

Cooperative Connections



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History**

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A Mark of
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What Does Freedom Mean To You This Independence Day?

What Is Freedom?



Ben Dunsmoor

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Freedom is something that everyone can support but it is also a principle that has many different interpretations and is applied in many different ways across this country.

In America, the colors red, white, and blue represent freedom. An eagle represents freedom. The Statue of Liberty is a beacon of freedom. But what is freedom?

On July 4, 1776, the 13 colonies in America claimed their freedom from England which led to the Independence Day holiday we celebrate every summer. Americans across the country celebrate their freedoms by going to parades, lighting off fireworks, and gathering with family and friends.

However, this year, many are looking at freedom in a new light. The coronavirus pandemic opened the door to the debate about what it really means to have freedom. During the pandemic, South Dakota, and many other states, tried to protect their citizens from COVID-19 while also attempting to balance individual freedoms. Several countries overseas took a different approach by taking away the physical freedom of residents and enforcing strict lockdowns to stop the spread of the virus.

The protests and riots due to racial tensions across the country this summer have also highlighted the freedom of assembly. Those protests have also demonstrated how some assemblies can infringe on the freedoms of others. Yes, we have freedom of speech and the ability to freely express ourselves in America, but that freedom should not take away life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness from our fellow Americans.

As we have witnessed during the first six months of 2020, freedom is not easy. Freedom is a word that often gets tossed around loosely at those annual Fourth of July celebrations, but it should be a principle we truly ponder and appreciate on Independence Day. The freedom we enjoy in America today should not be taken for granted. Freedom has great benefits, but it also can be dangerous if citizens abuse the freedoms that we have in the United States.

During your annual Fourth of July celebration this year I want you to take a moment to think about what freedom means to you. What does freedom mean to your family? Your business? Your community?

Freedom is something that everyone can support but it is also a principle that has many different interpretations and is applied in many different ways across this country. The events of 2020 have brought this word back into the forefront as we prepare to celebrate Independence Day. Freedom means something different to nearly every one of us. So, ask yourself – what is freedom? We will have different answers but that is okay because we all enjoy that freedom.



(USPS 396-040)

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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.

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Northern Electric Cooperative’s regular board meeting was held May 21, 2020, via teleconference at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the April 23, 2020, minutes and April expenditures. The Board reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the May 7, 2020, meeting, held via WebEx. General Manager Char Hager reported on the May 5, 2020, East River MAC meeting, held via WebEx. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association board meeting will be June 25-26, 2020, in Pierre. Director Ronald Kaaz reported on the April 30, 2020, South Dakota Wind Energy Association annual meeting, held via Zoom video conference.

Manager’s Report

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

- Update on development projects.
- Update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund.
- Legal and Legislative report.
- Informed the board of the 33rd American Coalition for Ethanol Conference, August 12-14, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN.
- Calendar review of upcoming meetings and events.

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, June 18, 2020.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$678.94.
3. Approved Work Order Inventory #20-04 for \$37,573.86 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Authorized retirement of Basin Electric capital credits in the amount of \$672,992.11 based on first in, first out, methodology.
5. Voted to decline participation in the Paycheck Protection Program.

If you have questions or would like more details on any of these matters please ask your cooperative manager, staff member or director.

The 2019 capital credit allocation notices will be printed on July 2020 statements. Please, call 605-225-0310 with questions concerning capital credit allocations.

Financial Report	April 2020	April 2019
kWh Sales	24,125,729 kWh	22,246,592 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,175,619	\$2,108,204
Total Cost of Service	\$2,189,367	\$2,138,787
Operating Margins	(-\$13,748)	(-\$30,583)
Year To Date Margins	\$239,966	\$493,100

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

	Usage (kWh)	Cost	Rate (per kWh)
April 2020	2,471 kWh	\$235.94	.0955 per kWh
April 2019	1,929 kWh	\$200.07	.1037 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 81.9% of NEC’s total cost of service.

Summer Electrical Safety Tips

The summer is a season almost everyone looks forward to – after all, who doesn't love the warm temperatures that summer brings? Hanging by the pool, summer cookouts, and barbecues bring family and friends together. However, safety should still be your priority. If you don't want to ruin your summer fun due to the lack of electrical safety in your home, we've put together a list of summer electrical safety tips to follow:

- **Keep electronics away from the water** – If you've got an outdoor pool, then you might be thinking about throwing a little get together with friends and family – a pool party if you will. However, think twice about putting your new speakers or mp3 player right by the poolside. All electronics should be kept at least 10 feet away from the pool or any other water source. It doesn't matter how careful you are, accidents can and do happen.
- **Use outdoor-rated extension cords** – If you're going to set up your mp3 player or smartphone outside to play some music while you grill out, make sure that you are using the right extension cord. What is the right extension cord? One that is rated for outdoor use. There's a good chance it will be exposed to moisture outside – and an outdoor-rated extension cord will be able to handle small exposure to water.
- **Inspect your extension cords for damage** – Before using an extension cord, inspect it carefully for damage. The last thing you should do is use a damaged cord as it presents a safety risk – especially if you plan on using it outdoors. Any cracked extension cords or exposed wires should not be used outdoors.
- **Install GFCIs** – A GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) is a device that can help improve the safety of your outlets. Outlets that are near water sources, such as outdoor outlets or bathroom outlets, should have GFCIs installed. A GFCI will shut off the power to the outlet if the circuit is compromised, such as if it gets exposed to water, a spilled drink, etc. This will help to improve the security of your electrical appliances as well as the safety of those in your home.
- **Trim your tree branches** – If the branches on your property are growing a little too close to any power lines, have them trimmed to prevent any downed power lines during high winds or thunderstorms.
- **Don't fly kites or drones near power lines** – If you have power lines that are located relatively close to your home, instruct your children (if you have any) not to fly their kites or model drones in this area. These types of airborne toys should be reserved for flight in wide open spaces, like the park.
- **Know where your breaker box is** – If there's an electrical emergency in your home, then you'll need to know where the breaker box is so that you can shut off the power in a hurry.

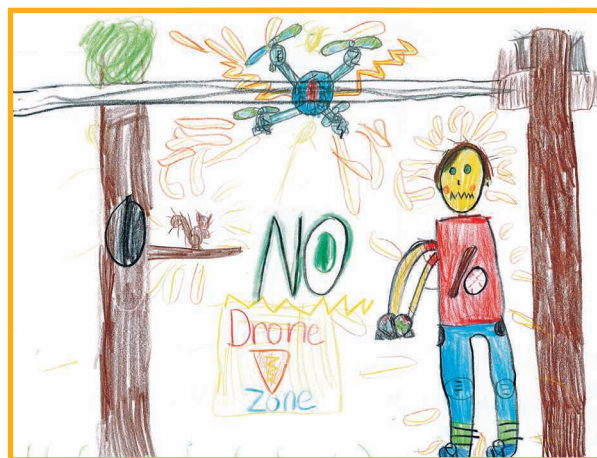
Source: www.jaffeelectric.com

Four common culprits of electrical fires

There are 24,000 electrical fires per year across the country. To reduce your risk for damage, check the following areas of your home:

- **Electrical outlets:** Faulty outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.
- **Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, contact a qualified electrician.
- **Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into extension cords, it's time to have additional outlets installed.
- **Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"No drone zone."

Alli Bares, 9 years old

Alli is the daughter of Tony and Angie Bares, Sioux Falls, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

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.

Delectable Desserts

Aloha Cake

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 pkg. (2-layer size) yellow cake mix | instant pudding mix |
| 4 tsp. McCormick® Coconut Extract with Other Natural Flavors, divided | 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained |
| 1 pkg. (4-serving size) vanilla | 1 (8 oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed |

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, stirring in 3 tsp. of the coconut flavor. Pour into greased and floured 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan. Prepare pudding mix as directed on package, stirring in remaining 1 tsp. coconut flavor. Spread pineapple and pudding over cake. Frost with whipped topping. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve. Makes 24 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 188, Total Fat 8g, Cholesterol 28mg, Sodium 221mg, Carbohydrates 27g, Fiber 0g, Protein 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Buster Bar Dessert

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream |
| 2/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips | 1-1/2 cups Spanish peanuts, optional |
| 2 cups powdered sugar | Crust: |
| 1-1/2 cups evaporated milk, divided | 1 lb. Oreo cookies |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | 1/4 cup melted butter |

Melt butter in heavy saucepan. Add chocolate chips, stirring constantly. Put powdered sugar in mixing bowl; add 1/2 cup evaporated milk, stirring well. Add remaining evaporated milk. Pour mixture into melted butter and chocolate chips, stirring constantly. Bring to a boil, turn heat to medium and boil 8 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat; add 1 vanilla. Cool completely. **For crust:** Crush Oreo cookies; add butter, mixing well. Press into a 9x13-inch pan. Put pan into freezer. When frozen, quickly spread ice cream over cookie crust. Sprinkle peanuts over crust, if desired, before adding ice cream. Freeze for at least 2 hours. When ice cream layer is completely frozen, quickly pour cooled chocolate layer on top; return to freezer. Can be prepared several days ahead of time.

Betty Leuthold, Magnolia, MN

Summer Peach Dessert

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 14 graham crackers, finely crushed | 24 large marshmallows |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1/2 cup milk |
| 1/4 cup melted butter | 2 cups whipped topping |
| | 3 cups chopped peaches |

Mix graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter until well blended; reserving a few crumbs for top. Press mixture into a 9x9-inch pan. Heat marshmallows and milk until melted; cool. Fold in whipped topping and peaches. Spread over crust, sprinkling reserved crumbs over all. Chill.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD

Raspberry Delight

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2-1/4 cups flour | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 2 T. sugar | 2 cups Cool Whip |
| 3/4 cup butter, softened | Topping: |
| Filling: | 1 (6 oz.) pkg. raspberry gelatin |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 2 cups boiling water |
| 1 cup powdered sugar | 2 (10 oz.) pkgs. sweetened, frozen raspberries |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | |

In a bowl, combine flour and sugar; blend in butter with wooden spoon until smooth. Press into an ungreased 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 300°F. for 20 to 25 minutes or until set (crust will not brown). Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread over crust. For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in raspberries. Chill for 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken. Spoon over filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares; garnish with additional Cool Whip, if desired. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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.



Have an idea for a business or development story?

Submit your ideas to editor Ben Dunsmoor at bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop or call 605-225-0310.

Fireworks At Home

Make Safety A Priority For Personal Fireworks Displays

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Fireworks are an integral part of any Independence Day celebration. The pyrotechnics represent freedom and the tradition of the holiday. This year, concerns surrounding the coronavirus may lead to more backyard fireworks displays.



“Twenty years ago, it was tough to shoot your own show, but today I see personal displays with consumer fireworks that rival some of the professional shows.”

“I think people are going to want to get out and light it up,” Lew’s Fireworks Sales Manager Lucas Nogelmeier said. “Definitely, I think people will be doing their own thing.”

Lew’s Fireworks has two locations in Aberdeen and is stocking up for June 27

when South Dakota law allows residents to begin buying and discharging fireworks.

Matthew Vogel is the owner of Family Fireworks which has locations in Aberdeen, Frederick, and at Mina Lake. Vogel is also anticipating a bump in interest in personal fireworks displays due to the current concerns about COVID-19 and large group gatherings.

“Fireworks have always been an American tradition and this year may be more than normal. It just gives everyone a reason to celebrate,” Vogel said.

Consumers have a lot of options when it comes to personal pyrotechnics. According to Nogelmeier, consumer-grade fireworks have made many advancements over the past several years. Customers no longer are limited to basic bottle rockets, sparklers, and roman candles.

“Twenty years ago, it was tough to shoot your own show, but today I see personal displays with consumer fireworks that rival some of the professional shows,” Nogelmeier said.

But with the bigger displays comes a bigger responsibility to stay safe when lighting up that backyard show.

Follow Local Rules

One of the first things consumers should do before they start setting off a display is to check local rules and ordinances in the area. Here are a few local laws to keep in mind:

- In South Dakota, it is only legal to buy and discharge fireworks between **June 27-July 5**.
- The city of Aberdeen does not allow any fireworks to be discharged within city limits and within one-mile of city property outside city limits.
- The city of Redfield does not allow any fireworks to be lit inside city limits.
- Fireworks can be discharged throughout Brown and Spink counties as long as residents are being safe and only discharging them during the period allowed by state law.

Safety Precautions

Consumers should also follow several safety precautions when lighting fireworks. The first thing they should do is read the package and become familiar with the fireworks.

“Rule number one is to read the directions. Pay attention to warning labels,” Nogelmeier said.

The second tip is to make sure there is enough space for family members, neighbors, and spectators to safely watch the display.

“When the crowd is sitting on top of something and when it goes wrong that’s when you have issues,” Vogel said.

Fireworks should always be lit on a hard, flat, and stable surface. Consumers who are setting up an at-home display should also try to set up some sort of barricade between the area where the fireworks are being lit and where spectators are sitting.

Experts also recommend having a bucket of water, a hose, or some source of water nearby in case something goes wrong or catches on fire.

“As with anything practice good personal responsibility,” Nogelmeier said.

Experts say if area residents take the proper precautions and take a little time to become familiar with the fireworks they are purchasing, it should lead to a safe backyard celebration full of booms and bangs on Independence Day. ■



FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- * Always purchase high-quality legal fireworks from reliable sources.
- * Read and follow all printed instructions on labels.
- * Keep spectators at a safe distance.
- * Always wear safety glasses when igniting fireworks.
- * Don't aim or throw fireworks at another person.
- * Never place any part of your body directly over a firework or explosive.
- * Only use fireworks outdoors away from buildings on a flat, level, hard, fireproof surface that is free from debris.
- * Have a garden hose or bucket of water nearby to quickly extinguish fireworks that may spark a fire.
- * Light only one firework at a time and never approach or light a firework that doesn't light the first time.
- * Allow used fireworks to stand for at least 20 minutes, submerge in water, drain, place in a plastic bag and dispose outside in a covered trash can.

Source: American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation



THE NORTHERN ELECTRIC OFFICES WILL BE

CLOSED FRIDAY JULY 3

IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.



Northern Electric
Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



The Old Fort Meade Museum details the history of Fort Meade, its residents, life as a cavalry officer and military history throughout the 66-year history of the fort.

FORT MEADE

Historic Outpost Has Varied Past

Susan Smith

Contributing Writer

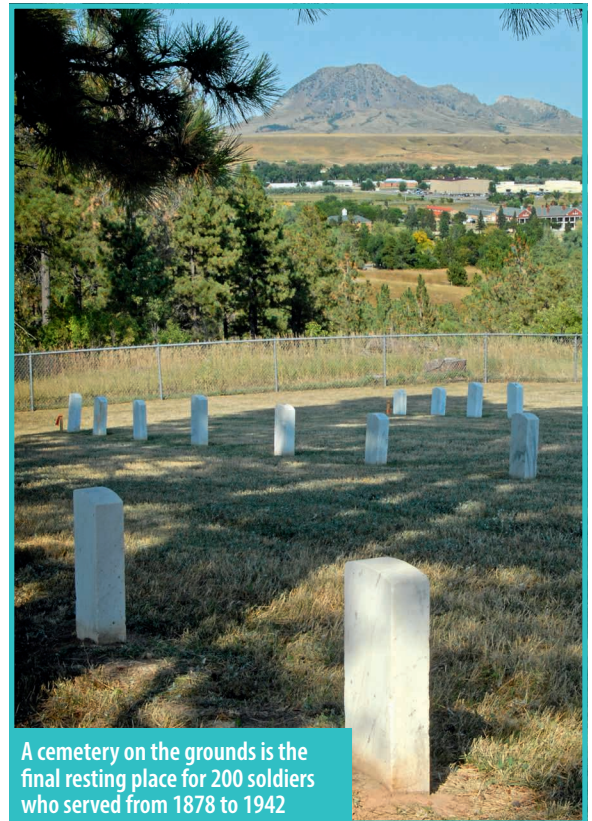
Named for Civil War Gen. George Meade, Fort Meade was built as a peacekeeping military outpost in 1878, two years after the infamous Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The fort provided an early customer base to the town of Sturgis, named for 7th Cavalry commander Col. Samuel Sturgis. According to fortmeademuseum.org, General Phil Sheridan, a Civil War Cavalry leader, selected the location after riding around the then-envisioned mile-square grounds and pointing to the location of future buildings with his saber.

“The fort was established to provide protection for the stage lines and freight routes that came in here as well as the miners and the settlers that came into the area for the many gold locations in the Black Hills and the Deadwood area,” said Robert Kusser, current president of the Fort Meade Museum Board.

Many of the buildings on the grounds of Fort Meade are from the 1900s. One building remains from 1878 and stables that were there from the beginning were rebuilt from wood to stone. Kusser said cannon wheels that are rimmed in steel but have wooden spokes were refurbished and ready for the coming tourist season. Artist Len McCann created figurines of soldiers that are on display in the museum. An exhibit of the U.S. Constitution is also on display. Unfortunately, COVID-19 sidelined many plans for the 2020 season, Kusser said. The museum will be opening for the summer 2020 as soon as possible.

Unlike most forts of the era, where hardly anything of significance remains, Fort Meade is still involved with military training with the South Dakota Army National Guard, which holds officer candidate training each summer. When the fort was officially deactivated in 1944, the Veterans Administration was approached to take over the post hospital, the VA Black Hills Health Care System, which cares for veterans in a 200-mile radius and also maintains the complex. A cemetery overlooking the fort is the final resting place for 200-plus



A cemetery on the grounds is the final resting place for 200 soldiers who served from 1878 to 1942

Fort Meade is still attached to the South Dakota National Guard, which holds officer candidate training at the fort each summer.

Co-ops and the Old Nut Box

soldiers, family members and employees who served from 1878 to 1942, Kusser said. Streets that pass around the original parade field and buildings are still occupied and historically maintained.

“We’re fortunate to still be able to maintain a visual presence of history,” Kusser said.

The 4th Cavalry, one of the units stationed longest, and two separate times at Fort Meade, provided security when President Calvin Coolidge was at the game lodge in Custer State Park, a summer White House in the Black Hills, in 1927. The cavalry unit was deployed to the European theater in World War II.

Kusser said beginning in June 1945, 113 POWs were housed at the fort. That number grew to 600 by 1946. They worked in the



Belle Fourche region in agriculture, mainly to help with beet farming. They also did community work and helped convert the fort from an active military post to a veteran’s hospital by doing stonework and creating sidewalks.

After his retirement from state government, Kusser was director of the Fort Meade Museum for several years. The three-story building he still oversees as board president houses numerous artifacts commemorating the history of the fort and recreating what life was like as a cavalry soldier.

The museum is organized around the 66-year history of the fort, with most of that information on the main floor, Kusser said. The lower level includes more military displays and the top floor features a ballroom and views of Bear Butte, the parade field and a view of the prairie. The museum also contains information about the early days of the town of Sturgis.

The Old Fort Meade Museum is located in the historic headquarters building 55, Sheridan Street on Fort Meade, one mile east of Sturgis on Hwy. 34.

There are few things more satisfying for a pack rat than to find just the right thingamajig at the bottom of a growing pile of doodads.

I know a guy who has so much stuff stashed in his storeroom, it’s like walking through a dense jungle forest. You never know when you might need a backup buggy whip. Or the crusty motherboard of a Commodore C64. Or a clutch release bearing for a 1956 Farmall tractor.

Every now and again, I’ll put him to the test...

“I was looking for a book of Green Stamps from June of 1975. Can you sort through all that clutter and see if you can find one for me?”

Or, “Hey, I need a 26-inch inner tube for a 1962 Huffy Aerowind bicycle. Can you help me out with that?”

He hasn’t managed to fulfill any of my quirky requests so far, but he’ll spend all day and half the night searching.

While my own garage is only mildly untidy, I did have one of those pack rat discovery moments recently when I was working on my son’s 2000 Honda 80R. Not that I’m much of a motorcycle mechanic, but I had to crack the carburetor open to clean out the pilot jet and discovered I needed a replacement bolt.

I contemplated a trip to my local Hanks Hardware, but then I remembered what my Dad used to call “the nut box.” Not a very descriptive name, to be sure, but this nut box has some unique characteristics. First of all, it’s not really a box. It’s a round container made of heavy metal that my father had back when he was a young man and a pretty decent mechanic.

And like any good pack rat, I’ve been hanging onto that thing through every change in address and spring cleaning session for decades.

Another unique quality of the nut box is that over the years it has been repainted many times and many colors with the kind of paint that would trigger a code-red biohazard alert by today’s standards.

But the nut box has been around so long even that super industrial strength paint is peeling off. Though I tried to mitigate the damage, a chunk of dime-thick paint flew off when I wedged open the top of the container.

Clawing through a thousand nuts, bolts, screws and some stray nails, I lucked up and grabbed just the size I was looking for. Small victories, I know.

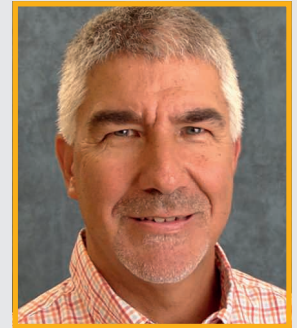
That dip into the nut box came to mind when I received a package from a faithful Cooperative Connections reader. The note inside stated: “I’ve enclosed an ad from a 1961 newspaper you might be interested in. My mom kept some old newspapers in her boxes and I found it there.”

The focal point of this gentle reader’s curiosity was a full-page spread featuring a caricature image of the sun wearing a pair of sunglasses, displaying a wide smile and sporting an incandescent light bulb for a nose.

The headline read: “Casting light on what rural electric cooperatives really mean to South Dakota.” The page was filled with information about what rural electric co-ops are, what they aren’t, and why they’re good for the state.

When it comes to the mission of rural electric co-ops, not much has changed through the decades. Our co-ops are still firmly committed to serving our members as they were on the day they were founded.

Serving homes and businesses the safe, affordable, reliable power they need is what we’ve done and will continue to do. That’s a responsibility and a purpose that will be around even longer than that trusty old nut box.



Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop



Upgrade Electric Heating System With New Rebate

Electro Industries Offering Rebates To Replace Old Heating Equipment

Northern Electric Cooperative members who have electric heating systems may qualify for a new rebate from Electro Industries. Electro Industries is based in Monticello, Minnesota, and manufactures the boilers and plenum heaters that are currently installed in the homes of many Northern Electric members.

“We are offering cash to upgrade, so now is the perfect time to modernize your equipment,” Electro Industries CEO John Seefeldt said. “If you replace your existing boiler or plenum heater with a new Electro model, we will send the homeowner a cash rebate.”

The ‘Electro Refresh Rebate’ program is an incentive for homeowners to upgrade their heating systems to new technology. The rebates range in price from \$50 to \$200 depending on the plenum heater or boiler the homeowner decides to purchase. If homeowners would like to upgrade their entire system to heat pump technology the rebate is \$200. Additional rebates may also be available from Northern Electric

Cooperative if members decide to upgrade to a heat pump.

“Not only will you upgrade to the latest in electric heating technology, but you will give your heating system a refresh, providing comfort and peace of mind for many more heating seasons,” Seefeldt said.

The ‘Electro Refresh Rebate’ is a program being offered by Electro Industries and is not part of Northern Electric Cooperative’s rebate program. Homeowners must apply for the rebate directly through Electro Industries by August 31. The new unit must be installed by a certified heating contractor. Northern Electric Cooperative will not install the new equipment.

Rules, eligibility, and the rebate application can be found on the Electro Industries website by visiting electromn.com and clicking on the ‘Electro’s Refresh Program’ button in the middle of the homepage. Please, call Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 and speak with a member services representative for further information about rebates on heat pumps.

Is Your Air Conditioner Saving You Money?

Northern Electric Cooperative and wholesale power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative, operate a load-control system during times of peak use on the power grid. Northern Electric members receive a special rate for having their air conditioner connected to load control. In some cases, those load-control receivers may become disconnected and are never reconnected when service work is performed on a heating and cooling system. If the load-control receiver is not connected to an air conditioner it could lead to increased electric use and a higher bill.

To ensure an air conditioner is connected pay attention to these simple clues:

Does the air conditioner cycle on and off during extreme heat?

- The load control system is designed to turn air conditioners on and off every 15 minutes during peak times. If an air conditioner is not cycling in 15-minute intervals it is probably not connected to load control.

Has service work recently been performed on the heating and cooling system?

- Sometimes contractors will disconnect load-control receivers when servicing a heating and cooling system and never reconnect the device. If maintenance has been recently performed on the system it is a good idea to call a Northern Electric member services representative at 605-225-0310 to check if the load-control receiver is still functioning properly.



RE-ENERGIZING RURAL

**CELEBRATING
RURAL COMMUNITIES**

HERE'S TO THE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

Thanks to the leadership of our members, we're guided by values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Together, we're re-energizing rural and powering up the communities we serve.





Underwriters Laboratories Inc., (UL) sets safety standards for various products. The UL mark appears on billions of products globally.

A MATTER OF TRUST AND SAFETY

The UL symbol marks safety of products for consumers across the globe

Brenda Kleinjan

Contributing Writer

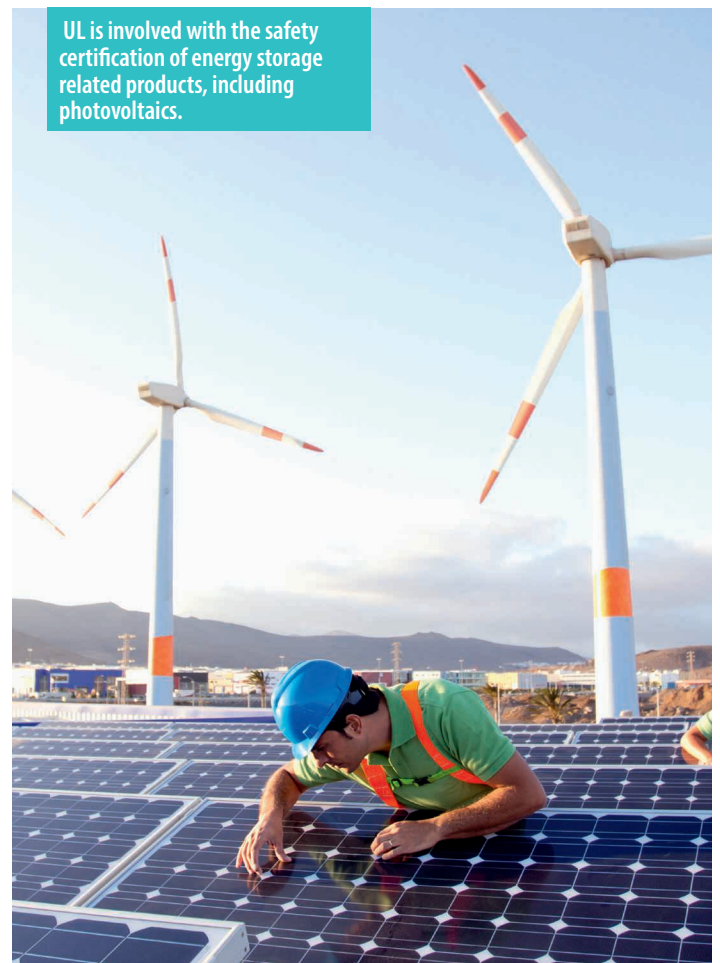
Have you ever examined the hairdryer you use each morning? How about the coffee pot or the cords of your cell phone charger? Chances are they bear a circle with an “UL” inside. If not, they probably should.

That UL symbol is not a talisman but rather an indicator that the product used has been tested and is designed to operate as intended safely.

“When people see that UL mark on the product when they’re shopping – when they see that mark of safety – they know they can trust it has been certified by a third-party organization as safe,” said Jonette Herman, a Standards Engineer/Project Manager for Underwriters Laboratories Inc., based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Herman, a South Dakota native, develops safety standards. UL maintains more than 1,600 safety standard documents that define how they test and certify that a product is safe.

As an organization, Underwriters Laboratories is dedicated to fostering safe living and working conditions to people throughout the world.



“We do that through science and hazard-based safety engineering,” said Herman. Simplified, Herman says they look at an object and determine where the hazards might be.

“I grew up in Pierre. In high school, I always thought I’d be good at making sure that things work the way they should,” said Herman. That led her to the University of Minnesota where she pursued a degree in electrical engineering.

“I remember looking at my hairdryer and seeing that UL mark and wondering what it was about. After college, I moved out to North Carolina and found that UL was located there,” Herman said.

That was 27 years ago. Since then Herman has worked on making products from chainsaws to appliances to motors and batteries safer.

“Several years ago, I worked on the chainsaw standards. We were finding a lot of those injuries were due to fatigue and the operators not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). That’s when accidents were occurring,” Herman said.

UL continued to analyze the equipment.

“Instruction manuals include important information that people should read,” Herman said. But, knowing that many people don’t read the manuals, UL seeks to ensure that “safety is built into the product as much as possible.”

“That’s part of that safety-based hazard approach. We

look at the product and how it’s used,” Herman said.

Worldwide, UL has more than 14,000 employees. In the non-profit portion of UL which Herman works, there are more than 200 people dedicated to research and education.

Today, Herman’s work focuses on wire positioning devices, motors and generators and energy storage, and energy distribution, among other areas.

“We’re constantly seeing new technologies introduced. All this innovation inherently creates risk.”



Jonette Herman
Standards
Engineer/Project
Manager
Underwriters
Laboratories, Inc.



Underwriters Laboratories

More than 400 panels and committees work with UL in developing the standards for various products. The panels and committees are comprised of an array of stakeholders including producers of the products, regulators and consumers.

“It’s important for consumers to educate themselves. How do they know a new product is safe? Looking for that certification on the product is helpful to the consumers.”



UL is working to make lithium ion battery storage safer. Herman cautioned that excessive damage to a product with a lithium ion battery, such as caused by repeated dropping, could cause it to go into thermal runaway, causing it to overheat and potentially catch fire.

Nominating Petitions Due By July 24

Petitions Now Available For 2020 Board of Directors Seats

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2020 Annual Meeting (Tuesday, September 22, 2020) members will elect Directors for Districts 4, 6, and 7.

The District 7 seat will be vacant because director Victor Fischbach of Mellette has reached his term limit.

Incumbent directors Josh Larson, Columbia (Dist. 4) and Kirk Schaunaman, Aberdeen (Dist. 6) are eligible to run again and are up for re-election. The District 7 seat will be vacant because director Victor Fischbach of Mellette has reached his term limit.

Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. The procedure requires all candidates to circulate a petition. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative member-consumers residing

in that candidate's specific district.

For a joint membership, either the husband or wife may sign a petition but NOT both.

Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath and Redfield. Director petitions must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting. No petitions filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting shall be considered valid.

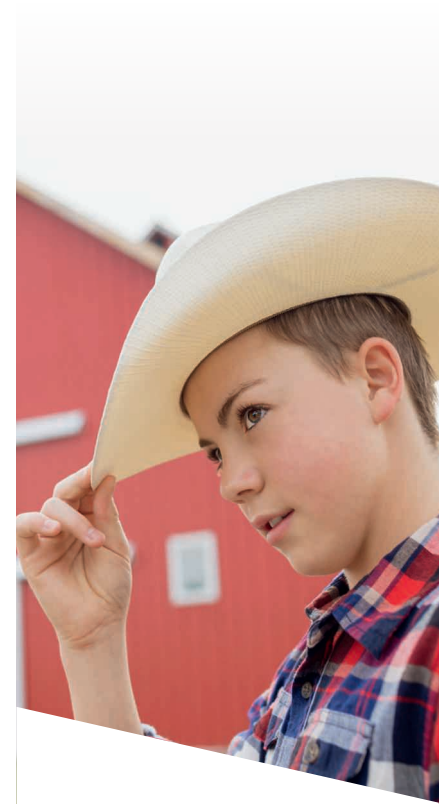
Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) **Friday, July 24, 2020.**

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.

For a complete copy of the Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws contact Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 or stop by one of the offices in Bath or Redfield. The bylaws are also available online at:

www.northernelectric.coop/cooperative-bylaws



HATS OFF TO CO-OP MEMBERS

CELEBRATING OUR COOPERATIVES

Thanks to the leadership of our members, we're guided by values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Together, we're re-energizing rural and powering up the communities we serve.

RE-ENERGIZING RURAL



2020 Annual Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, September 22

Director Nomination and Election Process

Director Qualifications

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 3

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- 1) Is an employee of Northern Electric Cooperative.
- 2) Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District up for election;
- 3) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
- 4) Has been previously removed as a Director of the Cooperative in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws;
- 5) Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
- 6) Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five years.
- 7) Has pled guilty or has been convicted of:
 - A felony,
 - Any crime involving dishonesty, or
 - Any crime involving moral turpitude

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 5

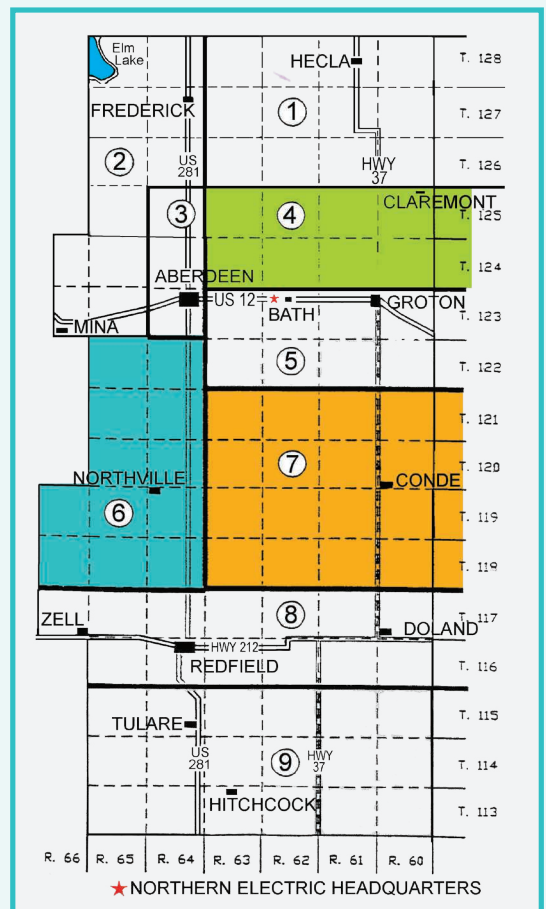
Section 5. Nomination of Directors. The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. **Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and his address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.**

This procedure shall be followed in each Director District in which the Director terms shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot.

No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting shall be considered valid. The order in which the nominees shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the

Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board Members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. **Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific District from which a director is to be elected. Voting may occur two hours before or during the official meeting in accordance with the procedure established by the board of directors.** The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a board member.



Register to Win!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____
Your E-mail Address: _____

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

August 4-6

Minnesota Farmfest
28269 Hwy 67, Polk, MN
800-881-1007
www.idealgroup.com/
farmfest

September 3-5

South Dakota State Fair:
Perfect Vision of Fun,
1060 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD
800-529-0900
www.sdstatefair.com

July 3, 18, 25 and August 1, 22

The Murder of Miss Kitty
Comedy Mystery Dinner
Theater, Holiday Inn Express
& Suites, Deadwood, SD,
605-580-5799

June 19, 26 and July 3, 10

River City Friday Nights, 6
to 10 p.m., Live music, beer
garden, vendors, food trucks,
games and activities, Main
Street, Chamberlain, SD,
605-683-9051

June 27

Railroad Day, Prairie Village,
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

June 28

Variety Show, Prairie Village,
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

July 18-19

Charles Mix Saddle Club
Fourth Annual SDRA Rodeo,
Geddes, SD, 605-680-1580

July 18-21

Senior Games, Rapid City,
SD, Contact Eric Holmes at
605-394-4175



July 3:

Independence Day celebrations at
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
[www.nps.gov/moru/planyourvisit/
independence-day-events.htm](http://www.nps.gov/moru/planyourvisit/independence-day-events.htm)

Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

July 21-25

98th Annual Days of '76 PRCA
Rodeo, Arena, Deadwood,
SD, 1-888-838-BULL,
www.DAYSOF76.com

July 23-24

Jr. Miss Rodeo South Dakota
Pageant, The Lodge and Days
of '76 Rodeo, Deadwood, SD,
605-641-8604,
jrmissrsd@gmail.com

July 24-25

Senior Games, Brookings,
SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at
605-692-4492

July 26

15th Annual Car Show
Langford, SD, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
605-493-6597

July 31-August 1

Senior Games, Yankton,
SD, Contact Kristi Hauer at
605-665-4685

July 31-August 1

Plein Air & Arts in the Garden,
Wessington Springs, SD,
605-354-3826

August 1

Rockin' Ribfest BBQ
Competition, Wessington
Springs, SD, 605-505-1135

August 1

Foothills Classic, Wessington
Springs, SD, 605-350-1687

August 8-9

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks,
SD, www.threshingshow.com

August 8-10

Red Power Round Up,
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,
605-460-0197

August 22

World of Outlaw Sprint Car
Races plus Wissota MWM,
Dakota State Fair Speedway,
Huron, SD, 605-352-4848

September 7

Hidewood Valley Steam
Threshing Show, 1 p.m.,
47326 183rd Ave., Clear Lake,
SD, 605-881-8405

September 12-13

Fall Harvest Festival,
Delmont, SD, 605-928-3792,
www.twinriversoldiron.org

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.