

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Former co-op general manager Jim Moore is one of the original organizers of the Line Patrol Charity Ride and was the designated lead rider in 2021 as the group embarked on its adventure

Line Patrol Charity Ride

**20 years of assisting
co-op families**
Pages 8-9

**Food co-ops meet
community needs**
Pages 12-13

August 2022 Board Minutes and June 2022 Financial Information

The August 16, 2022, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hieb, Keckler, Landis, Lawrence, Maher, McLellan, Walker and Wall, and others present: Manager Maher, and Finance Officer Dahlgren (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Sue Sherwood, which included topics on large power usage and payments.

The Member Services report was given by Roger Lawien, which included ice cream socials yearly comparison, SDREA Editors Workshop, annual meeting, and discussed scholarship winners.

The Operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included a report on the fire damage to the transmission poles by Cherry Creek, SDREA Pole and Bucket Truck Safety meeting, work order inventory inspections, MCM project in Eagle Butte, Highway 12 road move, White Horse road move, scheduled house move, pole testing results, and discussed line retirement.

Manager Maher gave the Managers report that included the fire damage by Cherry Creek, RESCO capital credits, office air conditioner repairs, Director Gold Certification, Board Leadership Summit evaluations, Load Management report, and SDREA Budget meeting.

The Board discussed the Mid-West Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Dec. 6-8 in Denver. There was no other interest in attending besides Director Lawrence who

might attend with Rushmore.

Matt Hale with CoBank gave a presentation to the Board.

The Board discussed the NRECA Region 6 meeting and the CFC candidates.

Directors Walker, McLellan and Keckler gave the SDREA Board Leadership Summit report that included the presenter was interesting and an excellent communicator, covered topics that were a great reminder to board members.

Manager Maher gave the Basin Board meeting report that included a DGC update, G&T Risk survey results, supply chain issues, workforce management, discussed small nuclear, and coal plants.

Manager Maher gave the Rushmore Managers meeting report that included a REED Fund update, WAPA load shed plan, member cooperative issues, Basin update including capital credit retirement, bill credit, rate decrease for 2023, infrastructure funding, solar trailer, SPP, legislative issues and lobbyist.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the July meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, annual meeting giveaway item, annual meeting ballot procedures, annual meeting meal bid from Lutheran Outdoors, director petitions for Districts 1, 2, 4, & 5, annual donations to the area fire departments, Prairie Engineering proposal for the mechanical and electrical portion of the new headquarters building, and Work Order Inventories 977-995 in the amount of \$2,286,373.56.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Sept. 20, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

LOCATE YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER



If you locate your account number anywhere in this or past issues of Moreau-Grand Electric's *Cooperative Connections*, you will be a winner and will receive a \$25 credit on your next bill! For example: *1234. **Previous winners:** We have drawn 13 member names since last October. Last winner was Steven S. from Isabel. Keep looking!

JUNE 2022 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	JUNE '22	JUNE '21	YTD 2022
Operating Revenues	\$834,762	\$1,032,633	\$6,612,288
Cost Of Power	\$479,612	\$503,826	\$3,278,029
Cost Of Electric Service	\$964,941	\$940,944	\$6,352,980
Margins	\$(125,911)	\$82,323	\$300,269
Kwh Purchased	7,312,881	7,990,115	57,821,683
Kwh Sold	6,667,735	7,847,045	53,450,148

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS****MOREAU-GRAND
ELECTRIC**

(USPS No. 018-951)

Manager: Melissa Maher**Editor:** Roger Lawien,
Member Services & IT Director**Directors**Larry Hieb, President
Kerry McLellan, Vice President
Kelly Landis, Secretary-Treasurer
Lois Bartlett
Clint Clark
Bob Keckler
Paul Lawrence
Ryan Maher
Royce Walker
Troy Wall**Attorney:** John Burke**Management Staff:**Kent Larson,
Operations Superintendent
Linda Dahlgren, Finance Officer
Kyrie Lemburg, Accountant
Jamie Jones, Accountant

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

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Design assistance by SDREA

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the membership of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Timber Lake High School, Timber Lake, S.D., on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022, with a prepared box dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. (MT), with the meeting to follow the meal.

Note: Membership registration will be open at 5:00 p.m. and will close 15 minutes after the start of the meeting. The meeting will be for the following purposes:

1. Reports on business for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

2. For the purpose of electing directors in Districts 1, 2, 4, and 5. If you are disabled and require a special accommodation to have full and equal participation in this Annual Meeting, call 1-800-952-3158.

Kelly Landis, Secretary-Treasurer, Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 8, Timber Lake SD 57656-0008

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**CERTIFICATE OF DELEGATION****Sample Certificate of Delegation**

This form is to designate the voting delegate of an organization. This form should be completed and signed by officers of the organization and brought to the meeting.

Voting Authorization Necessary for Organizations

Non- Individual members such as schools, municipalities, churches, organizations, and corporations are entitled to representation and one vote, but the proper procedure must be followed to exercise this right.

Each member organization should designate a representative who is an officer, shareholder, or member of their organization. This form must be signed by an officer of the governing body.

Authorization to Vote

I, _____, do hereby certify that I am a(n) Officer, Shareholder, or Member (CIRCLE ONE) of said organization and the duly authorized delegate to the Annual Meeting of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be held on October 7, 2022, in Timber Lake, South Dakota. I request the right to exercise the authority of the membership vested in the:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

SIGNATURE OF DELEGATE

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we comprise the governing body of the above referred organization and that the above referred person is the sole, duly authorized delegate to the Annual Meeting of MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

(TWO OR MORE SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED)

DATE _____

Actual Certificate of Delegation's are available at Moreau-Grand Offices in Timber Lake or Eagle Butte. & By calling 1-800-952-3158

Practice fire safety this fall and winter

When the weather turns colder, you inevitably start hearing more news about house fires. Even a small fire can be devastating.

Most house fires are caused by cooking that gets out of hand. But the second most common cause is materials in the home that catch fire. This often occurs when a heat source, such as a space heater or flying embers from a fireplace, comes into contact with fabric or paper, which then ignites. Once a fire starts, it can move so rapidly that even the best efforts to put it out may fail.

When it comes to old houses, the risks are even higher. The older the wood is that a house is constructed of, the faster it burns. Once flames invade the walls of an old house, they move with frightening speed.

Fire protection in any home is necessary, but even more careful precautions should be taken if your house is older. Here's how to help ensure the safety of your house and everyone in it.

SMOKE DETECTORS. These are the first and best line of defense; they allow you to get out of the house at the first whiff of smoke. Six in 10 deaths in house fires occurred in homes that did not have working smoke detectors. Go beyond the federal recommendations and put a smoke detector in every room. Stay on the even safer side by opting for those that detect both smoke and carbon monoxide.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. Keep small fires from getting out of control with fire extinguishers that are easily accessible. Choose several extinguishers that are light enough for even kids to handle. Make sure they have simple pull mechanisms that don't require much strength. Look for fire extinguishers that work for various parts of the house; for instance, an extinguisher in the kitchen should be able to handle grease fires.

INSTALL ARC-FAULT INTERRUPTERS. These ingenious little gadgets detect the electrical arcing that occurs when an old wire buried deep in your wall begins to fail. Speak with an electrician about where best to install interrupters and how your particular ones work.

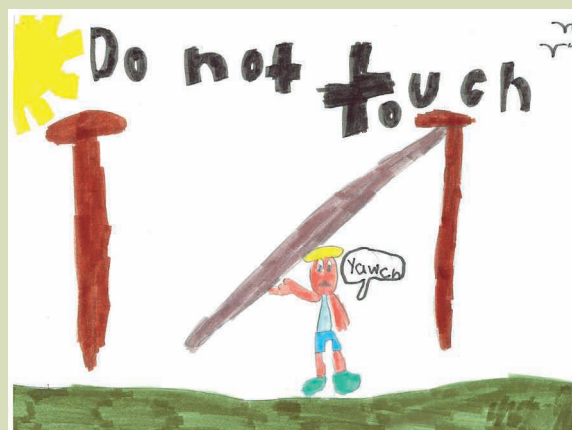
MAINTAIN IT ALL. Finally, test everything on a regular basis. Smoke detectors should be tested every month, their batteries replaced every six months, and old smoke detectors replaced every 10 years. Opt to purchase an extra fire extinguisher so your family can take it to the backyard and practice using it.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES REPRESENT AT DAKOTAFEST



Electric cooperative representatives were on hand at the 2022 Dakotafest in Mitchell to share information about energy efficiency and electric-powered lawn implements and to showcase a 2022 Ford Lightning electric pickup truck provided by Vern Eide Ford. Shown left to right are Sheila Gross, Jared Rakness, Jennifer Gross, Patrick Soukup, Kristie Hauck, Brett Snyders and Tara Miller.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Do not touch power lines

Kendyl Gill

Kendyl knows that electricity always seeks a path to the ground and that all power lines should be treated as if they are energized. Kendyl is the child of Brent and Emily Gill, and they are members of Moreau-Grand Electric based in Timber Lake.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.



PRIMO PASTA!

PASTA WITH ZUCCHINI AND TOMATOES

Ingredients:

7 oz. short whole wheat pasta like penne fusilli or farfalle
2 lbs. zucchini, chopped
1 lb. grape or cherry tomatoes cut in halves
3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
6 garlic cloves minced
1/3 c. Parmesan cheese grated
1 c. parsley or 1/2 cup basil finely chopped
1 tsp. salt
Ground black pepper to taste

METHOD

Cook pasta per package instructions undercooking by 2-3 minutes or until pasta is cooked but firm. While pasta is cooking, preheat large ceramic non-stick skillet on medium-high heat and swirl 1 tbsp. of oil to coat. Add zucchini and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Transfer to a bowl and set aside. Return skillet to stove, swirl 1 tbsp. of oil to coat, add tomatoes and cook for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute, stirring a few times. Turn off heat and add cooked pasta and zucchini, remaining 1 tbsp. of oil, salt, pepper, cheese and parsley or basil; stir and serve. Adjust seasonings to taste. ifoodreal.com

MEXI-CORN LASAGNA

Ingredients:

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained
1 can Mexican corn
1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce
1 c. Pace picante sauce
1 tbsp. chili powder
1 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
16 oz. low-fat cottage cheese
2 eggs, beaten
1/2 c. parmesan cheese
1 tsp. oregano
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
12 corn tortillas
1 c. shredded cheddar cheese

METHOD

Combine first six ingredients in large skillet. Simmer 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Combine cottage cheese, eggs, parmesan cheese, oregano and garlic salt; mix well. Arrange 6 tortillas on bottom and sides of a lightly greased 13x9x2 baking dish, overlapping as necessary. Top with half the meat mixture. Spoon cheese mixture over meat. Arrange remaining tortillas over cheese. Top with remaining meat mixture. Bake 375 degrees for 20 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Remove from oven and sprinkle with cheddar cheese. Let stand 10 minutes, serve with additional picante sauce. Serves 8.
Carol and Rollie Smith, Brandon

BAKED SPAGHETTI

Ingredients:

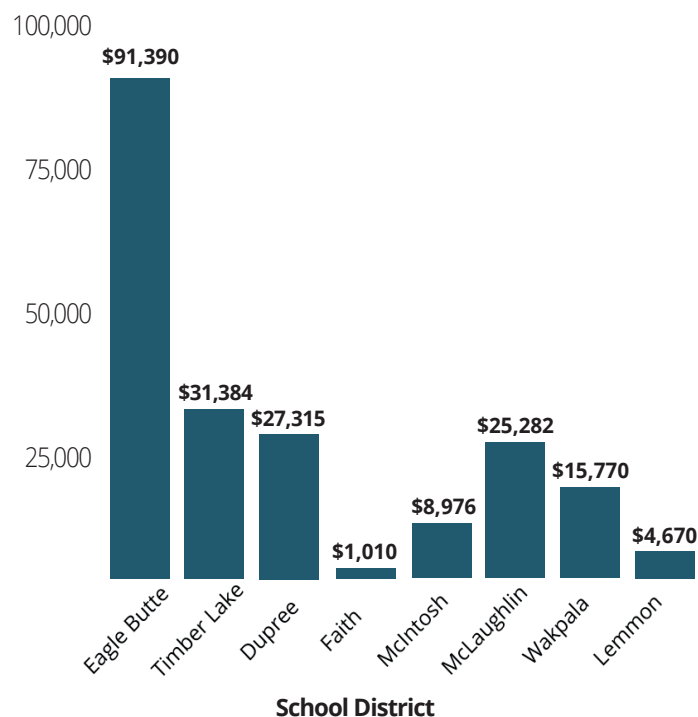
8 oz. package angel hair pasta
1/4 c. chopped parsley
1 lb. ground beef
1 lb. ground pork
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 1/2 tsp. sugar
1 tbsp. Italian seasonings
2 c. tomato sauce
1 c. water
2 c. canned crushed tomatoes
2 bay leaves
2 garlic cloves chopped
1/2 c. green peppers chopped
1/2 c. onion chopped
1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
1 c. shredded Monterey Jack cheese

METHOD

Cook pasta and set aside. Add 1 tbsp. olive oil to pasta and stir in to keep it from sticking together. Precook beef and pork together with salt, garlic salt and black pepper. Drain grease off and set aside. In a large pan add parsley, Italian seasonings, tomato sauce and water, garlic, green peppers, onions and crushed tomatoes. Bring sauce to a boil then reduce to a simmer and continue to cook for 30 minutes. Add cooked meat to the sauce. Let set while preparing the baking pan. Grease a 9x13 inch pan. Layer sauce with spaghetti noodles in the pan. Bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes. At 30 minutes pull spaghetti from the oven and mix cheeses together then pour on spaghetti evenly. Bake 5-10 minutes until cheese is melted
Jane Cave, Sioux Falls

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Cooperative Taxes Benefit Schools



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

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

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

Total 2021 taxes paid in 2022 were \$205,797

2021 Year End Statistics

Members.....	3,928	Average Residential	
Meters.....	7,093	Usage.....	798 kWh
Service Area.....	6,950 sq mi	Average Residential	
Cost of one mile		Statement.....	\$108.21
single-phase line:		Average Residential	
Underground.....	\$44,500	kWh.....	\$0.14
Overhead.....	\$31,000	Average Commercial	
Cost of one mile		Usage.....	3,462 kWh
three-phase line:		Average Commercial	
Underground.....	\$75,000	Statement.....	\$355.74
Overhead.....	\$43,000	Average Commercial	
Transmission line.....	210 mi	kWh.....	\$0.10
Underground line.....	438 mi	Average Revenue/	
Overhead line.....	3,201 mi	kWh.....	\$0.12

Taxes Paid by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in 2021

S.D. Generation Taxes	\$205,797.00
Real and Personal Taxes	13,305.79
Sales, Use and Excise Taxes U.S.	457,966.70
Unemployment Taxes	2,251.86
Employers Share FICA	139,544.15
TOTAL TAXES PAID	\$818,865.50

Balance Sheet

What we own as of Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021

ASSETS

	2020	2021
We have an electrical system that costs:	\$56,425,886	\$57,169,588
Plus construction in Progress:	2,154,040	3,038,574
Less Depreciation to date:	(21,654,782)	(22,432,041)
Our net plant is:	\$36,925,144	\$37,776,121

IN ADDITION

Non utility plant:	-	-
We have cash on hand & checking deposit:	249,684	602,337
We have time and savings deposits:	833,524	3,787,082
We have owed to us for elect. & supplies:	1,306,951	1,325,333
We have material on hand:	1,092,946	1,355,664
We have investments in associated orgs:	6,020,366	5,997,551
We have other investments:	391,806	289,606
We have deferred debits:	292,543	175,594

FOR TOTAL ASSETS OF: **\$47,112,964** **\$51,309,288**

What we owe as of Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021

LIABILITIES

	2020	2021
We owe RUS and CFC:	\$26,679,940	\$29,076,158
We owe power bill, short-term notes, accrued taxes and supplies:	2,526,194	3,791,496
We owe consumers & others for deposits:	494,703	500,267
We owe other deferred credits:	181,691	102,258

FOR TOTAL LIABILITIES OF: **\$29,882,528** **\$33,470,179**

NET WORTH

We have patronage capital credits:	\$14,202,083	\$14,708,833
We have other equities & donated capital:	3,028,353	3,130,276

FOR A TOTAL NET WORTH OF: **\$17,230,436** **\$17,839,109**

WE HAVE A TOTAL OF LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH OF: **\$47,112,964** **\$51,309,288**

PERCENT EQUITY: 36.57% 34.77%

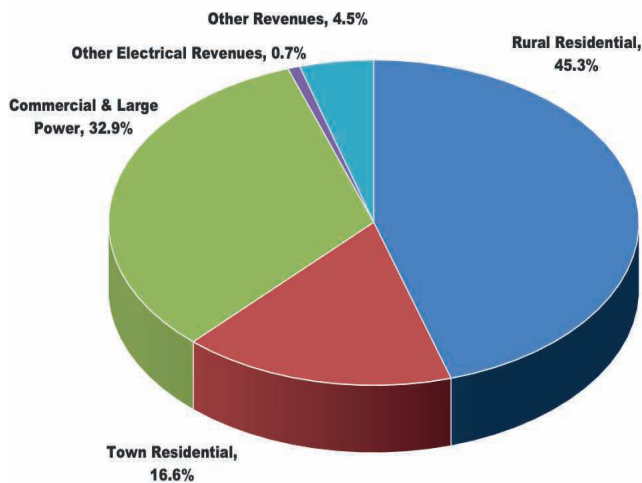
Statement of Revenue and Expenses

What we took in as of Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021

OPERATING REVENUE

Farms	\$5,695,292	\$5,748,654
Residential	2,112,731	2,104,708
Commercial	4,250,575	4,170,677
Street Lights	92,005	91,687
Penalties	60,717	65,571
Miscellaneous Revenues	479,661	508,303

Total Operating Revenue	\$12,690,981	\$12,689,600
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Your Cooperative

Incorporated: May 6, 1946

Counties Served: Dewey, Corson and Ziebach

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

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

What we spent as of Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021

OPERATING EXPENSES

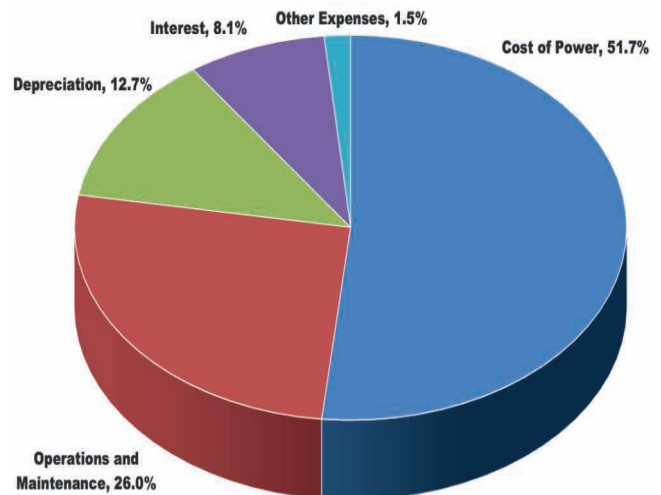
Purchased Power	\$6,250,325	\$6,162,000
Transmission Expenses	76,393	47,637
Distribution-Operations	845,903	823,610
Distribution-Maintenance	703,156	758,850
Consumer Accounting	506,889	462,729
Customer Service and Information	109,102	124,327
Sales Expense	8,580	11,304
General and Administrative	880,889	873,568
Depreciation	1,445,256	1,507,078
Taxes	160,600	158,874
Interest	999,130	969,538
Other Deductions	6,579	13,437

Total Operating Expenses	\$11,992,802	\$11,912,952
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What we have left as of Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021

Operating Margin	\$698,179	\$776,648
Non-operating Margin	104,762	-537
G & T Capital Credits	335,051	225,422
Other Capital Credits	79,565	96,030

Total Margin	\$1,217,557	\$1,097,563
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WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

2011	\$4,639,760
2012	\$5,210,090
2013	\$5,943,216
2014	\$6,094,754
2015	\$5,565,165
2016	\$6,197,421
2017	\$6,510,770
2018	\$6,492,208
2019	\$6,366,728
2020	\$6,250,325
2021	\$6,162,000

TOTAL KWH USED

2011	91,324,176
2012	90,244,095
2013	99,826,108
2014	102,067,527
2015	96,557,188
2016	95,406,619
2017	97,047,679
2018	103,396,323
2019	103,360,213
2020	100,374,906
2021	99,296,260



Roger Lawien and his wife, Kris, are regular participants in the Line Patrol Charity Ride. *Photos by Brad Letcher*

Line Patrol Charity Ride marks 20 years of serving those in need

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

When Roger Lawien encountered some unexpected health problems, his fear and anxiety were assuaged by the assurance that he had several key factors in his favor.

He knew he could rely on his faith. He knew he could rely on his family. And he knew he could rely on his fellow cooperative employees across the state.

Lawien, member services manager at Moreau-Grand Electric based in Timber Lake, is a part-time volunteer and full-time advocate of Line Patrol, Inc., a charitable organization that exists to provide financial relief for South Dakota electric cooperative employees and their families in times of need.

Since the program was launched in 2003, hundreds of co-op employees have contributed to the emergency response fund by staging golf tournaments, bowling tournaments, auctions, trap shoots, 5K runs, raffles,

bake sales and more. One of the most popular and highly anticipated events is the annual Line Patrol Charity Ride held each September.

This year's 20th annual event took place on Sept. 10 and was co-hosted by Rushmore Electric, Butte Electric and Grand Electric. More than 200 riders and other participants gathered in Whitewood at the Iron Horse Inn and spent the afternoon motoring through the picturesque northern Black Hills.

Lawien was there perched aboard his prized Indian Roadmaster, soaking in the experience with his co-op friends and feeling grateful to have a dependable network of support that can be counted on not only to help rebuild lines and poles after a storm but also render aid in a personal crisis situation.

"Having been a recipient of funds from this program, it means a lot to be among these fellow co-op employees who are all so eager and willing to demonstrate their kindness and sincerity by showing up every year to contribute

Estimated amount of Line Patrol funds

\$580,000

donated to electric co-op employees

to a worthy cause like this," Lawien said. "It's that same cooperative spirit that bonds us all together. It's the can-do attitude they bring to their jobs every day in service to their members and their ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life in their communities. They are salt-of-the-earth people who care deeply for one another and the people around them."

Lawien said more than 240 families have received assistance through the fund totaling roughly \$580,000. He is one of three directors of the program along with Jessie Tucker (West Central Electric) and Tim Neises (Central Electric).

Jerry Swartz was one of the first



Jerry Swartz, pictured above-left, was the first recipient of Line Patrol funds after he was injured in 2004.

recipients of Line Patrol funds after he was involved in a workplace accident. He expressed what the charitable organization has meant to him and his family.

“Back in 2004, I had an extreme accident at work. I spent six months in recovery and this foundation gave us a check for \$500 to help us out. It may not seem like much money, but at the time it meant everything to me and my family. It’s amazing. God bless this fund and the people who donate to it and keep it running,” Swartz said.

One of the original organizers of the Charity Ride is former Northern Electric General Manager Jim Moore. Each year, as is the custom, Moore leads the cavalcade of dozens of motorcycles

away from the gathering site and along the chosen route.

“The ride has just gotten bigger and better over the years,” Moore said. “The money goes to help co-op employees in need. One person had a tornado damage their home, another lineman from Yankton was killed in Afghanistan and we set up a scholarship fund for his three children. I always tell my wife, Janice, this is the one thing I look forward to every year and truly love because we’re helping employees and their families get back on their feet.”

Laine Mitchell, communications director at Butte Electric, said helping to host the Charity Ride was an honor for the cooperative and something the organization was happy to support.

“Having many of our own employees benefit from the Line Patrol fund over the years, we are thrilled to co-host this year’s event and help raise money for other cooperative families across South Dakota. The ride is just one of the many ways the foundation bonds our cooperatives together and has touched countless lives in the last 20 years,” Mitchell said.

The weekend began with a social on Friday evening and concluded the following night with a buffet dinner and charity auction.

Sponsors for this year’s ride were Irby, Altec, RESCO, Dakota Supply Group, Border States Electric, WESCO and The Okonite Company.



Hundreds of riders from across the state participate in the annual Line Patrol Charity Ride each year. The program exists to provide financial support for electric cooperative employees and their families in times of need.

2022 DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES



Royce Walker, District 1

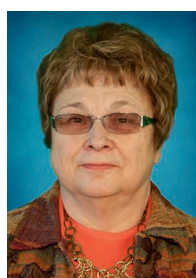
Royce Walker, McLaughlin, is a farmer/rancher and school bus driver who is returning to the board unopposed. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD), Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and Director Gold Credential. He has been married to

his wife Cari for 40 years and has two

children, Brittini and Rason, and six grandchildren with another on the way.

A graduate of McLaughlin High School, Royce has served as vice president of the Moreau-Grand Electric board and is a former Sunday school teacher and superintendent.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and participating in their activities.



Lois Bartlett, District 2

Lois Bartlett of Timber Lake is a retired farm housewife and bookkeeper who returns to the board unopposed.

She has three children - Debbie, Jim and Annie - and eight grandchildren.

Lois has earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD), Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and Director Gold Credential.

She stays very busy in retirement when not fulfilling her board responsibilities.

"I do a lot of sewing, crocheting and reading, along with some traveling. I also spend a lot of time going to watch my grandkids rodeo and participate in school functions. Life is what you make of it!"

Paul Lawrence, District 4

Paul Lawrence of Eagle Butte is the District 4 incumbent. He and his spouse of 48 years, Jolene, have three children - Stephanie, Bryan and Andel - and 11 grandchildren. Paul is a rancher and self-described "Jack

of all trades." He graduated from Immaculate Conception in Stephan, S.D. in 1968 and also attended SDSU and USD

Paul has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD), Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and Director Gold Credential. He is a Class III water works operator with Fox Ridge Water and served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971, including a tour in Vietnam in 1970.

In addition to his board position at MGE, he also is a past director for the CRST Telephone Authority.

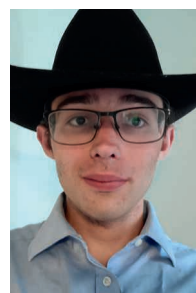


Carl Petersen, District 4

Carl Petersen of Parade is a candidate for District 4. He is a station technologist for KIPi Radio and writer for the West River Eagle. He is a graduate of Cheyenne Eagle Butte and holds a degree from DSU with a major in Computer Game Design and a minor in Mathematics for Information Systems.

Carl is currently chair of the Dewey County Democratic Party and chair of SD District 28 Democratic Party and served as CRST administrative officers assistant from April 2020 to July 2022.

His goals for the MGE board are to advance policies that allow the Co-op to provide green energy to members at the lowest possible price; work with CRST and the BIA to expedite the easement process in a way that is beneficial to the Co-op, its members and the Tribe; promote transparent communication with Co-op members.



Troy Wall, District 5

Troy Wall of Dupree is a fourth generation rancher who returns to the board unopposed. He has been married to his wife, Michelle, for 36 years and they have two children - Kelsey and Cooper - and four grandchildren.

A graduate of Dupree High School, Troy has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). He is also a past director of the Farmers Union of Dupree.

Troy commented: "I look forward to learning and growing as a director to serve the members."



Good Neighbor Award: Dennis and Shari Evenson

Community service runs deep with Dennis and Shari Evenson. Whether it is in the performance of their jobs, their church or the many community activities they take part in: They are living examples of the cooperative spirit. #11503

Dennis began his career with the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 1987. In his role as a Civil Engineering Technician, Dennis serves ranchers and other private landowners in Corson, Dewey, Ziebach and other western South Dakota counties. He designs and reviews larger NRCS projects such as pipelines, dams and solar well systems.

Dennis commented, "More and more producers are interested in solar systems for their remote wells."

Shari is a third-generation rancher, a certified public accountant and works as the county executive director for Farm Service Agency. In her role, she manages the administration of FSA programs assisting area farmers and ranchers.

"Because we also ranch full time, we can relate to the individuals we work with," Shari explains.

Shari is an amazing photographer. Through her lens she has captured the soul of her beloved prairie home and the many places they have traveled. Shari serves her community as a driver for the local ambulance service. When visiting with them, one gathers the sense that they feel it is a privilege to live and work where they do.

As with so many of our members,



the Evensons have a special place in our heart as they have assisted Moreau-Grand on several occasions by plowing snow or pulling stuck vehicles during outages. Many of their neighbors echo that sentiment stating: "They are just great neighbors that we can always count on."

Committed to Serving Your Cooperative

Employee	Years of Service
Melissa Maher , General Manager	38
Linda Dahlgren , Finance Officer	36
Neil Hahne , Eagle Butte Service Lineman	33
Kent Larson , Line Superintendent	30
Wendy Shupick , Eagle Butte MS Rep.	29
Chad Mettler , Journeyman Lineman	23
Roger Lawien , Member Services and IT Director.....	23
Justin Thorstenson , Eagle Butte Line Foreman	22
Jody Pateneau , Mechanic/Groundsman	21
Jamey Pateneau , McLaughlin Line Foreman.....	19
Josh Lemburg , Area Foreman	17
Sue Sherwood , Billing Supervisor.....	11

Hunter Smith , Staking Foreman.....	10
Jace Vrooman , Journeyman Lineman	10
Garret Simon , Journeyman Lineman	8
Troy Long , Journeyman Lineman.....	8
Brock Fischer , Apprentice Lineman	4
Jess Keller , Material Work Order Clerk	3
Tyler Olson , Apprentice Lineman	2
Ethan Aberle , Apprentice Lineman	2
Kyrie Lemburg , Accountant	2
Tammi Ducheneaux , Operations Clerk	1
Stephanie Bartlett , Consumer Clerk.....	new hire
Jamie Jones , Accountant	new hire
Deb Thill , Custodian	

COMPARATIVE REPORT	Current (July 2022)	1 year ago (July 2021)	10 Years Ago (July 2012)	% Change in 10 years
Number of Meters	7,122	7,068	6,634	7%
Kilowatt Hours Sold	7,673,859	8,219,614	8,269,440	-7%
Cost of Purchased Power	\$515,714	\$571,797	\$487,881	8%
Overall Ave. Rate / kWh Per Member	0.1202	0.1212	0.1098	9%

CO-OPS OFFER HEALTHY CHOICES

The Sioux Falls Food Co-op has persevered for 50 years by adhering to the co-op model. *Photo by Sioux Falls Food Co-op*

Food co-ops meet the need for nutritious, healthy choices

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Back in the 1930s, rural community leaders all across the country began traveling from farm to farm knocking on doors and asking for \$5 as seed money to build out a network of electric distribution systems.

It was not an insignificant sum to solicit from many farmers and ranchers contending with substandard soil conditions, the vagaries of weather patterns and fairly primitive mechanization compared to today's operations.

But in exchange for that investment, those same community leaders turned the promise of rural power into a reality and presently there are more than 750 locally-owned electric cooperatives serving roughly 40 million Americans.

Bess Pallares keeps that electric co-op success story close to mind as she embarks on establishing a grocery store in Brookings County using the

cooperative business model as her template.

Pallares is president of the Dakota Community Market board of directors, whose members have been working since 2019 to bring a food cooperative to the Brookings area. She reports that the endeavor hasn't been a cake walk, but she continues to be inspired by the way like-minded electric co-op leaders back in the '30s managed to gain popular support for locally-owned, independent entities created to provide a valuable service.

The board's market analysis indicates that a "low food access zone" exists within Brookings County when it comes to full-service retail grocery stores with just two providers in a 50-mile radius.

"On average, there are typically 2.84 grocery stores per 10,000 population. We have .68 in this area," she said. "People keep saying they're sick of having to drive miles and miles to get to a full-service grocery store that stocks



Bess Pallares

what they want and need for their families."

To generate start-up capital, the board is offering memberships at \$150, a little more than a week's worth of groceries for many families. Meanwhile, Pallares and her board members are scouring the landscape for additional financing sources and federal grant opportunities with plans to have a retail store up and running as soon as possible.

She has had discussions with East River Electric in Madison about accessing available funds through the Rural Electric Economic Development Fund (REED). The REED program



Caselli's Garden is among a growing list of fresh food suppliers for Dakota Community Market. *Photo by Caselli's Garden*

is designed to provide financing to help build the economic base of rural communities within East River Electric's regional service area. Hundreds of organizations, businesses, medical facilities, housing projects and many more have received financial support through the REED program over the past 20 years.

Hundreds of organizations, businesses, medical facilities, housing projects and many more have received financial support through the REED program over the past 20 years.

Pallares said she sometimes feels exactly like those early electric cooperative pioneers, attempting to pave the way for providing a reliable source of quality, low-cost food in the Brookings area. She has become active in the Billie Sutton Leadership Institute Rural POWER program to help tap into the regional business community with the goal of developing an optimum financial strategy and making connections with future suppliers and other partners.

"The Institute opens up a giant network across the state where you can meet a lot of people doing the same kinds of things you're doing, and they've

got great ideas and big goals and a fearless entrepreneurial spirit. One of our board members has gone through the class and I'm doing it now. It's been transformational," she said.

The Dakota Community Market is not the only fearless group striving to launch a locally-owned and locally-controlled food cooperative. The Coteau Community Co-op is also trying to establish a food co-op to serve the Watertown area. Both have plenty of successful models and supporters to help guide and inspire their efforts.

The National Food Co-op Startup Network and the National Co-op Grocers based in Minneapolis are both available to provide resources and expertise. Additionally, there are a few successful stores already operating in South Dakota, including Natural Abundance in Aberdeen, Breadroot Natural Food Co-op based in Rapid City and the Sioux Falls Food Co-op.

Patrick Sayler is general manager of the Sioux Falls Food Co-op on West 18th Street, an operation that has been going strong for the past 50 years through several relocations, growing competition and even a fire. Sayler sees food co-ops across the region as sharing the same common goals and working together to accomplish those goals.

"We tend to put a different twist on things, but in the end we all want the families we serve to have a better way of

accessing the food they eat to maintain good health and a healthy lifestyle," said Sayler, who used to frequent the store as a teen and replaced long-time manager Molly Langley in 2016. "It's always encouraging to see different leaders working hard to do what we've been able to do. It takes a lot of effort and it takes tireless visionaries to stay focused and committed to achieving what you want to accomplish together."

In meeting its commitment to improve the quality of life in the community, the co-op has a program called Big Change, where shoppers are invited to round up their expenditures to the next whole dollar amount. The difference is added to a fund that goes to support local charities such as the Teddy Bear Den, Mobile Pantry of Sioux Falls, Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, SD Voices for Peace and many more. The co-op even has a space available for public meetings and workshops.

The store recently celebrated an expansion and re-opening, and Sayler said he's optimistic about the future while keeping an eye on industry trends.

"We're growing. There's a lot of competition, but we've got a great location, great employees and a great product," he said. "The co-op model is alive and well. We have members who support us and are committed to our mission of providing a source of healthy, affordable good choices."



Black Hills State University is one of four higher ed institutions to adopt the Build Your Base with Beef program. *Photo by BHSU Athletics*

Beef is what's for lunch in many local school district cafeterias

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Beef. It may be what's for dinner, but now it's what's for lunch in many school cafeterias across the state.

In January of 2019, the Wall School District launched a program called "Beef to School" in an effort to add locally-raised beef to the weekly lunch menu and provide protein-rich meals to meet the nutritional needs of the students. At the time, it was billed as the first program of its kind in South Dakota.

The pandemic threatened to scuttle the initiative before it had the chance to gain momentum, but school district leaders, parents and supporters stuck to their mission and today the program has spread to nearly 20 local school districts.

Wall Meat Processing located just north of town is at the center of the action, identifying and working with local ranchers to deliver beef products for hungry students.

Inflation and rising market prices have also presented challenges, but Food Services Director Lynn Dunker stresses that community support has been key to success.

"The price of groceries and the price of everything just keeps going up," Dunker said, "but we've had individuals donate monetary funds out of their own pockets, and Wall Meat Processing is doing what they can to help us and to get other processors involved. We have a very supportive community and they've really been backing this program because they know how important it is that children get good nutrition."

In fact, it was local rancher and concerned citizen Josh Geigle who brought the Beef to School idea to the district leaders after learning about a similar program in Nebraska.

Dunker said the program is part of a popular farm-to-school model that emphasizes locally-grown fresh foods that are generally healthier for young students and their cognitive, behavioral

and physical development.

Besides benefiting from quality nutrition, students also have the opportunity to learn more about where their food comes from and the importance of ranching and farming to the overall success of the community.

"Some maybe don't even realize where beef comes from in the first place," said Wall School District Superintendent Dan Baldwin. "And now when they found out it's their dad, their uncle, a family member, it's actually someone from their ranch, I think that's a really neat thing."

BUILD YOUR BASE WITH BEEF

Another protein promoting program reaching both high school and college students is called Build Your Base with Beef and is specifically directed at athletes who rely on good nutrition to perform at their maximum level.

The South Dakota Beef Industry Council, Sanford Health and the Sanford Sports Science Institute have teamed up to develop a comprehensive tool kit for student-athletes that includes ready-to-use educational materials that help students and their

AFTER WORK BEEF POT ROAST

Ingredients:

- 1 beef Bottom Round Rump Roast (3 to 3-1/2 lbs.)
- 1 envelope (0.7 z.) Italian dressing mix
- 2 large onions, each cut into 8 wedges
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 red bell peppers, cut into 1-1/2 inch pieces
- 1/2 cup beef broth
- 2 zucchini, cut into 1/4-inch thick slices
- 2-1/2 tbsp. cornstarch dissolved in 2 tbsp. water

Directions

Press dressing mix evenly onto all surfaces of beef roast. Place onions and garlic in 4-1/2 to 5-1/2-quart slow cooker; top with roast. Add bell peppers and broth. Cover and cook on high 5 hours or low 8 hours. Add zucchini. Continue cooking, covered, 30 minutes or until pot roast is fork-tender. Remove roast and vegetables. Strain cooking liquid; skim fat. Combine 2 cups cooking liquid and cornstarch mixture in medium saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir 1 minute or until thickened. Carve roast into slices; season with salt and pepper, as desired. Serve with vegetables and gravy.

families adopt more healthy lifestyle choices, practices and habits.

Build Your Base has been endorsed by the National Scholastic Athletics Foundation (NSAF) and recently expanded its reach by appearing at the 2022 Nike Indoor Nationals in New York City last spring. Jack Links serves as the official snack sponsor of the program.

Chris Nilsen, a pole vault record-holder, Olympic silver medalist and former University of South Dakota student, has endorsed the program along with other prominent Olympic athletes such as hammer thrower Deanna Price and shot putter Payton Otterdahl.

“Build Your Base prepped me so well, and without this nutritional approach I wouldn’t be in such great shape. Eating well is such a big part of competing well, and they absolutely do their part,” Nilsen said.

Along with four colleges and universities, more than 25 South Dakota high schools have adopted Build Your Base and integrated it into their athletic departments and lesson plans.

Athletes learn how to determine the proper amounts of beef protein to consume for optimal effect in the maintaining, building and repairing of muscle.



Co-op leaders visit Southwest Power Pool facilities in Arkansas

A contingent of more than 35 electric cooperative leaders from throughout South Dakota and western Minnesota recently visited the facilities of the Southwest Power Pool based in Little Rock, Ark.

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) responsible for managing the electric grid and wholesale power market throughout a 13-state region that spans from the Canadian border to northern Texas.

While RTOs seldom attract much public attention, the polar vortex that swept across the country in the winter of 2021 placed grid operators closer to the spotlight. The roles and responsibilities of RTOs have also come to the fore with concerns over extreme weather events, changing market forces, aging infrastructure, grid congestion, the emergence of renewable power sources and other issues.

The tour was organized by Codington-Clark Electric General Manager Dave Eide. He said he initiated the event because he believed electric cooperatives that transmit and distribute power within the SPP’s footprint would benefit from engaging in face-to-face interactions with those responsible for moving electricity across the grid.

“This was a very eye-opening visit, as we were able to see first-hand how the Southwest Power Pool operates,” Eide said. “Coordination is key, and having personal interaction with the professionals at SPP helps in preparation for the next storm event.”

Eide explained that in the real-time generation, transmission and delivery of electricity, supply and demand must balance out to provide 24-hour continuous service that is safe, efficient and affordable for consumers. When situations develop that threaten to throw the system out of equilibrium, RTOs work in collaboration with utilities throughout the service area to keep the network stable.

The process includes communicating with those entities under the RTO’s umbrella to take decisive measures to modulate either the supply or the demand.



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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1
Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival
 Custer, SD
 605-255-4515

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1
Oktoberfest
 Citywide, Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

SEPT. 30-OCT. 2
SiouxperCon
 1201 N West Ave.
 Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 1
Prairie Village Hobo Marlin Pumpkin Train
 45205 SD Highway 34
 Madison, SD
 605-256-3644

OCT. 1-2
Magic Needlers Quilt Festival
 Codington County Extension Complex, Watertown, SD
 605-881-3273

OCT. 7
The Pumpkin Patch
 Rapid Valley United Methodist Church, Rapid City, SD
 605-393-1526

OCT. 7-9
Great Scarecrow Festival
 Campbell Park
 Huron, SD
 605-353-8530

OCT. 7-9
Black Hills Powwow
 444 Mt. Rushmore Road
 Rapid City, SD
 605 341-0925

OCT. 7-8
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vender Show
 Philip, SD
 605-441-1060

OCT. 8
Fall Festival
 Fairburn United Methodist Church, Fairburn, SD
 605-255-4329

OCT. 8-9
Crazy Horse Marathon & Races
 Crazy Horse Memorial
 12151 Avenue Of The Chiefs
 605-390-6137

OCT. 15
Fall Festival
 18473 US Hwy 83, Onida, SD

OCT. 22
Ladies Day
 The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD
 605-390-2939

OCT. 28-30
ZooBoo
 Great Plains Zoo
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-7003

NOV. 3-5
Yankton's Harvest Halloween
 Downtown, Yankton, SD
harvesthalloween.com

NOV. 3-5
Huron Ringneck Festival & Bird Dog Challenge
 100 4th Street SW, Huron, SD
 605-352-0000

NOV. 5-20
Rustic Designs & More Christmas Show
 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily
 Ethan, SD
 605-770-2411

NOV. 11-13
Christmas at the Barn
 Front Porch 605, Groton, SD
 605-216-4202

NOV. 12
Black Hills Meat Festival
 Black Hills Harley Davidson
 2820 Harley Dr., Rapid City, SD
 605-390-7917

NOV. 18-20
Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival
 Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

DEC. 2-3
Christmas in the Hills
 Mueller Center, Hot Springs, SD
 605-745-4140

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