

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Barb Gross, Adele Enright and Jean Tehle have all worked hard to facilitate free and fair elections for registered voters in Dewey County

Poll tenders rock the vote

Election workers are dedicated to the task
Pages 8-9

Freshman Impact teaches sound decision making

Pages 12-13

Your choices in November will have an impact for the next two years and beyond



Ben Dunsmoor
Editor

It is safe to say that at some point in your life you have heard your parents say this phrase to you; ‘remember to make smart choices.’ These words are often uttered to teenagers to remind them that the choices they make when they are young can impact them in the future. The same advice seems very fitting this year as we approach another Election Day in South Dakota. It is important to make smart choices on November 8th because the decisions we make now will impact our country, our state, and our local towns and cities for years to come.

South Dakota’s November 8 general election ballot is filled with important choices for 2022

South Dakota’s ballot is filled with important choices for 2022. The top of the ballot will feature candidates running for a U.S. Senate seat, the state’s lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the race for South Dakota Governor. U.S. Senator John Thune is running for a fourth term in the Senate against Democrat Brian Bengs of Aberdeen and Libertarian candidate Tamara Lesnar of Day County. Rep. Dusty Johnson is running for a second two-year term in Congress against Libertarian candidate Collin Duprel. And Governor Kristi Noem is running for re-election against Democrat Jamie Smith and Libertarian Party nominee Tracey Quint. The candidates we select this November will lead our state for the next six (U.S. Senate), four (governor), and two (U.S. Representative) years.

There are also two important ballot questions that voters will be asked to decide this year. Constitutional Amendment D would expand Medicaid eligibility in South Dakota. It is estimated that this amendment could provide Medicaid coverage to another 42,500 low-income individuals in the state. Supporters believe the amendment will benefit South Dakotans who have a job but do not have health insurance through their employer and cannot afford insurance themselves. Opponents believe expanding the Medicaid program will make the state more reliant on the federal government and expansion could lead to increased costs if the federal government decides to change the program in the future.

South Dakota voters legalized marijuana two years ago, but it was repealed in court and now the issue is back on the ballot this year as Initiated Measure 27. Initiated Measure 27 legalizes marijuana for any South Dakotan over the age of 21. Supporters believe criminalizing marijuana is a waste of time and resources for law enforcement in the state. Opponents believe legalizing marijuana will increase crime and harm children. Initiated Measure 27 does not deal with medical marijuana which was passed in 2020 and is currently being implemented in the state.

Those are just some of the important decisions that will be facing you when you head to the polls in a few weeks. Several other candidates are running for the state legislature in Pierre and numerous local, county, and municipal races will be on the ballot too. Please be educated about the candidates and the issues before heading to the polls. The South Dakota Secretary of State’s website (sdsos.gov) has a wealth of information and explanations on the candidates and the issues that will be on the 2022 ballot. So, remember, make smart choices this year because the decisions we make now will have an impact well into the future.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Nolan Wipf

Board of Directors

- Todd Hettich - Vice President
- Ron Kaaz - Secretary
- Josh Larson - Treasurer
- Fran Esser
- BJ. Hansen
- Kirk Schaubman
- Scott Sperry
- Mike Traxinger

CEO/General Manager: Char Hager
info@northernelectric.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Lorisa Rudolph

Operations Manager: Jerry Weber

Manager of Member Services: Russel Ulmer

Manager of Information Technology: Derek Gorecki

Communications Director: Ben Dunsmoor
bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Executive Secretary: Kay Albrecht

Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

Subscription information: Northern Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals postage paid at Bath, SD 57427.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Northern Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427; telephone (605) 225-0310; fax (605) 225-1684

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held September 19, 2022, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. New board member Scott Sperry of Bath, elected during the Annual Meeting held September 13, was welcomed, and seated. As the first order of business, the Board approved the August 22, 2022, minutes, the September 6, 2022, Special Board Meeting minutes, and August expenditures. East River Director Kirk Schaubman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the annual & regular meetings held September 7-8, 2022. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported that the next SDREA board meeting will be held September 29-30 in Pierre. Directors Kirk Schaubman, Todd Hettich and General Manager Char Hager reported on the 2022 East River Annual Meeting, held September 7 in Sioux Falls, SD. General Manager Char Hager and Manager of Member Services Russ Ulmer reported on the SPP, Arkansas Statewide/G&T and Today's Power Tour held August 24-26 in Little Rock, AR.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update on development projects.
- Evaluation of the cooperative's 2022 Annual Meeting held September 13.
- Reminder of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association 65th Annual Meeting on December 6-8, 2022.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. As part of the annual Board reorga-

nization, the Board elected officers: President Nolan Wipf, Vice-President Todd Hettich, Secretary Ronald Kaaz, and Treasurer Josh Larson.

2. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, October 20, 2022.
3. Set the 2023 Annual Meeting date for Tuesday, September 19.
4. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver for \$2,036.81.
5. Approved Work Order Inventories #22-08 for \$133,394.45 and #22-08MC for \$7,218.36 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
6. Approved requests for capital credit retirements of \$13,676.24.
7. Approved resolution to authorize execution for RUS Form 595 Financial Requirement and Expenditure.
8. Authorized a donation request to the Boys and Girls Club of Aberdeen in the amount of \$500.00 for five years.
9. Authorized a donation request to the YMCA Youth Development Center in the amount of \$500.00 for five years.
10. Appointed Director Ronald Kaaz representative and Director Kirk Schaubman alternate representative for the Basin Electric Annual Meeting, November 8-10, 2022, in Bismarck, ND.
11. Authorized board attendance to the 2022 Winter School for Directors, December 9-13, in Nashville, TN.
12. Held Executive Session.

Talk to your director or co-op manager with questions on any of these matters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	August-22	August-21
kWh Sales	23,810,247 kWh	23,845,702 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,334,053	\$2,373,912
Total Cost of Service	\$2,293,718	\$2,406,546
Operating Margins.....	\$40,335	(\$32,634)
Year to Date Margins	\$748,772	\$329,596

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

AUG-2022.....	1,416 kWh.....	\$187.69	0.1325 per kWh
AUG-2021.....	1,433 kWh.....	\$186.67	0.1303 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 80.4% of NEC's total cost of service.

A heaping helping of holiday home safety

Nearly every household uses extra electricity during the holidays for cooking, decorating and heating.

Take extra care to use electricity safely and to ask family members and house-guests to do the same. Here are some helpful tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when broiling or doing any stovetop cooking.
- Keep children well away from cooking appliances while in use.
- Keep towels, potholders and curtains away from hot surfaces.
- One of the riskiest holiday behaviors is overloading your electrical outlets. You will overload your wall outlets if you string strand after strand of holiday lights together and plug them into an extension cord that you plug into an outlet. Plugging multiple strands of cords into a power strip does not add any juice to the electrical circuit that powers the outlet you plug the strip into.
- Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken. Buy cords that are certified by UL; look for the UL symbol on the package.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards, or anywhere they can be a tripping hazard.
- Only use decorations and cords outdoors that are properly rated for outdoor use.
- When you put up outdoor decorations, do not string lights in trees near power lines. Fasten outdoor lights carefully and securely with clips, never nails or tacks.
- Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees.
- Keep all light strings and other decorations away from pets so they don't get tangled in them or chew the wires.
- Keep all decorations - and everything else - at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces and space heaters.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave home and when you're sleeping.
- Make sure smoke detectors are present and working properly.
- Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off space heaters and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never leave an open flame, including your fireplace or a candle, unattended.

LINEMEN PARTICIPATE IN RUBBER GLOVING SCHOOL



Roughly 50 electric cooperative linemen from across the state recently participated in a Rubber Gloving School at the Mitchell Technical College training facility. The program included simulating maintenance and repair work on energized power lines, awareness of proper safety procedures, grounding and insulation of vehicles, operation of aerial lift devices and more.

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.



Don't play on transformer boxes

Traci Tschetter

Traci, 11, warns readers to stay away from transformer boxes, which contain high-voltage underground electrical equipment inside. Traci is the child of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter and they are members of Whetstone Valley Electric.

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.

CROCKPOT CREATIONS

SLOW COOKER CHILI

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1 pkg. McCormick Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning
- 2 cans (14.4 ozs. each) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 cans (16 ozs. each) kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15.5 ozs.) tomato sauce

METHOD

Brown ground beef or turkey in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Place cooked beef, Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans and tomato sauce in slow cooker. Stir until well mixed. Cover. Cook 8 hours on low or 4 hours on high. Stir before serving. For best results, do not remove cover during cooking.

McCormick.com

SLOW COOKER TURKEY BREAST

Ingredients:

- 2 tsps. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 2 tsps. McCormick Paprika
- 2 tsps. McCormick Rubbed Sage
- 2 tsps. Sicilian Sea Salt
- 1 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1 tsp. McCormick Whole Thyme Leaves
- 1 turkey breast, (about 6 lbs.) fresh or frozen, thawed
- 3 tsps. butter, melted

METHOD

Mix seasonings in small bowl; set aside. Rinse turkey and pat dry. Brush turkey with melted butter. Sprinkle seasoning mixture over entire surface and under skin of turkey. Place turkey breast in slow cooker. Cover. Cook 1 hour on high. Reduce heat to low; cook 7 hours longer or until turkey is cooked through (internal temperature reaches 165 degrees). Transfer to platter or carving board and slice.

McCormick.com

SLOW COOKER MASHED POTATOES

Ingredients:

- 5 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- 1 c. chicken stock
- 2 McCormick Bay Leaves
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, cut into chunks
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/2 -1 c. milk
- 1 tsp. McCormick Parsley Flakes

METHOD

Spray inside of 6-quart slow cooker with no-stick cooking spray. Add potatoes, stock and bay leaves. Cover. Cook 4 hours on high or until potatoes are tender, stirring after each hour. Remove bay leaves. Stir in butter, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Cover. Let stand 5 minutes. Beat potatoes with electric mixer on medium-high speed or mash with potato masher, gradually adding milk, until smooth. Stir in parsley. Top with additional butter, if desired. Serve with McCormick Brown Gravy or Perfect Brown Gravy.

McCormick.com

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.



75TH ANNUAL MEETING

Hundreds of members attend meeting and elect new member to Board of Directors

Ben Dunsmoor

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A new board member was elected, and more than 200 members registered for the 75th Northern Electric Annual Meeting on September 13. The meeting was held at the headquarters office in Bath.

A drive-through format was used for registration and meal distribution during the 2022 annual meeting. Members drove through the shop at the main cooperative

headquarters building to check into the meeting and receive their free boxed dinner. There were 204 members who registered for the meeting which is more than the 187 who registered in 2021. Nearly 500 boxed meals were served to members and their guests.

Members who live in District 5 received a ballot at registration so they could vote for a new board representative from their district. There were three candidates running for the open board seat vacated by Board President Donna Sharp who had reached her term limit of

serving three consecutive three-year terms. Scott Sperry of Bath, Brian Sharp of Bath, and Beth Locken of Aberdeen were the three candidates on the ballot. Scott Sperry of Bath won the election with 94 members from District 5 participating in the election.

Donna Sharp presided over her final business meeting following the meal. The minutes of the 2021 annual meeting and the 2021 financial report were both approved by the members who attended the drive-in meeting. Members listened to the meeting from the comfort of their vehicles over a local radio frequency that was broadcast by an FM transmitter. Sharp thanked the board, the staff, and the membership for their support during her nine years on the board of directors. She said that the cooperative remains in 'good hands' moving forward.



Members line up to register for the 75th Annual Meeting at the headquarters office in Bath.



Northern Electric employees used a drive-through process to register members for the 2022 annual meeting on September 13.

District 1 board member Mike Traxinger addressed the members in attendance at the annual meeting to update them on the ongoing review of the cooperative's bylaws. Traxinger said that a subcommittee of the board has been reviewing the bylaws since the beginning of 2022 and that any proposed revisions to the bylaws will be brought forward to the membership as part of a special election.

Three employees were recognized for milestone years of service to Northern Electric Cooperative. The employees recognized were:

- **Kenny Swanson** *Redfield Line Foreman* – 35 years
- **Marty Newman** *Bath Line Foreman* – 30 years
- **Lance Dennert** *Journeyman Lineman* – 10 years

The 75th annual meeting wrapped up with the announcement of the District 5 election results and the seating of incumbent board members Todd Hettich and Nolan Wipf. Both Hettich and Wipf will serve another three-year term on the board.

Prizes were drawn from the list of the 204 members who registered for the meeting. The winners are listed below.

- **\$200 bill credit** – Donald Eimers
- **\$100 American Express gift card** – Donn Kuhfeld
- **\$100 American Express gift card** – Owen Fischbach
- **\$50 American Express gift card** – Lannie Mielke
- **Wireless Rain Gauge** – Double Duty Movers
- **Tabletop Electric Grill** – Roland Sandmeier
- **Cart Electric Grill** – Eugene Williams
- **Cart Electric Grill** – Mark Haverkamp

SCOTT SPERRY WINS ELECTION FOR BOARD SEAT IN DISTRICT 5



Scott Sperry

lifelong member of Northern Electric Cooperative. He is a fourth-generation farmer who raises corn and soybeans and operates a hog finishing unit.

Scott Sperry of Bath won the three-way race for the District 5 seat on the Northern Electric Board of Directors during the 75th Annual Meeting. Sperry is a

Sperry's grandparents were the second farm energized when the co-op began electrifying Brown County in the 1940s. He hopes to contribute to the future development of the cooperative. "I am looking forward to making a difference in my rural community and working with my neighbors to assist Northern Electric in continuing to provide safe, reliable, and economical electricity for future generations," Sperry said. Sperry and his wife Kathy live in Bath and have five adult children and three grandchildren.



Jamalia Franzen, auditor deputy in Dewey County, encourages all eligible citizens to register to vote. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Poll workers urge voters to stay active in the election process

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

About 10 years ago, Michele Moore was newly retired and looking for something interesting to occupy her time. Out of the blue, she received a call from the Clay County elections auditor.

“She wanted to know if I was interested in working the elections and I told her I’d do it. It’s been very rewarding and it feels like I’m doing something important and worthwhile,” Moore said.

When she’s not facilitating the election process, Moore takes care of the bookkeeping for the family’s welding and manufacturing business operated by her husband, David.

While election work isn’t a full-time gig, poll tenders put in long hours on voting day. They typically report to the local precinct at 6 a.m. before the polls open an hour later. The shift goes straight through to 7 p.m. when the polls close, although any voters still

standing in line at that time are allowed to cast their ballots. Workers have to stay on duty the entire time and often pack their own lunch and dinner.

After the last voter is done, all the sealed ballots and accompanying paperwork are brought to the auditor’s office for verification and certification to ensure the election is “free and fair.”

Moore said all the workers at her precinct located at the National Guard Armory in Vermillion are diligent, dependable, thorough and conscientious. She said they take their jobs very seriously and are careful not to be “political” in any way, a guideline contained in the orientation and training process that workers go through before each election regardless of one’s years of service.

The training material requires that workers be professional, punctual, respectful to voters, team-oriented and “leave partisan leanings at the door.” Anyone concerned about the validity of the election process can appear at



the precinct as a “poll watcher” or “poll observer,” however, those individuals must adhere to a separate set of guidelines as set forth by the Secretary of State’s Office.

“We’re not here to change anyone’s mind or influence how anyone votes,” Moore said. “We’re just here to do anything we can to help them vote as quickly and smoothly as possible and make sure the process goes well. We try to make it easy for them.”

That doesn’t mean everything always goes according to plan. As the political passions and divisions have grown more intense over recent years, Moore said she’s encountered some fairly tense situations. But she said she generally



Poll workers are on the job from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time. If the polls close while you are in line, you will still be permitted to vote.

Here is a breakdown of party identification as of Sept. 1, 2022:

- Republican - 291,956
- Democrat - 150,760
- No party/Ind. - 142,538
- Libertarian - 2,733
- Other - 1,376

Total - 589,363

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Election poll workers see themselves as doing something helpful to support and facilitate the democratic process.

feels safe while doing her work inside the armory.

Some voters can get upset when they try to make requests that violate the voting rules, such as attempting to change their party affiliation on voting day or not providing the proper identification. She said tensions can run high during contentious presidential or mid-term elections.



“Sometimes people get angry and you just try to calm them down. They don’t know how things work and what’s required because they’re not paying attention,” she said. “Social media and TV stirs up their passion and they don’t always know how to control that.”

She recalled one particular fellow who insisted on voting without presenting the proper identification. When he was

told he would have to use a provisional ballot, he became agitated and stormed out of the precinct. Moore was “a little nervous” about the man returning and what he might do, but she took comfort in the fact that the National Guard soldiers were right there in the building.

Cris Sichmeller, a resident of Webster, signed on to join her local precinct in Roslyn six years ago and enjoys the



Michele Moore

social aspects of the assignment. A self-described “farm wife,” Sichmeller said she doesn’t often have an opportunity to sit down and visit with friends, but being at

the polling place means visiting with folks and catching up on current events.

“People used to spend time just visiting with one another, going to houses and having coffee and playing cards, but that doesn’t happen a lot these days,” she said. “There’s a lot of camaraderie that comes with being around people you know in the community that you have something in common with.”

She said at her precinct things normally proceed “without a lot of drama,” but she remembers that the Covid pandemic did cause a few wrinkles. Several workers contracted the virus, along with the precinct deputy.

The workers had to wear face shields, and Plexiglas was set up in the voting area and at the registration tables.

“I remember a man who had just retired from the military and he came in and saw the face shields and just laughed,” Sichmeller recalled. “He said that wasn’t going to keep us from getting the virus or passing it on to others. He said we needed a hazmat suit for that. I guess he was right.”

Barb Gross recently retired after tending the polls in Dewey County since the 1980s. She describes herself as a stickler for adhering to the rules and buttoning everything down.

“We always made sure everything tallied up because we knew we were going to be audited and we invited that because it was a challenge to see if we could pull it off without a hitch and without anything slipping through the cracks,” she said.

Secretary of State Steve Barnett emphasized the fact that poll workers serve a very valuable role in society.

“They’re on the front lines of the election process. You couldn’t run an election without them,” he said.

Barnett stressed importance of voters meeting their obligation to stay actively involved and make sure they are familiar with the rules and regulations. To find out more about voting rights and responsibilities, visit www.sdsos.gov.

Stubbe hired as new Northern Electric Accounting Clerk



Karli Stubbe
Northern Electric
Cooperative
Accounting Clerk

Northern Electric Cooperative has hired Karli Stubbe to fill the role of accounting clerk in the accounting and billing department. Stubbe began her new position on August 22.

Karli Stubbe comes to Northern Electric from the City of Aberdeen where she worked in a similar position in the Parks, Recreation & Forestry department. She was born and raised in Aberdeen and attended Aberdeen Central High School and Northern State University where she received a degree in Business Management with a minor in Human Resources. Stubbe interned at Premier Tax and Bookkeeping while she was attending NSU. She began working for the City of Aberdeen after she graduated from NSU in December 2021.

Stubbe is looking forward to advancing her career at Northern Electric Cooperative.

“I am excited to be a part of a cooperative, as they do so much for their members,” Stubbe said. “I have already learned so much during my first month about what Northern Electric Cooperative has to offer and I am excited to continue to learn more.”

Stubbe fills a position that was vacant due to the reorganization in the accounting and billing department following the retirement of Chief Financial Officer Cathi Podoll in July.

Stubbe is married and lives in Aberdeen with her husband and two dogs. They enjoy the outdoors and spending time with family and friends.

HAPPY

Thanksgiving

THE NORTHERN ELECTRIC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25



Northern
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Nolan Wipf
President
Hitchcock, SD



Todd Hettich
Vice President
Mina, SD



Ron Kaaz
Secretary
Aberdeen, SD



Josh Larson
Treasurer
Columbia, SD

NEW BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED

The Board of Directors selected new officers following the 2022 annual meeting

The Northern Electric Board of Directors elected two new officers during its regular monthly meeting on September 19. The board needed to elect a new president following the 2022 annual meeting because Donna Sharp vacated her seat after she had reached her term limit.

District 9 Director Nolan Wipf of Hitchcock was elected as the new president. Wipf had been serving as the board's vice president since 2019. He also serves as Northern Electric's representative on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) board. Wipf served as

secretary of the board from 2018-2019.

Todd Hettich was elected to serve as vice president. Hettich lives in Mina and was elected to the board in 2019. This will be his first time serving as an officer.

District 3 Director Ron Kaaz will continue to serve as secretary of the board and District 4 Director Josh Larson of Columbia retains his position as board treasurer. Both Kaaz and Larson were selected to serve in those roles in 2019.



Because it's **NOT** just a green box. It's a pad-mounted transformer attached to underground power lines. It makes electricity useable for your home. Be cautious! **DO NOT** touch, sit, play or dig around it. If you see a green box that is damaged or open, call your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative to report it.

Your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative wants you to be safe. For more safety tips, go to yourcooppower.com.



RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY



SOUND DECISIONS

Central Electric lineman Cody Riggs uses a hot stick to simulate de-energizing a power line during a Freshman Impact emergency exercise at Hanson High School in Alexandria. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Freshman Impact program promotes sound safety practices for students

Billy Gibson
billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The students at Hanson High School were stunned and aghast at the horrific scene unfolding right before their eyes.

There were two wrecked sedans, a downed utility pole and tangled wires strewn across the road. Emergency responders were swarming everywhere as a fire truck barreled onto the scene with its sirens blaring. And the most unsettling sight of all: four of their fellow students lying in the crumpled cars with massive wounds and barely clinging to life.

Fortunately, it turns out the accident scene was just a drill staged by a group known as Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, and coordinated as part of Cornbelt Program Day at the school located in Alexandria.

Nearly 200 students came from surrounding schools for a full slate of

learning opportunities centered around vehicle safety, first aid, emergency response, drug abuse awareness and much more. Participating schools were Hanson High School, Armour, Bridgewater-Emery, Ethan, Marion, McCook Central, Plankinton and Wessington Springs.

Local organizers Yolanda Price and Don Huber worked with Freshman Impact Executive Director Rick McPherson, local school officials and emergency response agencies to plan the event.

The morning session included seven separate stations scattered throughout the school's parking lot and in the gymnasium. The learning stations focused on the following subjects: teen mental health; healthy relationships; jaws of life and ambulance demonstration; seatbelt awareness; drug dog; social media dangers; and a distracted driving course where the



West River Electric is one of several electric cooperatives that support the Freshman Impact program.

students wore goggles simulating drug and alcohol impaired vision and attempted to navigate a short course behind the wheel of an ATV.

Taking part in the program was Central Electric Cooperative, which provided the downed power pole and wires. Once the emergency exercise was set into motion, two co-op linemen promptly arrived on the scene to de-energize the lines and worked with other responders to secure the area and form a safe perimeter.

Central Electric's Manager of Communications Tara Miller helped



A Hanson High School student takes on the role of an accident victim during a recent mock emergency scenario. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

facilitate the partnership while working alongside local organizers.

“This is an incredible opportunity for area students to learn about good decision-making, safety and the real dangers that are out there,” Miller said. “Concern for community is one of our guiding principles as a cooperative. This experience serves to educate first responders and students. It aligns with our values, and we are pleased to support it.”

The day’s program covered just about all the bases. The schedule included a poignant perspective of loss and grief from LeAnn Moe, who lost her teenage daughter to an automobile accident. During the mock accident response, one of the crash victims was carried away in a hearse furnished by a local funeral

home. And after all the activity settled down outside, the students returned to the gymnasium to observe a mock legal trial and sentencing hearing over the car accident they had witnessed.

The day ended with the distribution of educational materials by CORE (Community Organized Resources for Educating), the parent organization of Freshman Impact.

McPherson said he has found that the teaching method employed by Freshman Impact is successful in driving the message home to students, and they also develop a rapport with local

agencies and emergency responders.

“The students see up close and learn through hands-on activities the possible consequences of wrong choices and the lasting effects physically and emotionally on their bodies, their families and friends and their community,” he said, noting that West River Electric based in Wall is also an event sponsor. “It’s all about making safe choices and preventing destructive behaviors, and it’s important our teens learn the life-long skills and values to help them make the best possible decisions.”

Visit www.freshmanimpact.com.

Central Electric Cooperative of Mitchell presented CORE with a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant to help fund the local program. Pictured left to right are Freshman Impact founder Rick McPherson, CORE Coordinator Yolanda Price, CORE Coordinator Don Huber, Operation Round-Up Trustee LeAnn Moe, Central Electric Director Merl Bechen and Hanson County Chief Deputy Mike Brown. *Photo by Tara Miller*



Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

(FORM 3526) (REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: Northern Electric *Cooperative Connections*
2. Publication No: 396-040
3. Filing Date: September 27, 2022
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$6
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427-0457
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427-0457
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor & Managing Editor:
Publisher: Northern Electric Cooperative Inc. PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427-0457
Editor: Ben Dunsmoor, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427-0457
Managing Editor: Char Hager, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427-0457
10. Owner: Northern Electric Cooperative Inc, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427-0457
11. Known Bondholders/Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding One Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: Rural Utilities Service, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation
12. Tax Status: The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Has not changed in the preceding 12 months
13. Publication Title: Northern Electric *Cooperative Connections*
14. Issue Date of Circulation Below: October 2022

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies	4,906	4,931
b. Paid Circulation		
(1) Paid Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	1,420	1,424
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	3,343	3,365
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution	4,763	4,789
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	76	76
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	66	66
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail	5	5
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	147	147
f. Total Distribution	4,911	4,936
g. Copies not Distributed	45	45
h. Total	4,956	4,981
i. Percent Paid	97%	97%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies	4,763	4,789
c. Total Print Distribution	4,911	4,936
d. Percent Paid	97%	97%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November 2022 issue of this publication.		
<i>Ben Dunsmoor</i> , Editor	9/27/2022	

KEEPING YOUR ELECTRICITY AFFORDABLE



Costs have really gone up over the last 75 years. A gallon of milk used to cost \$0.63. Now it's around \$3.73. A month of rent was \$42. It averages \$1,124 now. A gallon of gas was \$0.21. Today, it's around \$3.30. But one cost hasn't changed much...electricity. It was \$0.05/kWh. Today it averages at \$0.11/kWh.

RE-ENERGIZING VALUE

That's the value of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative! To learn more about how your co-op keeps electricity safe, reliable and affordable, go to yourcoopower.com.



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Office of Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights
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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

FAX:

(202) 690-7442; or

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program.intake@usda.gov

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NOV. 3-5
Huron Ringneck Festival
& Bird Dog Challenge
 Huron, SD

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.

OCT. 28-30

ZooBoo
 Great Plains Zoo
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-7003

OCT. 31
Halloween Parade
 Belle Fourche, SD

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

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

NOV. 4-6
Girlfriends' Weekend
 Hill City, SD

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

NOV. 5
Fairburn Community Center Bazaar
 Fairburn, SD

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. 12
Holiday Extravaganza
 Sisseton, SD
 605-698-7425

NOV. 13
Lutefisk, Lefse, Meatball Supper
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-234-6698

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

NOV. 19
Fall Craft Show
 Minneluzahan Senior Center
 Rapid City, SD
 605-394-1887

NOV. 19
Lille Norge Fest
 Canyon Lake Activity Center
 Rapid City, SD
 605-342-4226

NOV. 25
Olde Tyme Christmas Kick-off and Parade
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 25
Trap Shoot
 Izaak Walton League
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-332-9527

NOV. 25
"Light up the Night" Parade and Fireworks
 Belle Fourche, SD

NOV. 25-26
Kris Kringle Kraft Fair
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 2-3
Gregory Mid-Winter Fair
 Gregory Auditorium
 Gregory, SD
 605-830-9778

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

DEC. 3
Santa's Thrift Village
 Minneluzahan Senior Center
 Rapid City, SD
 605-394-1887

DEC. 3
60th Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale
 Central States Fair Grounds,
 Rapid City, SD
 605-343-0710

DEC. 17
Custer Christmas for Kids
 Custer High School
 Custer, SD
 custerchristmas4kids@gmail.com

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