

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**

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There Are Many Reasons To Pause And Be Thankful

Thankful For Our Country



Ben Dunsmoor

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It is really easy to make a list of all the things that didn't go right in 2020, but as you sit down to the Thanksgiving table in a few weeks, please, be thankful.

I am thankful to live in this country.

That statement is unfortunately more controversial than it used to be. However, as we enter November and get ready for Election Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving there are many reasons to pause and be thankful to be a citizen of the United States.

Election Day is one reason to be thankful. The ability to participate in democracy and elect representatives is a right that is still unmatched by any other country in the world. Yes, democracy can get messy but the ability to simply walk into a polling location and peacefully cast a private ballot is something that should not be taken for granted. Please, exercise your right to vote this Election Day and be thankful for the privilege.

I am also thankful for the veterans who have faithfully and diligently served our country. Veterans Day often gets overlooked as many people begin planning their upcoming holiday celebrations early. But it is important to observe Veterans Day by simply shaking a veteran's hand or sending a text to a veteran you know to thank them for the sacrifices they made to serve our country. Many of our veterans still carry a heavy mental, emotional, and physical burden long after they leave the military. On pages 6-7 of this issue, you can read about two veterans who are trying to help their struggling comrades at a ranch near Warner. These vets are using horses to conduct specialized therapy for veterans wrestling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other neurological issues. I am thankful for courageous veterans who continue to fight for our freedoms and veterans who are committed to helping each other heal.

This year, there have been many ups and downs as our country has endured the COVID-19 pandemic. There are a lot of different opinions about how our local, state, and federal governments have handled the pandemic and how they should manage future coronavirus outbreaks. We should be thankful that we live in a country where everyone can voice their opinions openly and freely. We should also be thankful for the modern medical facilities and dedicated doctors that we have in our region, our state, and our country. There are medical researchers across this country – and right here in South Dakota - that are quietly working to develop therapeutics and vaccines to treat COVID-19. World-class doctors, researchers, nurses, and medical facilities are another reason to be thankful to live in this country.

It is really easy to make a list of all the things that didn't go right in 2020, but as you sit down to the Thanksgiving table in a few weeks, please, be thankful. Be thankful for democracy. Be thankful for men and women who are willing to serve and sacrifice. Be thankful for medical professionals who are working tirelessly to make sure we are healthy. Be grateful and be thankful to live in this great country.



(USPS 396-040)

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held September 24, 2020, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the Board approved the August 2020 minutes and August expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the annual meeting & board meeting held September 9, 2020, in Sioux Falls. Directors Mark Sumption, Todd Hettich, Francis Esser and General Manager Char Hager reported on the 2020 East River Electric Annual Meeting, held September 9 in Sioux Falls. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC Meeting which was held September 4, 2020. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported that the next SDREA board meeting will be held October 2, 2020. Director Ronald Kaaz reported that there will be a South Dakota Wind Energy Association Meeting September 24, 2020, via a virtual format.

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 2020 Annual Meeting held September 22 and discussion on next year's meeting.
- Reminder that the 2020 Mid-West Electric Consumers Association annual meeting will be December 7-10 in Denver, CO for directors attending.

- Reminder of the NRECA Online Regional Week, October 12-16, 2020 for those who will be participating via a virtual environment.
- Discussion on the 2020 Annual Northeast Rural Utilities Legislative Issues Forum.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, October 22, 2020.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$1,701.87.
3. Approved third quarter estate requests for capital credit retirements of \$28,593.35.
4. Approved Work Order Inventories #20-08 for \$124,261.52 and #20-08MC for \$38,188.55 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
5. Authorized online board attendance for the 2020 CFC District 6 Member Meeting, October 15, 2020. Appointed Nolan Wipf as voting delegate.
6. Authorized board attendance to the Basin Electric Annual Meeting, November 3-5, 2020, via virtual environment. Appointed Donna Sharp the authorized representative to vote.
7. Held Executive Session.

Please direct questions to your cooperative director, manager, or a co-op staff member.

Financial Report	August 2020	August 2019	
kWh Sales	23,898,546 kWh	20,175,078 kWh	
Electric Revenues	\$2,316,810	\$2,066,540	
Total Cost of Service	\$2,303,932	\$2,078,903	
Operating Margins	\$12,878	(-\$12,362)	
Year To Date Margins	\$560,309	\$360,293	
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
August 2020	1,594 kWh	\$195.44	.1226 per kWh
August 2019	1,298 kWh	\$170.22	.1311 per kWh
Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 82% of NEC's total cost of service.			

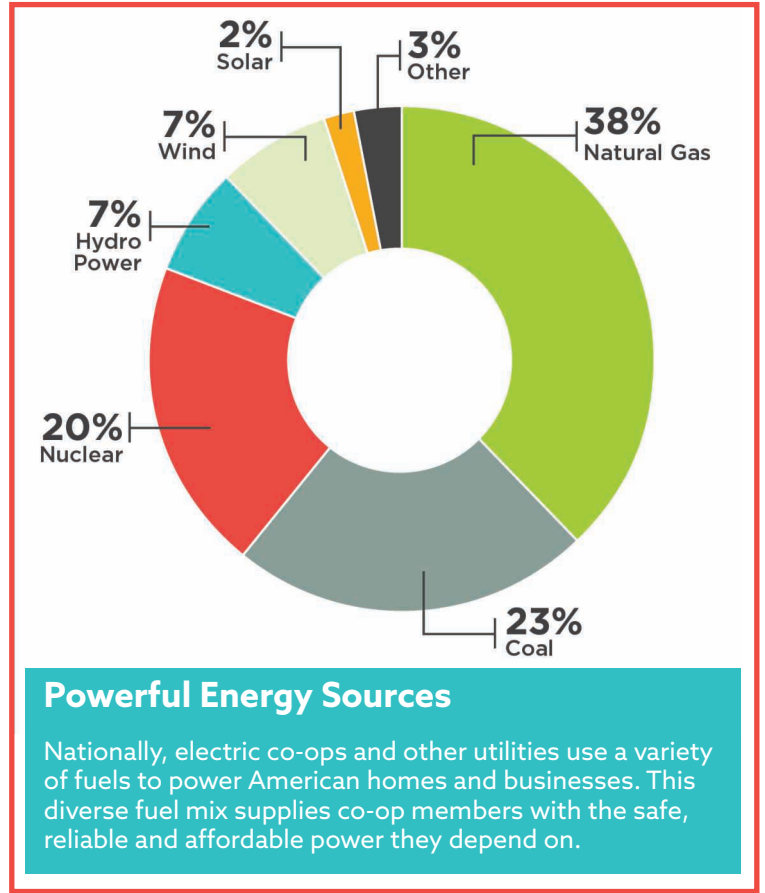
Enjoy an energy-efficient feast this Thanksgiving

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.



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 50 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.



Dr. Tracy Diefenbach (left) and Chris Reder (right) stand in a field at the DTOM 22/0 ranch where a home will go to house veterans. Specialized horses are used at the ranch to help veterans who face neurological struggles.

REFUGE AT THE RANCH

The DTOM 22/0 Ranch In Warner Provides A Safe Community of Support for Veterans

Ben Dunsmoor

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Navy-veteran Chris Reder searched for more than 20 years for purpose in life after he left the military. He believes he has now found that purpose on a small tract of land about six miles south of Aberdeen.

“I had struggled for a long time and couldn’t understand my mission and purpose in life,” Reder said.

The piece of property that brought Reder’s mission into focus was home-steaded by his family in the late 1800’s. Today, he has turned the rural farmstead into a home for specialized horses that are used to conduct a unique form of therapy for veterans. The equine-assisted method used at Reder’s DTOM 22/0 Veterans Ranch brings relief to veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the numerous

neurological issues that can plague them following a career in the military.

“A vet we had said she fell in love with life again,” Reder said about a veteran who recently visited the ranch.

“They feel safe out here. It is non-threatening. It opens the door, so they feel they are not alone.”

DTOM is an acronym for the Navy slogan ‘don’t tread on me.’ The number 22 is the average number of suicides that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledges every

day. The 0 represents Reder’s mission to eliminate those suicides.

“The military does a good job training soldiers to go to war, but they don’t do a good job training them to come home,” Reder said.

Reder was an intelligence analyst for the Navy who handled highly classified information. He had one of the highest intelligence clearances in the military. But he began facing his own struggles when he was medically discharged in 1999 following a motorcycle accident.

Reder’s struggles led him to use horses to conduct therapy for veterans like himself. In late 2018, he was introduced to the Equine-Assisted Draper Sensory Method by a VFW chaplain at an event in Colorado. Reder is now one of only five certified practitioners of the method in the United States, and he is one of the only practitioners using the method for veterans. The specialized movement of



Chris Reder stands next to 'Max,' a therapy horse that is trained in the Equine Assisted Draper Sensory Method.

THE DTOM 22/0 VETERANS RANCH USES THE EQUINE-ASSISTED DRAPER SENSORY METHOD TO BRING RELIEF TO VETERANS.

the horses trained in the Draper method brings neurological healing to veterans while they are at the ranch but also when they go home.

“They can take a break and close their eyes and visualize the horse,” Reder said.

The veterans ranch began taking shape in 2019 when Reder raised enough money to build a horse arena to conduct the equine therapy. Veterans from across South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Canada have all visited the farmstead which is powered by Northern Electric Cooperative.

In September, a family from Sioux Falls brought their veteran to the ranch as a last-ditch effort to save him.

“When he got through it (the therapy) he said it was the single greatest day of his life,” Reder said.

Reder believes a new partnership with Dr. Tracy Diefenbach, who moved to South Dakota in September to work at the ranch, will be another asset for veterans. Diefenbach is a combat veteran herself who specializes in psychiatry, clinical traumatology, PTSD, and brain injuries.

“It’s a very difficult job, but I made a promise that I wouldn’t let this (veteran suicide) happen again if I could,” Diefenbach said.

Diefenbach made it her mission to prevent veteran suicides after her husband committed suicide in 2011 following nine combat tours overseas.

Diefenbach has also found her purpose at the DTOM 22/0 ranch.

“I didn’t want to be the typical clinical doctor for veterans,” Diefenbach said.

She said the ranch not only provides unique therapy for veterans using horses, but the rural setting also provides a place where veterans can connect with each other and heal.

“They feel safe out here. It is non-threat-

ening. It opens the door, so they feel they are not alone,” Diefenbach said.

Diefenbach and Reder do not charge veterans for the services or therapy received at the ranch. Their mission is funded by donations. This fall they are planning to add a three-bedroom house to the property to give veterans a place to stay and socialize when they visit the farmstead. The entire project will be donated.

“We don’t charge them (veterans) a penny,” Reder said. “They have paid for that a million times over. It has been a great community really supporting it.”

Reder is also working on a plan to have veterans build tiny homes on the property. The project will give veterans skills that will help them with career opportunities, and it will provide future housing for more veterans to stay at the ranch.

Reder and Diefenbach want to continue developing the ranch to make it a refuge for veterans looking for a path forward.

“Giving them hope and purpose again,” Diefenbach said about the goal of the ranch. “We want to help them figure out the long-term healing process in a safe environment.”

A safe environment that can help accomplish the mission.

“Hopefully, they (the veterans who visit) will tell other vets and we can end the suicide,” Reder said.

To learn more about the ranch visit dtom220.org



The horse arena at the DTOM 22/0 Veterans Ranch near Warner was constructed with donations in 2019.



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

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“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

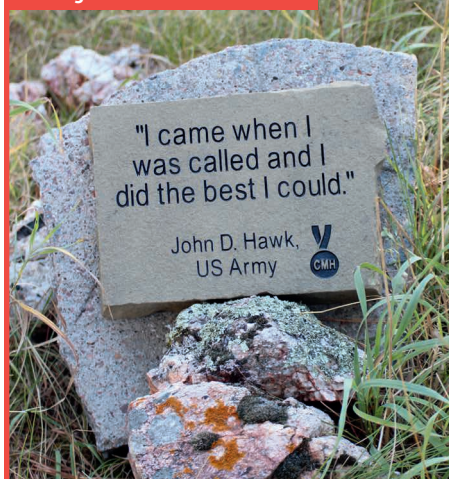


The Ranch Ministries in Blunt gives veterans an opportunity to hunt in one of the country's most prized pheasant harvesting territories.

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."

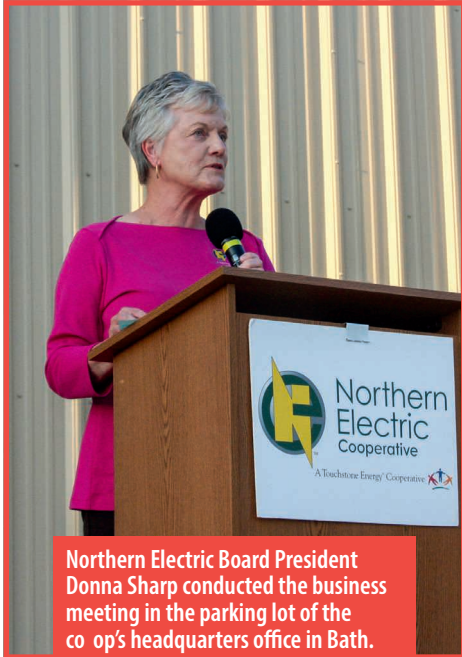


Liz and Ken Korkow provide a place where veterans can go to seek spiritual healing.

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."

Northern Electric Hosts Historic 73rd Annual Meeting At Bath Office



Northern Electric Board President Donna Sharp conducted the business meeting in the parking lot of the co-op's headquarters office in Bath.

An unusual and historic year led to a historic annual meeting for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative on September 22. The meeting was held at the co-op's headquarters office in Bath for the first time in the 73-year history of the event. The venue for the 2020 event was moved to the co-op office due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and large gatherings.

The event was held as a drive-in meeting. Members were asked to remain in their vehicles during the registration process and throughout the business meeting. Fifty-two members officially registered by driving through the large doors of the Northern Electric shop and warehouse. Co-op employees wore masks to protect

members while they used iPads and digital registration software to check members into the meeting. A total of 78 people attended the meeting. Cooperative bylaws require 50 registered members to meet the quorum for the meeting.

Board President Donna Sharp stood on top of a flatbed trailer in the parking lot to conduct the business meeting. Sharp had the members approve the minutes from the last meeting and make motions by honking their horns.

“Even though there was not a huge attendance because of the pandemic, I believe that it was an effective way to hold Northern Electric’s annual meeting,” Sharp said.

Members from District 7 also voted for a new board member at the meeting. Members were given ballots during registration, cast their votes in their vehicles, and drove over to the ballot box to make their selection. Jeff Vander Wal of Brentford defeated Danny Miles of Conde in the election. Vander Wal fills the District 7 seat left vacant by Vic Fischbach who has reached his term limit. Fischbach delivered a few remarks during the meeting about his time on the board and thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve.



Operations/Dispatch Aide Aaron Nuhsbaumer hands out snack bags to members during the drive-through registration.



District 7 Members Voted For New Board Member During Annual Meeting Held on September 22

Vander Wal Elected To Board



Jeff Vander Wal

Northern Electric Cooperative members in District 7 have elected Jeff Vander Wal of Brentford to the Board of Directors. Members elected Vander

Wal during the cooperative's 73rd annual meeting on September 22.

"I am very humbled to be elected by the membership in my district to serve them on the Northern Electric Board," Vander Wal said. "It will be a steep learning curve, but I have already found the management staff and fellow board members to be very helpful with my early education."

"I am very humbled to be elected by the membership in my district to serve them on the Northern Electric Board."

Vander Wal fills the District 7 seat, which covers portions of southern Brown County and northern Spink County. Vic Fischbach had held the seat, but Fischbach reached his term limit in September and can no longer serve on the board.

Vander Wal lives and farms in the

Brentford area and worked as an agronomist at a cooperative before he started his farming career in 2009.

"Having worked in the co-op system for 13 years, I hope - with my experience - I can look at every issue we face asking ourselves what is best for the co-op, employees, and consumers," Vander Wal said.

Vander Wal is currently involved with the South Dakota Shorthorn Association, Northwestern Area FFA Alumni chapter, Spink County 4-H Leader's Association, the Spink County Conservation District, and the Brentford UCC Search Committee.

Vander Wal defeated Danny Miles of Conde in the District 7 election. Vander Wal and Miles were the only two candidates to submit valid petitions to run for the board.



Northern Electric Board President Donna Sharp listens to Vic Fischbach deliver a few remarks about his time on the board during the 2020 annual meeting held at the co-op's headquarters office in Bath. Jeff Vander Wal was elected to fill Fischbach's vacant seat on the board.



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

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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.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Fax:

(202) 690-7442; or

Email:

program.intake@usda.gov

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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

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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	4,817	4,828
b. Paid Circulation		
(1) Paid Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	1,407	1,403
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541	3,262	3,280
(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	4,669	4,683
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	72	69
(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	153	150
f. Total Distribution	4,822	4,833
g. Copies not Distributed	45	45
h. Total	4,867	4,878
i. Percent Paid	97%	97%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies	4,669	4,683
c. Total Print Distribution	4,822	4,833
d. Percent Paid	97%	97%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November 2020 issue of this publication.		
Ben Dunsmoor, <i>Editor</i>		9/28/2020



RE-ENERGIZING CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

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- You have a say
- Your co-op answers to you
- Invested in community
- Capital credits (get money back!)

Learn more about the power of membership at
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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 Center-piece 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.