulletin and Basin Board meeting report.

The board discussed and registered for the Basin annual meeting which will be held virtual on Nov. 4.

Director Lawrence gave the Rushmore board meeting report that included a financial report, manager report, reviewed the proposed budget and rates for 2021, Midwest annual meeting, Basin FERC filing, SDREA Legislative Committee report, staff reports, set date of bylaw and resolution committee meeting, annual meeting planning and member cooperative issues.

Manager Maher gave the Basin managers meeting report that was held virtual. It included COVID-19, DGC future, communication and confidentiality are two different things, commodity report, coal production, oil markets, Basin approved a new forecast, no change in rates, accelerated depreciation on coal assets, FERC ruling, cooperative awareness campaign report and annual meeting.

The board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the August meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, resolution regarding the annual meeting, safety report, Director Maher as the voting delegate for CFC District 6, change October board meeting date, WOI's 943-948 in the amount of \$920,135.01 and Director Bartlett as the delegate and Director Landis as the alternate for the Basin annual meeting.

The next board meeting was scheduled for October 19, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

## July 2020 Financial Information

	July 2020	July 2019	YTD 2020
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	\$1,004,678	\$ 924,814	\$ 7,504,176
<b>Cost of Power</b>	\$ 512,801	\$ 443,645	\$ 3,737,348
<b>Cost of Electric Service</b>	\$1,034,760	\$ 904,342	\$ 7,249,712
<b>Margins</b>	\$ (19,868)	\$ 22,378	\$ 310,173
<b>kWh Purchased</b>	8,396,116	8,016,575	65,561,742
<b>kWh Sold</b>	7,714,905	7,826,502	60,404,860

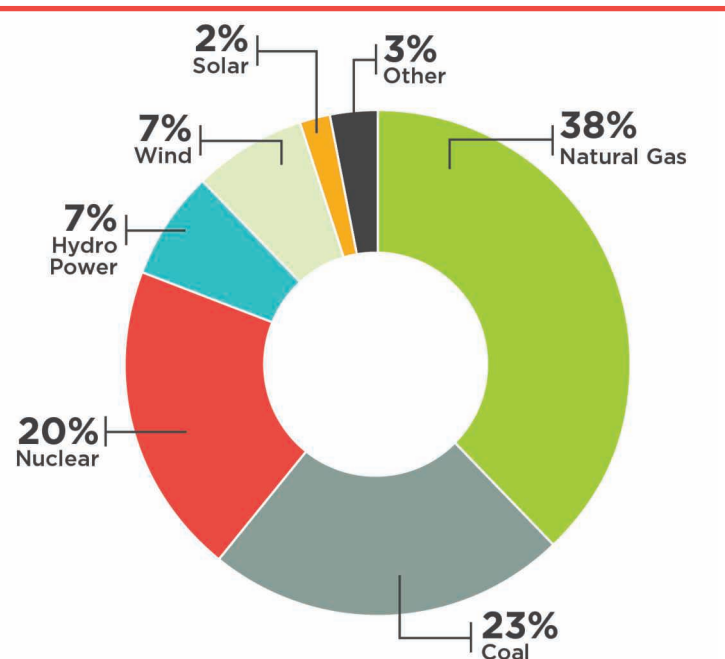
# Enjoy an energy-efficient feast this Thanksgiving

New electrical appliances use far less energy in your home than older ones, but that doesn't mean you should skimp on energy-efficient behavior in the kitchen.

During the frantic holiday season, making the simplest changes while cooking can save plenty of energy and money.

- There's usually no need to preheat the oven, especially if the food you're cooking - like a turkey or a ham - will be in it for a long time.
- Avoid opening the oven door to check on food. Instead, turn on the oven light and peer through the window to make sure your pumpkin pie or turkey isn't burning to a crisp. Opening the oven door - even for just a second or two - can drop the temperature inside the oven by 25 degrees.
- Place several items in the oven at once. All food will cook thoroughly if you leave enough room around pies or casseroles for air to flow.
- Electric ovens retain heat even after you turn them off, so it's safe to turn them off several minutes before a recipe's time is up. Electric stovetops work the same way: The metal element will keep cooking for several minutes after you turn it off.
- Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They let you set the temperature 25 degrees lower than metal pans do.
- Match the pan size to the size of the stovetop burner so you don't waste heat. Just a 2-inch difference between pan and burner can waste 40 percent of the generated heat.
- Zap baked potatoes and vegetables in the microwave instead of simmering them on the stovetop. Microwaves use significantly less electricity than a stove or oven.
- Involve everyone in cooking. Leave the electric mixer in the cupboard and let the kids stir the cake batter by hand and recruit someone to chop the veggies instead of tossing them into a food processor. The experience might save some electricity and make everyone proud of contributing to the meal.

Keep these handy and helpful tips in mind as you prepare to entertain family and friends in your home this holiday season.



## Powerful Energy Sources

Nationally, electric co-ops and other utilities use a variety of fuels to power American homes and businesses. This diverse fuel mix supplies co-op members with the safe, reliable and affordable power they depend on.

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



### "Keep Indoors!"

**Grace Austin, 7 years old**

Grace is a member of West River Electric Association based in Rapid City. She encourages readers, "During a storm, all kids and pets should be inside. So, don't go outside. It's dangerous."

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.



# Savory Slow-Cook Selections

## Slow-Cooker Zucchini Soup

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 ½ lbs. sweet Italian sausage            | 2 tsp. salt                              |
| 2 c. ½-inch celery pieces                 | 1 tsp. white sugar                       |
| 2 lbs. zucchini, cut into ½-inch slices   | 1 tsp. dried oregano                     |
| 2 (28 oz.) cans diced tomatoes (or fresh) | 1 tsp. Italian seasoning                 |
| 2 green peppers, cut into ½-inch slices   | 1 tsp. dried basil                       |
| 1 c. chopped onion                        | ¼ tsp. garlic powder                     |
|   | 6 T. grated Parmesan cheese, or to taste |

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5-7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Mix celery into cooked sausage; cook and stir until celery is softened, about 10 minutes. Combine sausage mixture, zucchini, tomatoes, bell peppers, onion, salt, sugar, oregano, Italian seasoning, basil and garlic powder in a slow cooker. Cook on low for 4-6 hours. Garnish each serving with 1 T. Parmesan cheese. Note: Water is not needed in this recipe.

**Shelly Goetz, Sioux Falls, SD**

## Crock Pot Corn

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 (16 oz.) bags frozen corn        | 6 T. sugar                |
| 8 oz. cream cheese (but in chunks) | 6 T. water                |
|                                    | ½ cup butter or margarine |

Put in crockpot on high for two hours or low for four. Stir every once in a while. Salt and pepper to taste.

**Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD**

## Spaghetti Corn

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 can cream style corn   | 1 onion, diced         |
| 1 can whole corn         | 1 cup shredded cheddar |
| 2 cups spaghetti, broken | 1 stick butter, melted |

Break spaghetti into 2-inch pieces. Do not drain whole corn. Combine all ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 30 mins. at 350. Cover and put back in oven for 20 mins. OR place in crock pot for 2 hours. OR Cook on stove for 40 mins. on lowest heat, removing for 10 minute intervals.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD**

## BBQ Steakhouse Chili

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 T. oil   | beans, rinsed  |
| 1 lb. beef top round steak, cut into 1/2-inch pieces | 2-1/2 cups undrained canned no-salt-added diced tomatoes |
| 1 lb. extra-lean ground beef                         | 1 bottle (18 oz.) KRAFT Hickory Smoke Barbecue Sauce     |
| 1 onion, finely chopped                              | ¾ cup KRAFT Shredded Cheddar Cheese                      |
| ¼ cup A1 Dry Rub Bold Original                       |  |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced                              |  |
| 2 cans (16 oz. each) kidney                          |  |

Heat oil in large skillet on medium. Add next five ingredients; stir. Cook 10 min. or until meat is evenly browned, stirring frequently. Spoon into slow cooker sprayed with cooking spray. Add all remaining ingredients except cheese; stir. Cover with lid. Cook on low 7 to 8 hours (or on high 4 to 5 hours). Serve topped with cheese.

**Provided by Kraft Heinz**

## Chicken Cacciatore

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1/2 cup KRAFT Zesty Italian                               | 1 green pepper, cut in strips                  |
| 1 tsp. dried oregano leaves                               | 1/2 lb. sliced mushrooms                       |
| 2 lbs. mixed boneless skinless chicken breasts and thighs | 1-1/2 c. CLASSICO Tomato and Basil Pasta Sauce |
|   | 3 c. rotini pasta, uncooked                    |

Mix dressing/oregano in pot sprayed with cooking spray. Add chicken; coat both sides of each piece with dressing mixture. Top with vegetables and pasta sauce; cover with lid. Cook on low 6-8 hours (or high 4-6 hours). About 15 min. before serving, cook pasta, no salt. Drain. Serve topped with chicken and vegetables.

**Provided by Kraft Heinz**

Please send your favorite holiday 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.

# Breathe Easy about Your Air Quality



**Pat Keegan**

Collaborative Efficiency

**If you live in an area with radon, keep it out of your home because it is the second leading cause of lung cancer.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on how to breathe easier in your home, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).

**Dear Pat and Brad: I read your column a few months ago on sealing air leaks, but I've heard a home that's sealed too tightly can lead to air quality issues. How can I be sure I have healthy air as I seal air leaks in my home? – Lee**

Dear Lee: Sealing air leaks is one of the best ways to make your home more energy efficient, and there are steps you can take to ensure your home has an adequate amount of healthy, fresh air.

The average home loses about half its air volume every hour, so it can be sealed considerably (often at a low cost) and still have more than enough healthy air. Pollutants are the main cause of poor indoor air quality, and the most dangerous pollutant is carbon monoxide (CO). It can come from furnaces, water heaters or stoves that burn natural gas, propane or wood. The problem usually occurs in devices that are old, in need of repair or installed or operated in a manner that prevents clear, unobstructed supply and exhaust of combustion air.

Excessive moisture in the air can also be considered an indoor pollutant because mold and dust mites thrive when relative humidity is above 60 percent. One sign your home is sealed too tightly is window condensation, which can happen if moist air doesn't exit the home at an adequate rate. Pollutants can cause physical reactions such as coughing or sneezing, but carbon monoxide causes more severe reactions, such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision or loss of consciousness.

So, what can you do to ensure healthy air as you increase your home's energy efficiency? The first strategy, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is to eliminate or reduce the source of pollution. The first pollutant to eliminate is carbon monoxide. If you have a combustion furnace, it should be inspected and serviced regularly. If you have any combustion appliances, it is critical that CO detectors are installed and replaced every five to seven years.

If you live in an area with radon, which you can determine by checking out the EPA's radon map, keep it out of your home because it is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon tests are not expensive, and your local health authorities can provide details. If radon levels are too high, you'll need to hire a professional to install a system that will divert radon gas out of your home.

Here are a few additional pollutant reduction measures to consider:

- Never smoke tobacco inside
- Run the exhaust fans in bathrooms and your kitchen after use
- Store toxic cleaning and painting products outside
- Never idle a vehicle, even for a minute, in an attached garage.

The second strategy is ventilation. Your home probably has more than enough natural ventilation from outside air leaking into the home. If you suspect this isn't adequate, the best way to know for sure is to hire an energy auditor to do a blower door test.

Many experts recommend sealing the home as tightly as possible and using mechanical ventilation to ensure a consistent and adequate supply of outside air. The most energy efficient ventilation system is a heat recovery ventilator (HRV), which pulls in fresh air from outside and captures the heat from indoor air before it is exhausted to the outside.

The final strategy is to clean the air. Change your furnace filter every three months and keep your furnace supply and return air registers free of obstructions. If any rooms do not have an air return, keep the doors open. There are several home air cleaning systems available. The EPA offers a handy online guide: [www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/air-cleaners-and-air-filters-home](http://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/air-cleaners-and-air-filters-home).



# BRULÉ

## Internationally renowned band brings color and spirit to seasonal performances

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

What gets you in the spirit of the Christmas holiday season?

For a growing number of people, it's the annual high-energy holiday stage performance by Brulé, the world-renowned music and dance theater ensemble hailing from the Lower Brule Sioux Indian Reservation.

This year's dramatic "Silent Star Night, A Christmas Show" stage production is scheduled to take place at the Deadwood Mountain Grand on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. The show is designed to spread the message of hope, peace and a true and lasting reconciliation among the various cultures of the world.

Over the past 25 years, Brulé has taken its powerful award-winning performances across the world and treated audiences to its unique blend of Native American rhythms, sounds and inspired dance. It's a theatrical stage show reminiscent of other popular large-scale productions such as Riverdance, the Trans Siberian Orchestra and Celtic Thunder, but with a sharp focus on Native American history and culture.

The new age entertainment artists have sold more than one million CDs across the globe and have appeared on television programs such as Live with Regis and Kathie Lee and CNN Worldbeat.

The group has also racked up numerous music and entertainment industry awards as it continues touring with a schedule of more than 100 performances a year throughout the region.

The primary force that drives the band along its highly successful track is founder Paul LaRoche, an accomplished rock and jazz musician who has biological ties to the Lakota tribe, although he was adopted at birth and reared by a white middle-class family in Worthington, MN.

LaRoche would later reunite with his Lakota kin that includes two siblings and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. He founded the band based on the concept of blending elements of modern rock with traditional Native American sounds.

It didn't take long for the group to gain popularity and a loyal following after winning a Nammy Award from the Native American Music Association as well as many other accolades.

Last year, Brulé celebrated its 25th year as a performance group by



The critically acclaimed Native American band Brulé has entertained and inspired audiences around the world for more than 25 years.

releasing its entire collection of 265 songs on a set of 20 CDs. The massive set spans two generations of Brulé history and features a wide-ranging assortment of original recordings of the group's most popular tracks. A digital collection that includes previously unreleased songs is also available ([www.brulerecords.com](http://www.brulerecords.com)).

All proceeds from the anthology go toward the group's non-profit foundation called "Following the 7th Direction," an initiative aimed at reconciling diverse cultures and preventing Native American teen suicide. Statistics show that Native American teens are among the most likely minor-age demographic to attempt suicide.





Operation Black Hills Cabin is a healing place for U.S. military veterans in Custer.

# HEALING PLACES

## Organizations cater to military veterans in need

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

*"After 21 years of learning to live with the scars, the limitations, the tremors and the nightmares...I can honestly say this experience has filled my heart with fresh hope." - Veteran Jason Cooper*

U.S. military veteran Jason Cooper needed some peace. He needed some quiet. He needed a reprieve from the rigors and stress of everyday life. So, Cooper gathered up his family and made the trip from his home in Kentucky to the Black Hills where he would find rest, relaxation and time for thoughtful contemplation.

Cooper and his crew spent a week-long vacation in a comfortable, cozy cabin in Custer as part of a project called Operation Black Hills Cabin (OBHC). Over the past 10 years, he and dozens of other wounded veterans have discovered a tranquil site to unwind and to enjoy the wide range of outdoor activities available in the area – all free of charge.

The program began as a service to provide veterans and their families with a free getaway and also as a means for organizers to express gratitude for the sacrifices made to protect freedom.

One of those founding organizers is Col. Marty Mahrt, a former Air Force pilot who joined the military in 1955 and flew 88 missions through two tours of duty in Vietnam. During his first tour, Mahrt was assigned to attack a munitions arsenal at Yen Bai Province. After releasing his ordnance and pulling away, Mahrt's F105 Thunderchief was hit in the right wing by enemy fire. The



Air Force veteran Col. Marty Mahrt is a founding board member of OBHC.

aircraft began a downward spiral, but Mahrt was able to eject and was soon rescued by a helicopter squadron and flown back to the U.S. for surgical treatment of a severe shoulder wound.

While Mahrt and his wife Colleen are usually on hand to greet the veteran visitors to OBHC, the guests rarely get to hear of Mahrt's combat experience. As he puts it, "They don't need to hear anything from me. They have their own problems. I just listen to them and let them know that we're here to help them."

Mahrt said that he was eager to join Pat and Jeff Baird when they began gathering local support for OBHC back in 2011.

"Just knowing a lot of people who didn't make it back, and seeing the wounded warriors coming back from Iraq, that was something that motivated us to get involved. You see these families, the whole structure of the family changes when a soldier



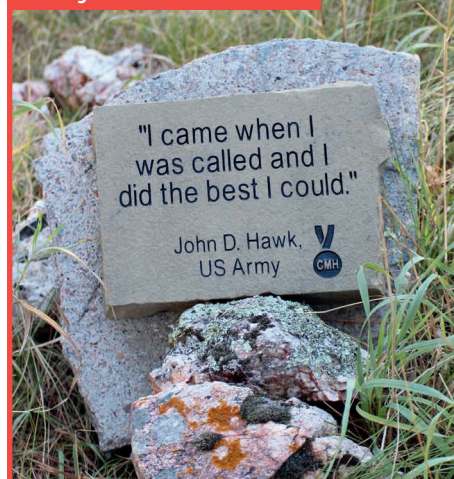


The Ranch Ministries in Blunt gives veterans an opportunity to hunt in one of the country's most prized pheasant harvesting territories.

and breadwinner is wounded and the wife has to take over," he said.

Mahrt points out that while the project isn't necessarily about providing psychological therapy for the veterans, there are emotional connections made in the process. He said a significant part of the program is the local community's participation. Business leaders and individuals provide free services or deep discounts for meals, entertainment, local tourist attractions and outdoor activities. The veterans also receive a gift card loaded with "Custer Cash" to help offset travel costs.

The Trail of Healing at Operation Black Hills Cabin has a series of messages etched in stone.



"We meet the families and welcome them," Mahrt said. "Sometimes the emotions get the best of me when I present them with their Visa card and they start crying and give me a hug. Sometimes you get emotional."

OBHC Board Secretary Ione Fejfar said the support of the community and way the residents of Custer treat the veterans and their families is part of the strength of the program.

"The people of Custer are absolutely wonderful," she said. "They really roll out the red carpet for them and everywhere our veterans go, they are treated with respect and honor and friendship. Between the cabin and the town, this is a very healing place."

She said every veteran who visits the cabin is asked to compose a brief letter of gratitude to the community that's published in the local newspaper.

## Oahe Electric Lends a Hand

The Ranch Ministries was founded by Marine veteran Ken Korkow on 540 acres in Blunt, roughly 20 miles east of Pierre. It's a faith-based retreat center he created to offer military veterans an open space to take part in team-building exercises, outdoor hunting and shooting sports, dirt track racing, firearms safety training, horseback riding and more.

According to Korkow, there's also a lot of bonding among brothers and spiritual growth that takes place along with all of the fun and games.

"We share the story of Christ, the one who heals and gives us purpose," said Korkow, who received citations for the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

Korkow explained the center is not only

open to veterans but to surrounding communities as well. Youth groups and adults have visited to participate in firearm safety and team-building exercises.

"A lot of people come here to get away from their everyday lives," he said. "We take care of the needs of our veterans, but we also depend on support and volunteers from the community for our success and we open our doors to those who want to come here and find fulfillment."



Liz and Ken Korkow provide a place where veterans can go to seek spiritual healing.

One of those supporting organizations is Oahe Electric, which has responded to requests to provide material and manpower to meet the ministry's needs.

According to Oahe Electric Member Services Manager Russ Hohn, "The Ranch has had a meaningful impact in our community and we've been able to give back through our Operation Round Up program, which is funded by our members. It's a prime example of our cooperative and our members demonstrating one of the seven cooperative principles: Concern for Community."



## Directors Achieve Gold Status

NRECA's Director Certificate Programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing Moreau-Grand now and in the future.

Ryan Maher and Troy Wall have achieved gold certification. Congratulations on a job well done!



Directors Ryan Maher and Troy Wall achieve gold certification.

## LaPlant LTM Express Open for Business

By Roger Lawien

I have had the pleasure of stopping several times at the newly opened C-store in LaPlant. The first time was when they were busy stocking shelves and filling coolers before officially opening.



## 2020 Director Scholarship Winners Chosen

Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative directors believe that our youth are our future leaders. Using their personal money, the directors have funded five \$500 scholarships.

The 2020 Directors Scholarship winners were chosen by drawing at the September board meeting. Congratulations!

- District 1: Reyna Nehl
- District 2: Reese Miller
- District 3: Molly Kraft
- District 4: Brooklyn Harrison
- District 5: Malory Peacock



Director Ryan Maher draws a scholarship winner.



Reyna Nehl



Reese Miller



Molly Kraft



Brooklyn Harrison



Malory Peacock

## Student Rodeo Athletes Honored

Moreau-Grand Electric and the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota are proud supporters of South Dakota high school rodeo.

Area students were presented with Touchstone Energy shirts honoring them for their accomplishments at the South Dakota High School Finals Rodeo.

We are proud of all our area students, especially these athletes.

If you are interested in attending one of the high school rodeos in your area, keep checking [www.sdhsra.com](http://www.sdhsra.com) for the current schedule.



Congratulations, Chazz Gabe and Tobi Hintz!



# October is National Co-op Month

October is National Cooperative Month, and Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative joins with co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities.

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

The co-op business model is unique and rooted in our local communities. Co-ops help us build a more participatory, sustainable and resilient economy.

Moreau-Grand Electric is proud to be part of America's cooperative network and honored to serve our member/owners in Corson, Dewey and Ziebach counties.

Moreau-Grand Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

Then. Now. Always.  
We're proud to power your life.  
October is National Co-op Month.



## #PowerOn

## Win a Bike!

Help us spread the word about the cooperative model to the next generation. We are giving away this beautiful bike to one of our future members.

Simply download a coloring page at [www.mge.coop/willie-wiredhand](http://www.mge.coop/willie-wiredhand), or stop by our offices in Timber Lake or Eagle Butte for a copy.

Bicycle donated by Bell Pole Co.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
1. Publication Title COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS		2. Publication Number 018-951	3. Filing Date 09/25/2020
4. Issue Frequency MONTHLY		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12	6. Annual Subscription Price \$6
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. PO BOX 8 - TIMBER LAKE, SD 57656			Contact Person ROGER LAWIEN Telephone (include area code) (605) 885-3511
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) ROGER LAWIEN PO BOX 8 - TIMBER LAKE, SD 57656			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) SAME Editor (Name and complete mailing address) SAME Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) SAME			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. 405 NINTH ST PO BOX 8 TIMBER LAKE, SD 57656-0008			
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Full Name RURAL UTILITY SERVICE Complete Mailing Address 1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE WASHINGTON, DC 20250-1566 CFO 2201 COOPERATIVE WAY HERDON, VA 20171-3025			
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			
PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-8031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com			
13. Publication Title COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/17/2020	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		3715	
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		3690	
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		0	
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		0	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		0	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		3690	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		19	
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		19	
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0	
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		0	
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		19	
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		3709	
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		5	
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		3714	
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99%	
No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date		3757	
a. Paid Electronic Copies		0	
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		3690	
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		3709	
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (15b divided by 15c x 100)		99%	
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.			
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the _____ issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner _____ Editor Date: 9/25/2020			
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			



The South Dakota National Guard has been responsive in helping co-ops restore power to their members after natural disasters.

# S.D. NATIONAL GUARD

## Co-ops, SDNG work together to meet challenges

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

The South Dakota National Guard and the state's rural electric cooperatives share a synergistic relationship that goes back for decades. Both the Guard and the co-ops are highly skilled, highly motivated and highly prepared to respond in an emergency situation and to deliver help when and where it's needed.

For cooperatives, the response typically centers around restoring power after a natural disaster so that members can return their lives and their business operations back to normal as soon as possible. The state's 28 electric co-ops are part of a state, regional and national mutual assistance agreement that assures help will arrive when needed, and that, in turn, help will be dispatched upon request.

Cooperative operations personnel throughout the state work in conjunction with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) in Pierre to formulate and maintain an emergency work plan designed to help expedite the process of responding to a natural disaster.

According to SDREA Manager of Loss Control Services Mark Patterson, the more than 125,000 electric co-op consumers across South Dakota can rest assured their local power provider has the resources available to meet any and all challenges.

"We have a well-connected professional network of electric co-ops in South Dakota that's made up of exceptionally skilled linemen and supervisors who are absolutely the best in the business," Patterson said. "They have the experience they need to do the job as quickly and safely as possible, and they also have the resources at their disposal to rebuild the system and get the

power back on for our members who desperately need it."

Similarly, emergency preparedness is the South Dakota National Guard's stock in trade; although the Guard's scope of emergency response is quite broader. Not only do soldiers stand ready to be deployed to just about anywhere across the globe at a moment's notice, they also are trained to assist in a variety of stateside tasks.

The Guard's heroic work after the Rapid City Flood, The Spencer Tornado, the 1997 blizzards and the 2011 mass flooding are just a few active duty missions where the Guard came to the rescue to help save and protect life and property.

Most recently and most prominently, the Guard has been summoned to help contain and control politically-motivated



Co-op crews have relied on the National Guard to assist in power restoration efforts.





The National Guard and electric cooperatives share a commitment to serve the citizens of South Dakota, especially in stressful times.

violence and also deal with problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a coronavirus outbreak at Smithfield Farms in Sioux Falls made national headlines, the Guard deployed 25 ambulance teams - including four air support teams - and was recruited to conduct contact tracing in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Roughly 2,600 Smithfield Farms employees and their family members were tested for the virus with the assistance of National Guard personnel.

Gov. Kristi Noem expressed her appreciation for the work of the National Guard soldiers. "We knew they would be ready, they always are, but I don't want anyone to take for granted how blessed we are to have men and women in our South Dakota National Guard that continue to step up."

Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss, Director of Public Affairs for the South Dakota National Guard, recalls being personally involved in previous missions to help electric cooperative crews transport poles and other equipment, control work zones along roadways and pull vehicles out of wet, muddy ditches.

He said the soldiers take a great deal of pride in their work and approach their respective missions with the same commitment to serve as cooperative line crews demonstrate on a daily basis.

"We've had a tremendous partnership with the electric cooperatives when working alongside them to help respond to winter storms over the years. Our co-ops are on the front lines when providing power restoration during and after natural disasters, and they serve a critically important role in public health and safety. Anytime the SDNG is called up by the state to assist our co-ops in their mission, we look forward to the opportunity to support them."

"It's important for different state agencies and organizations to coordinate and work together during emergencies. These

relationships are vital to our state and communities to help quickly mitigate, respond and recover from these disasters. We provide a variety of resources to assist civil authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens."

Patterson of SDREA concluded: "I think this is one of the things that makes our state very unique, the sense that we all need to pull together, especially in a crisis. Neighbors helping neighbors...that's what our National Guard and our co-ops are all about."



The National Guard takes pride in helping electric co-ops reconstruct downed power lines and poles.





# PHEASANT SEASON

GFP Commission reminds hunters of new rules for 2020

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Pheasant hunters, field guides and other service providers received some welcomed news from the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission in September. The Commission approved new rules that are sure to make hunters happy, even as reports indicate that resident combination licenses are up 25 percent year-to-date compared to September of 2019.

The Commission approved the following rule changes:

- Extending the state's pheasant hunting season through Jan. 31
- Modifying shooting hours for the first week of the season from noon to 10 a.m. CT beginning Oct. 17
- Increasing the daily bag limit from three to four roosters beginning Dec. 1, 2021.

Commissioners noted that while the new rules may please hunters, increasing the bag limit will not have a negative effect on the overall pheasant population as field research indicates a rooster can breed with up to 10 hens during the annual breeding cycle.

According to Heather Villa, wildlife administration chief, pheasant hunting enthusiasts and others involved in the industry can expect a robust season this year.

"Our information shows that license holders are purchasing their licenses earlier in the year. This is to be expected with having better weather compared to last year's extended winter," Villa said. "We are showing the highest resident annual fishing and resident combination license sales in five years. Nonresident annual fishing licenses are up 32 percent and are trending similarly to



Due to sound conservation and habitat management practices, South Dakota remains a prime destination for pheasant hunters across the nation.

2018, but are still lower than 2016 and 2017."

Villa added that hunters can expect even more abundant opportunities to pursue their passion for the sport in the future thanks to the Habitat Stamp initiative, which was signed into law this summer and is part of Gov. Kristi Noem's Second Century Initiative designed to improve the habitat and ensure future generations are able to enjoy the thrills and excitement of pheasant hunting. Just weeks after the law took effect on July 1, more than \$600,000 in revenue was produced from the sale of over 8,000 resident licenses and 15,000 non-resident licenses.

Revenue from the Habitat Stamp program can only be used to



develop habitat on public land and waters or to provide public access to private land. The stamp is required for anyone 18 or older when purchasing or applying for a hunting, fishing or furbearer license. The annual fee is \$10 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. The fee is not required for a one-day hunting or fishing license, youth hunting license, private shooting preserve license and other exempted categories.

The program was instituted as a means of not only preserving and expanding prime pheasant habitat but also as a way to make sure South Dakota maintains top billing as a pheasant hunting destination – and the economic activity and development that comes along with it. State officials describe it as a “win-win” for not only hunters but photographers, birders, kayakers, anglers and anyone who loves the outdoors.

**Supporters of the new legislation say it's the state's sound habitat conservation and management practices that make South Dakota a prime destination for hunters throughout the country.**

Supporters of the new legislation say it's the state's sound habitat conservation and management practices, in conjunction with the willingness of the outdoors community to see the big picture, that make South Dakota a prime destination for hunters

throughout the country. With a pheasant population that exceeds 7 million, the state is consistently best in the country for bird counts and harvests. Last year, hunters bagged nearly 900,000 birds during pheasant season.

Here are some helpful tips for a successful hunt:

- Don't under-gun. Use a 1-1/4 ounce load of #4 lead shot or 1-1/8 ounce of #2 steel shot.
- Use a dog. Crippled birds can be hard to find without a dog. Concentrate on cover that complements the hunting style of your dog.
- Hunt remote pockets. Search for secluded pockets that may have escaped the hunting pressure of large groups. Small sloughs, plum thickets and fence vegetation hold pheasants.

## Bacon Stuffed Pheasant



- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2 pheasant breasts, boned and pounded | 2 tablespoon sour cream                                     |
| 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs              | 1/3 cup smoked almond, chopped                              |
| 1/2 teaspoon seasoning salt           | 1/4 cup Brooster's Original Pheasant Nuggets finely chopped |
| 1/2 teaspoon pepper                   |   |
| 2 teaspoons butter                    | 4 strips double smoked bacon                                |
| 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped         | 1/2 cup chicken broth or water                              |
| 4 oz. pepper jack cheese              |   |

Preheat oven to 350-375 degrees. Gently pound raw pheasant breasts on both sides. Heat oil in pan, brown onions on medium. Stir in pheasant nuggets and smoked almonds, heat for one minute to combine flavors. In a mixing bowl, combine sour cream, seasonings, breadcrumbs, browned onions and pheasant nuggets. Melt butter and stir into stuffing mixture. Spoon the stuffing mixture equally in the center of each breast and place pepper jack cheese on stuffing and roll it up. Wrap a slice of bacon around each rolled up stuffed breast. The back will hold it together. Place in baking pan and bake for 50 minutes, or until the meat is tender.

### South Dakota Tourism/Broosters

- Aim for the front half. Pheasants are not particularly fast, but many hunters shoot behind them. Lead the head, not the body, for a clean kill.
- Prepare for the weather. Fall can be a time of wide-ranging conditions. Plan to hunt in weather from sunny and 70 degrees to snow and below-zero wind chills.

More information can be found at <https://gfp.sd.gov>.

## Visit Co-op Connections Plus

Take a moment to visit our new online companion to Cooperative Connections. Co-op Connections Plus is a YouTube channel that features a more in-depth treatment of stories appearing in this publication as well as other subjects of interest to rural South Dakotans.

Search for “Co-op Connections Plus” and you'll find videos on human trafficking, the State High School Rodeo finals, grain bin safety, the Co-ops Vote campaign and more. Be sure to “like” and “subscribe.”



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

---

**October 22**

Butte County CFEL Annual Christmas Fair, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 605-456-9837

---

**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 1 and 15**

VFW Bingo, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD, 605-279-2663

---

**November 6-8**

YFS Kids Fair, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

---

**November 7**

Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Fair, Dakota Christian School, Corsica, SD, 605-366-7940

---

**November 7**

Fairburn Community Center Bazaar, Fairburn, SD, 5:30 p.m., 605-255-4807

---

**November 7**

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



---

**November 7**

BH Meat Fest, Fundraiser for Shriner Patient Camps, BH Harley Davidson, Rapid City, SD, 605-415-3577

---

**November 7**

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to register your team

---

**November 11**

MasterChef Junior Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

---

**November 12**

Zonta Club of the BH Expo, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

---

**November 14**

Winter Marketplace Pop Up, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

---

**November 14**

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

---

**November 17**

Baby Shark Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

---

**November 20-21**

Holiday Arts Christmas Show, 112 E. 5th St. Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

---

**November 21-22**

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

---

**November 27**

Black Friday Trap Shoot, Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League, 10:30 a.m., Lunch Available, 5000 North Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

---

**December 5**

Rapid City Garden Club's 59th Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lions' and Bridger Buildings, Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-0710

---

**December 5**

Festival of Trees, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, Admission: Two Cans of Non-Perishable Food Items Per Person, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**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.**