



Cooperative Connections

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Answering
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Unique Source
of Power**

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Co-ops Come Together to Promote Safety

Safer Together



Ben Dunsmoor

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Promoting safety is just one way to show how co-ops are coming together to continue our commitment to our communities.

Fall is a busy time of year around northeast South Dakota. Farmers are gearing up for harvest and our local communities are preparing for hunters who will make their way to the state for the annual pheasant season.

Your local cooperatives are also getting ready to recognize a special occasion in October. That event is Co-op Month. Co-op Month has been celebrated across the country for more than 50 years. The theme of Co-op Month this year is 'Co-ops: By the Community, For the Community.' According to the Cooperative Network, there are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with more than 350 million members. Many of those co-ops and thousands of those members are located right here in South Dakota.

I could talk about many ways our local co-ops are contributing to our communities, but I want to focus on one timely topic that Northern Electric has been promoting alongside other co-ops in the region. Farm safety has been a primary focus of co-ops over the past few years as farm machinery gets larger and farm technology continues to change. Many cooperative businesses in northeast South Dakota are involved in agriculture so farm safety is the one topic that affects all our members.

This fall, you will likely hear farm safety advertisements on the radio sponsored by your local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. You will also see social media posts and digital ads this fall promoting the same farm safety message. This is a cooperative effort among your local electric cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Northern Electric is one of more than two dozen Touchstone Energy Cooperatives that has collaborated to sponsor these radio ads and this digital advertising effort. It is one-way co-ops are coming together to promote safety this fall and demonstrate the sixth cooperative principle of cooperation among cooperatives.

Northern Electric Cooperative also recently partnered with Agtegra Cooperative and our two neighboring electric cooperatives, Lake Region and FEM Electric Association, at the Brown County Fair. We came together to promote farm safety by hosting a farm safety day for kids and families at the fair. There were demonstrations about electrical safety, ATV safety, and grain bin safety. There were also games and activities to promote safety and co-ops. More than 500 people attended this event which demonstrated the shared commitment all our local co-ops have to teach the next generation about these important topics.

Co-ops were created by our communities to provide our local communities with essential services. And promoting safety is just one way to show how co-ops are coming together to continue our commitment to our communities. I hope everyone has a safe and successful fall and harvest season.



(USPS 396-040)

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held August 22, 2019, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. East River Electric CEO/GM Tom Boyko, East River Electric General Counsel Bob Sahr and District 2 Director Candidate Todd M. Hettich were guests at the meeting. As the first order of business, the Board held an executive session and then proceeded to approve the July 24, 2019, minutes and July expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety, communications and IT.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the August 1, 2019, meeting. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on actions taken at the SDREA June Board meeting held June 27-28, 2019, in Pierre. Director Ronald Kaaz reported on the 2019 Summer School for Directors which he attended, August 2-7, in Branson, MO.

Manager's Report

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

- Update and discussion on development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Legal and Legislative report
- Discussion on the Northeast Rural Utilities Legislative Issues Forum.
- Informed directors of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Assoc. Executive Director Retirement/Search.

- Informed directors of the Winter School for Directors, December 13-18, 2019, in Nashville, TN.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Held Executive Session.
2. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, September 19, 2019.
3. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$1,052.41.
4. Approved Work Order Inventory #19-07 for \$21,889.21 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
5. Authorized board attendance to the Mid-West Electric Consumers Assoc. 62nd Annual Meeting, December 9-12, 2019, in Denver, CO and appointed Director Francis Esser delegate and Director Ronald Kaaz alternate.
6. Appointed Francis Esser delegate for the East River Annual Meeting, September 4, 2019, in Sioux Falls.
7. Appointed Director Nolan Wipf as voting delegate to vote on NRECA director from South Dakota.
8. Approved a donation of \$250 for the Alzheimer's Walk, September 22, 2019, in Aberdeen, SD.

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

Financial Report		July 2019	July 2018
kWh Sales		21,660,923 kWh	23,244,433 kWh
Electric Revenues		\$2,207,264	\$2,281,641
Total Cost of Service		\$2,251,341	\$2,291,535
Operating Margins		(-\$44,077)	(-\$9,894)
Year To Date Margins		\$348,285	\$275,096
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
July 2019	1,570 kWh	\$190.76	.1215 per kWh
July 2018	1,508 kWh	\$186.44	.1236 per kWh
Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 80.7% of NEC's total cost of service.			

October is Fire Prevention Month

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and approximately injure 20,000 more. U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires each year, with three-quarters of them occurring in residences.

A home is often referred to as a safe haven. This month, make sure your home is protected from (and your family is prepared for) a fire. Here are 10 simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce the risk of injury should one occur:

- **Smoke Alarms** – Smoke alarms are widely available and inexpensive. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly.
- **Prevent Electrical Fires** – Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug in the wall outlet. If the plug loosely fits, inspect the outlet right away. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and can start a fire in minutes.
- **Keep Plugs Safe** – Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks – the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.
- **Alternate Heaters** – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.
- **Fire Safety Sprinklers** – When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire.
- **Create An Escape Route** – Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand.
- **Position Appliances Carefully** – Try to keep TV sets, kitchen and other appliances away from windows with curtains. If there is a wiring problem, curtains can spread a fire quickly. Additionally, keeping your appliances away from water sources (like rain coming in from windows) can help prevent wiring damage which can lead to a fire.
- **Clean Dryer Vents** – Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes to dry or after the drying cycle is complete. Make sure your exhaust duct is made of metal tubing and not plastic or foil. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage and check for lint build up behind the dryer at least twice a year.
- **Be Careful Around the Holidays** – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.
- **Conduct Regular Inspections** – Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month.

Following these simple tips could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one. Pass this list on to your friends and family and make this fire prevention month count!

Source: quickenloans.com



October is National
Co-op Month.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Be careful of snow cavities over electrical boxes."

Avery Bauman, 10 years old

Avery is the daughter of Pete and Bridget Bauman, Watertown, S.D. They are members of Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown.

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.

Perfect Pasta

Angel Hair Pasta with Italian Sausage and Herbs

1 lb. angel hair pasta	1 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Parsley, Flat Leaf
1 lb. sweet Italian sausage, casing removed	1/2 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Garlic Powder
2 T. olive oil	1/2 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Fennel Seed
1-1/2 cups chopped red onion	1/2 tsp. Sicilian sea salt
8 oz. mushrooms, quartered	1/2 cup grated Romano cheese
1 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Basil	
1 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Italian Seasoning	

Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, break up sausage in large skillet. Cook on medium-high heat 5 to 6 minutes. Remove sausage; drain fat. Rinse skillet and wipe clean. Heat oil in same skillet on medium heat. Add onions, mushrooms and seasonings; cook and stir 5 minutes. Add cooked sausage; cook and stir 5 minutes longer. Place pasta in large serving bowl. Add sausage mixture and cheese; toss to coat well. Serve with additional cheese, if desired. Makes 12 (1 cup) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 281, Total Fat 13g, Cholesterol 26mg, Sodium 374mg, Protein 10g, Carbohydrates 31g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Taco Pasta Salad

1-1/2 lbs. ground beef, cooked and drained	1 pint grape tomatoes, sliced in half
4 T. taco seasoning	3 cups shredded lettuce
1 lb. rotini, cooked, drained and rinsed with cold water	2 cups shredded cheese
1/2 small onion, minced (optional)	1 bottle Catalina dressing
	1 bag nacho cheese tortilla chips, crushed

Stir together hamburger and taco seasoning. In a large bowl, combine hamburger, pasta, onions, tomatoes, lettuce and cheese. Mix in dressing. Stir in chips. Serve immediately.

Dawn Leibel, Glencross, SD

Smoky BBQ Chicken Salad

1 box Betty Crocker™ Suddenly Salad® Ranch and Bacon Pasta Salad Mix	1/4 cup barbecue sauce
1/2 cup frozen corn	1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
1/4 cup mayonnaise	12 butter lettuce leaves, optional
2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken	1/4 cup chopped green onions

Empty pasta mix into a 3-quart saucepan 2/3 full of boiling water. Gently boil uncovered 12 minutes, stirring occasionally, adding corn during last 2 minutes of cooking. Drain pasta and corn; rinse with cold water. Shake to drain well. In large bowl, stir together seasoning mix, mayonnaise and barbecue sauce. Stir in pasta, corn, chicken and tomatoes. Line serving plate with lettuce leaves. Top with salad mixture; sprinkle with green onions. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate 1 hour to chill.

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Cheating Cheeseburger Macaroni

1-1/2 lbs. ground beef	1 can cheddar cheese soup
1/4 cup chopped onion	1 cup water
1/2 pkg. baby carrots, finely chopped	1/4 cup sour cream, optional
1 can cream of chicken soup	2 cups macaroni, cooked and drained

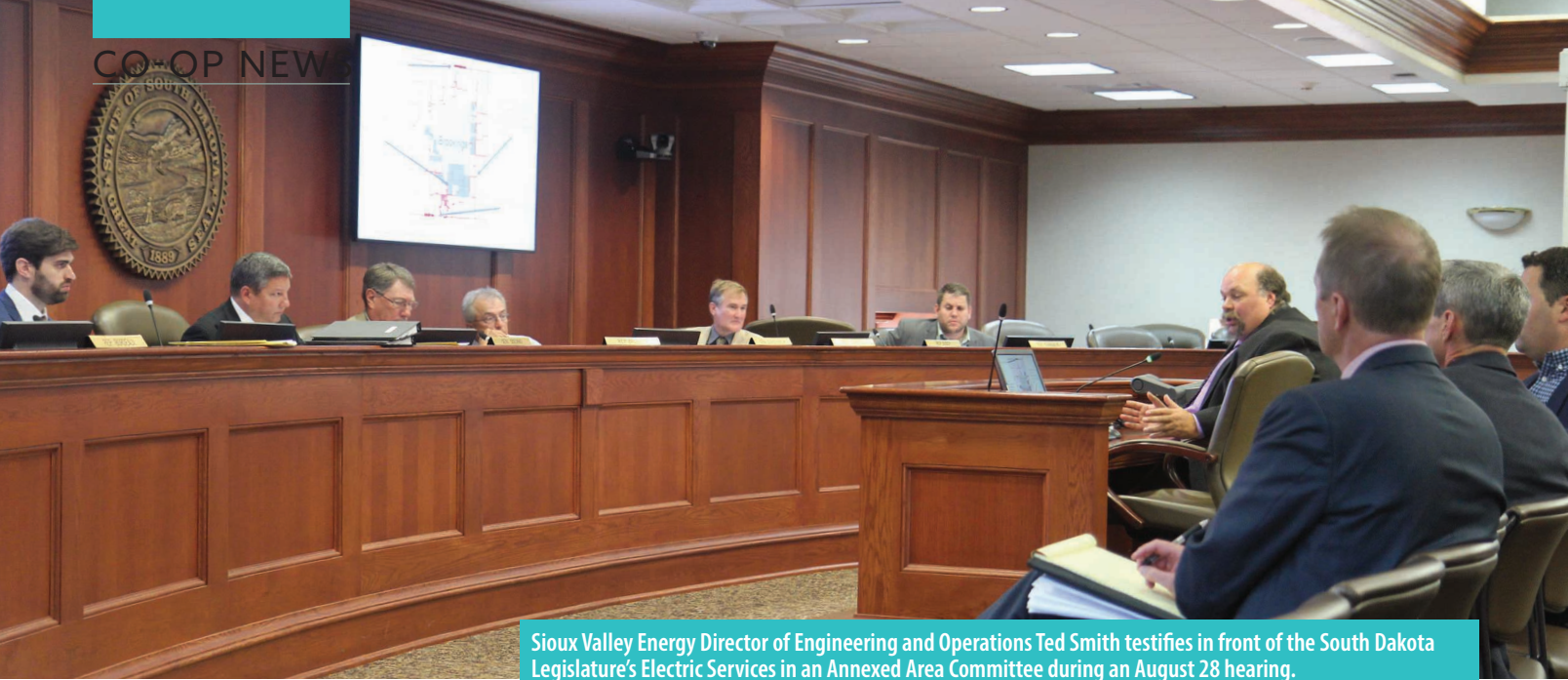
Cook ground beef and onion; drain. Add carrots and cook while macaroni is cooking. Mix soups, water and sour cream; add to hamburger. Simmer over medium heat for a few minutes. Stir in pasta. Serve immediately.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Please send your favorite slow cooker, holiday or soup 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 2019.

All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



Sioux Valley Energy Director of Engineering and Operations Ted Smith testifies in front of the South Dakota Legislature's Electric Services in an Annexed Area Committee during an August 28 hearing.

SEARCHING FOR SUMMER STUDY SOLUTIONS

Electric Co-ops Seek to Protect Service Territory Boundaries During South Dakota Legislative Summer Study Hearings

Ben Dunsmoor

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South Dakota's electric cooperatives are working to find solutions and bring fairness to the state law that governs electric service territory.

The South Dakota Legislature's Electric Services in an Annexed Area Interim Study Committee ('SB 66 Interim Committee') has met twice during the summer to listen to testimony and search for answers regarding an exception in state law which allows municipal electric systems to take the service territory of other utilities in annexed areas. The interim legislative committee, also known as a summer study committee, was formed to examine the issue following the 2019 legislative session.

"We believe that, when given a chance, summer studies can be an effective means of addressing complex subjects and produce workable solutions," South Dakota Rural Electric Association General Manager Ed Anderson said.

There are three types of electric service providers in the state. South Dakota is served by electric cooperatives,

Representatives from several South Dakota co-ops attended the August 28 hearing of the Electric Services in an Annexed Area Committee in Pierre.



investor-owned utilities (i.e. Northwestern Energy, Xcel Energy, and Black Hills Energy), and 35 cities which operate their own municipal electric systems. Electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities must collaborate and agree upon changes in service territory boundaries established by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). However, current law allows the 35 municipal governments with electric utilities to expand their service boundaries into annexed areas and take territory from incumbent electric providers. Electric cooperatives argue that this exception for municipal electric systems favors the government taking of private enterprise.

“This issue is not about annexation. Co-ops support annexation,” Anderson said. “However, annexation and the taking of service territory of an incumbent utility are not tied together. There are too many examples of successful growth without a municipal electric system to think otherwise. The continued vitality of cities large and small across South Dakota is important to electric cooperatives.”

SDREA attempted to change this exception during the 2019 South Dakota Legislative Session, but the issue was referred to a summer study through the passage of Senate Bill 66 (SB 66). The first hearing of the committee was held at the

state capitol in Pierre on July 25. Co-op managers from Sioux Valley Energy, Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, and Clay-Union Electric testified in front of the committee during the July 25 hearing. Those three co-ops have experienced the issue firsthand because the communities of Watertown, Brookings, Madison, and Vermillion all operate their own municipal electric systems.

The second hearing of the committee was held on August 28. During the August meeting, representatives of the electric cooperatives and investor-owned utilities presented responses to a series of research questions that were posed by the SB 66 Interim Committee. The municipal utilities presented testimony during the second hearing and time was also allowed for public testimony. The meeting ended with a discussion regarding possible solutions to the issue of territorial takings by municipal utilities.

“All parties are in agreement that we have very, very good high-quality electric service,” SB 66 Interim Committee Chairman Sen. Alan Solano (R-Rapid City) said during the August 28 hearing. “Good people in South Dakota can sit down and work through a lot of things.”

Solano would like all sides of the issue to bring forward potential solutions to the problems that have been caused by

the inequities in current state law. The SB 66 Interim Committee will review the solutions and work toward a formal legislative recommendation in October or November. Any final recommendation that is adopted by the SB 66 Interim Committee will be considered by the full legislature when lawmakers return to Pierre for the 2020 South Dakota Legislative Session in January.

“We believe the important work of the committee and the integrity of the process is best served when participants on all sides of an issue are committed to working together to find solutions,” Anderson said. “We are committed to working with the committee to find a sustainable solution to a real problem.”

The SB 66 Interim Committee is chaired by Sen. Solano with Rep. Thomas Brunner (R-Nisland) serving as co-chair of the panel. Sen. Lee Schoenbeck (R-Watertown), Sen. Susan Wismer (D-Britton), Sen. Jordan Youngberg (R-Chester), Rep. Shawn Bordeaux (D-Mission), Rep. Kirk Chaffee (R-Whitewood), Rep. Spencer Gosch (R-Glenham), and Rep. Tim Reed (R-Brookings) also serve on the committee.

The committee will hold a third meeting to discuss potential solutions and recommendations later this fall. A date has yet to be determined.



East River Electric Power Cooperative CEO/General Manager Tom Boyko (far right) listens to testimony with other co-op representatives during the August 28 hearing in Pierre.



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association Journeyman Lineman Clint Olson is a member of the Olivia Area Technical Rescue Team. Olson is in the center front holding the dalmation dog.

HELPING OUT AT NEW HEIGHTS AND TIGHT SPACES

Co-op Employees Among Local Emergency Responders

Brenda Kleinjan

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As the chief of the Olivia, Minn., Area Technical Response Team, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association journeyman lineman Clint Olson combines some of his experience with the Danube, Minn.-based cooperative with his 15 years as a member of the Olivia Fire Department.

Olson joined the OFD after being asked repeatedly by then-members of the volunteer fire department.

"To be honest, the main reason for joining the OFD was so I wouldn't be bugged anymore by past firemen asking me to join every time I saw them in public. Looking back, I am glad I did," Olson said.

Olson was tapped to lead the newly formed rescue team which was established in January 2019. The team is specialized in high-angle and low-angle (confined space) rescues.

The team is made up of firemen all from different towns in



Many rural and small town fire departments throughout the Dakotas and western Minnesota rely on volunteers to fill the ranks of the much-needed service.

Renville County, Minn. The county is home of several large ag industries, such as the Southern Minnesota Sugar Beet Cooperative and several large seed plants along with large bin set ups.

“We saw a need for the Technical Response Team years ago and never could spark enough interest from the other towns in the county for funding. Finally, Olivia stepped up and funded the start up,” said Olson. “We firemen have trained in the past with some high-angle rescue trainings but knew it wasn’t proper and knew it’s a need being in a rural community.”

Right after the team was established, the first call came in of a conscious victim who fell 40 feet down into a concrete seed bin.

“There was no access from the bottom. After assessing the situation, we were able to get the victim up using ropes and mechanical advantage systems which consists of pulleys and anchor points through a small four foot by four foot access door. From there, we were able to rig a rope system on the catwalk outside in order to lower the victim to the ground 75 feet below,” Olson said.

“Looking back, this is the first rescue like this in our area and we are glad we had the

training and equipment to complete the task,” Olson said.

There are multiple regular trainings and extra trainings that go along with the fire department and the Olivia Area Technical

“Being in a smaller agriculture and rural community, fire departments in our area are struggling to fill positions, whether its lack of interest or time.”

rescue team, Olson said. The fire department trains twice a month while the OATRT team trains once a month.

Olson notes there is a need for more volunteers in fire departments and ambulance crews.

“Being in a smaller agriculture and rural community, fire departments in our area, are struggling to fill positions, whether its lack of interest or time,” Olson said.

To try to maximize departments’ effectiveness, departments have been training with our surrounding departments and assisting in mutual aid calls.

“I highly recommend if you can join a local EMS in your community the benefits are self-rewarding. The knowledge you learn can be beneficial for you to share with your coworkers also no matter what field you are in.”

The knowledge base that co-op linemen bring to a volunteer fire department can be beneficial, Olson noted, especially when it comes to electrical hazard recognition.

“Multiple trainings have been done internally with our department on what action to take if a live wire is involved and also know where the disconnects are located and types of disconnects need to be opened in order to isolate before the utility company arrives,” Olson said.

Olson is one of three employees of Renville-Sibley who are members of their fire department or technical team. Fellow journeymen linemen Brayden Fischer and Brandon Ochs are volunteer firefighters

“I describe it has a brotherhood similar as a brotherhood at your electric cooperative,” Olson said.



RSCPA Journeyman Lineman Brayden Fischer is in the back row, fourth from right, while Journeyman Lineman Clint Olson is second from the left in the first row. Not pictured is Journeyman Lineman Brandon Ochs.

Todd Hettich Seated As New Northern Electric Director



Todd Hettich was officially seated as a member of the Northern Electric Board of Directors during the September 5 annual meeting.

BATH, SD Northern Electric Cooperative has a new director representing members in western Brown County and portions of Edmunds county around Mina Lake. Todd Hettich was officially seated as director for District 2 during the 72nd Northern Electric Annual Meeting on September 5 in Aberdeen.

Hettich takes over for Wayne Holt of Aberdeen who reached his term limit of serving three consecutive three-year terms on the co-op's Board of Directors.

Hettich graduated from Aberdeen Central High School and served in the United States Air Force for four years as an Air Weapons Controller following high school. Hettich went on to work for General Telephone and Electronics Government Services and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Marshall Islands for five years tracking satellites and supporting missile testing.

Hettich has worked for a major Information Technology company in the aerospace and defense industry for the past 28 years providing applications and infrastructure services to clients. He has lived off the mainland of the U.S. for 12 years and on both the East and West Coast. He has an MBA, BAM and an Information Technology degree.

Hettich and his family moved back to South Dakota in 2003 and they currently live at Mina Lake. He is excited to serve on the Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

"I think I bring a lot of experience from the corporate world in making decisions," Hettich said.

Hettich is married to Christina Hettich and they have three energetic boys who attend the Ipswich School. Hettich also serves on the school board in Ipswich.



**IT'S YOUR CO-OP
YOU HAVE THE POWER**

You are a member-owner of your electric cooperative. That means you have a say in what happens around here. So, use your power and learn how you can get involved.

Together we are

**RE-ENERGIZING
TOMORROW'S LEADERS**



WISHING FARMERS A **SAFE & PRODUCTIVE HARVEST**

Remember, contacting a power line with farm equipment is 100% preventable. Be aware of electrical equipment and always look up and around in the field this fall.



KNOW WHAT TO DO **IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE**

Harvest is a busy time for farmers.

If you do hit a power line — it's important you know exactly how to respond.

STAY PUT

Stay inside the cab. **DO NOT EXIT.** Call 911 and your electric cooperative for help and warn anyone nearby not to approach your equipment. Only exit the machinery after the authorities tell you that it is safe.

WHY

Exiting equipment that has contacted energized power lines can cause electrocution. The downed power lines could be charging the equipment with electricity and, if you step out, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be killed by electric shock.

— **OR** —

JUMP CLEAR

If you must leave the equipment due to fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump with your **FEET TOGETHER** as far as possible from the equipment — then, hop (feet still together) at least 40 feet away.

WHY

Electricity spreads through the ground in ripples. Keeping your feet together prevents one foot from stepping into a higher voltage zone than the other foot, which could cause electrocution.

Together we are
RE-ENERGIZING FARM SAFETY



Northern
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Your Unique Source of Power

Paul Wesslund

NRECA

Electric cooperatives belong to the people they serve – that would be you and your neighbors.

You have a unique story to tell about yourself because you are part of an electric cooperative community. But if you're like a lot of electric co-op members, you might not feel you know enough to tell that story well. So, here's some help.

About one in 10 Americans receives their power the way you do, from an electric co-op. Electric co-ops belong to the people they serve – that would be you and your neighbors. Electric co-ops were first developed in the 1930s because city utilities, owned by investors wanting to make a profit, ignored rural America – they didn't think there was enough money to be earned there. So, people in rural communities met with each other and formed their own local electric co-ops.

October is National Co-op Month, the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate the many ways co-ops are unique and more importantly, the members they serve. This year, we're focusing on our ties to the local community. Your co-op was built by the community, for the community, so let's take a look at what that means for you, the members of the co-op.

Your co-op is here to stay. Since the co-op belongs to the members it serves with safe, reliable, affordable energy, it's not going to move out of the country, or even across the state. It's staying right where it is.

Your co-op knows you. No two co-ops are alike. Across the country, there are more than 900 electric co-ops. Because each of those co-ops belongs to the people who live there, the co-op listens to the community they are a part of. Whether it's


working with the latest energy efficiency technologies or keeping the electric grid safe and secure, your electric co-op can offer solutions that make the most sense locally.

Your co-op cares about your community. The co-op's top priority is to power the community. It is not owned by far-away, or even nearby, investors looking only for a good return on their money. Your co-op also partners with local organizations on community events, fundraisers, youth programs and more. We're your friends and neighbors. By investing in the local community, your electric co-op supports economic development and prosperity for all, right here at home.

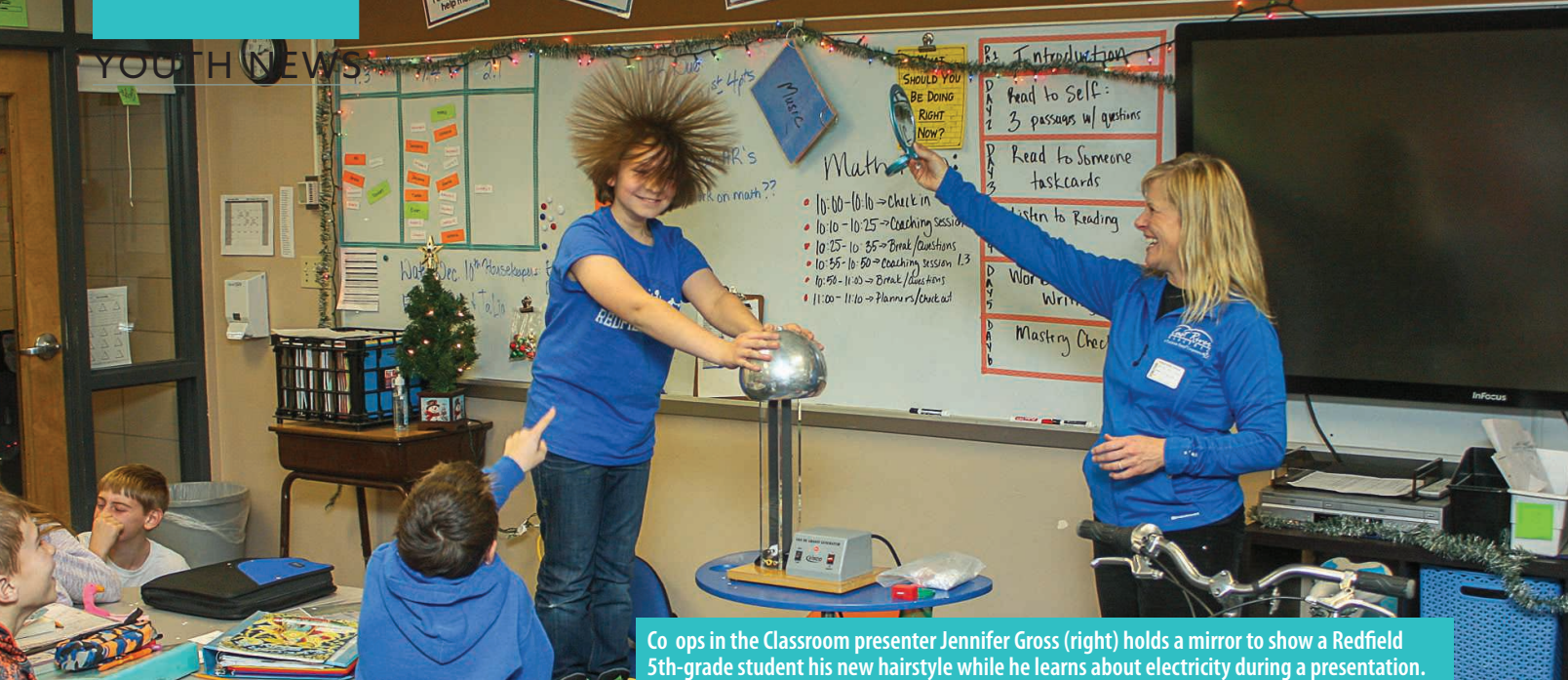
And these are just a few ways you and your electric co-op are one of a kind.



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



At your electric co-op, we're proud to be a part of it, bringing people together by providing energy for all the things you love.



Co-ops in the Classroom presenter Jennifer Gross (right) holds a mirror to show a Redfield 5th-grade student his new hairstyle while he learns about electricity during a presentation.

RE-ENERGIZING THE NEXT GENERATION

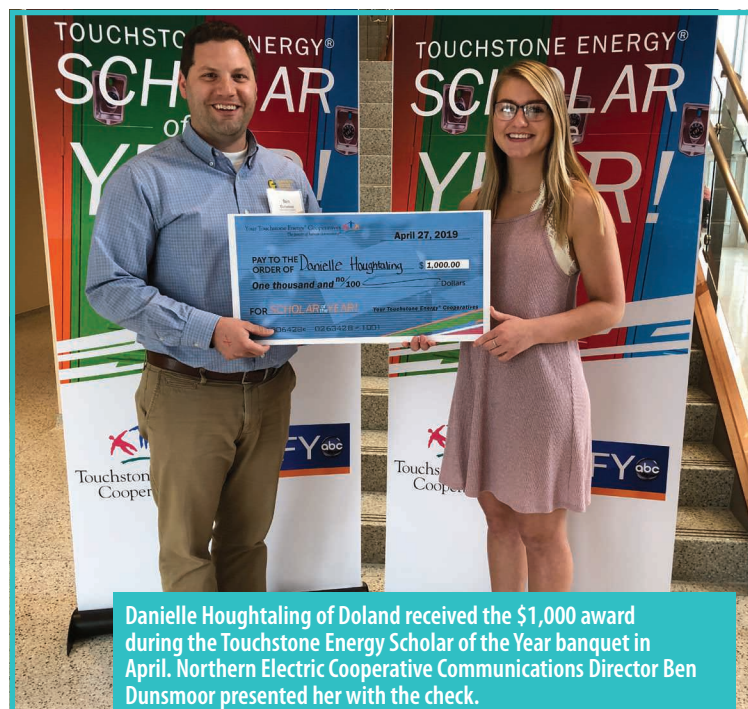
Local Electric Cooperatives, Empowering The Next Generation of Members

Who will lead tomorrow's local electric co-ops?

As students head back to school this fall, it is a great time to ask that question. There is a good chance it will be someone who learned about electricity when they were in grade school or a young student who received a scholarship when they were in high school. These are just some of the ways that Northern Electric Cooperative and your local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are encouraging the next generation of co-op member-owners.

Co-ops in the Classroom

Co-ops in the Classroom helps children learn about electricity through hands-on, interactive lessons. The program teaches students ways to conserve electricity, how to be safe around electricity, helps them recognize where electricity comes from and also introduces them to the cooperative business model and cooperative principles.



Danielle Houghtaling of Doland received the \$1,000 award during the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet in April. Northern Electric Cooperative Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor presented her with the check.

By learning these concepts from an early age, the kids will be better prepared to make wise energy decisions now and be conscientious consumers of energy in the future. Kylie Schwader, a fourth-grade teacher from Howard, South Dakota, sees how the program benefits her students.

“Co-ops in the Classroom brings in different activities to show the kids how electricity works,” Schwader said. “We really enjoy watching the kids connect with what we’ve been learning in science to what they are learning first-hand from the co-ops.”

To schedule a Co-ops in the Classroom presentation at your school this year contact Northern Electric Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor at bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop or call 605-225-0310.

Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week

Another way local electric cooperatives support young members is through the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week program. This long-standing program recognizes students for academic achievement, co-curricular involvement and community service. Scholar of the Week

recipients are selected each week during the school year and are featured on KSFY Television. Students who are selected as the Scholar of the Week also receive \$250 and an invitation to the Scholar of the Year banquet in the spring. During the banquet, the Scholar of the Week recipients in attendance will have the opportunity to win a \$1,000 scholarship and a \$500 scholarship. During the 2019 Scholar of the Year banquet, Jarret Haven of Northwestern Area School was drawn for the \$500 scholarship and Danielle Houghtaling of Doland had her name drawn for the \$1,000 scholarship.

Teachers and advisors can nominate outstanding high school seniors in their school to be named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week by visiting <https://www.yourcooppower.com/scholar-of-the-week/nominate>

Making the Connection

These are just a few examples of how local electric cooperatives are preparing young members for the future. To learn more about Co-ops in the Classroom, the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week program or other youth-focused programs, contact Northern Electric Cooperative.



**THANKS
TO LOCAL
COOPERATIVES
THE FUTURE
LOOKS BRIGHT**

Whether it's teaching kids about electricity through our Co-ops in the Classroom program or awarding scholarships through the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week, your local electric cooperative is doing more to empower tomorrow's leaders.

**RE-ENERGIZING
THE NEXT GENERATION**



The 5th grade class at Northwestern Area School learns how much energy it takes to power a light bulb during a Co-ops in the Classroom presentation.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

September 18-22

Sanford International Golf Tournament, Sioux Falls, SD, 877-748-3376

September 19-21

St. Joseph's Indian School Powwow, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-3452

September 20-22

German-Russian Schmeckfest, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2332

September 21

Annual Watertown Radio Chili Cook-off, Watertown, SD, 605-882-6269

September 21

AgriCulture on the Square, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. MDT, Free, Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-1722

September 21-22

North Country Fiber Fair, Watertown, SD, 605-956-7909

September 21-22

Northern Plains Indian Art Market, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-856-8193

September 21-22

Pioneer Power and Toy Show, Menno, SD, www.pioneeracres.com

September 25-28

Black Hills Plein Air Paint-Out, Hill City, SD, 605-645-7196

September 26-28

Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival, Opens at 10 a.m., Game Lodge grounds, Custer State Park, Custer, SD, 605-255-4541

September 26-29

South Dakota Film Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2697



Photo courtesy: Oahe Electric Cooperative

September 27

56th Annual Buffalo Roundup, 6:15 a.m., Buffalo corrals, Custer State Park, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 27-28

Corn Palace Challenge Bulls and Broncs PRCA Extreme, Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

September 27-29

SiouxperCon, Sioux Falls, SD, www.siouxpercon.com

September 28

Wheelin' to Wall, Wall, SD, 605-685-3882

September 28

Living History Fall Festival, Groton, SD, 605-715-7117

September 29

Fall Volksmarch at Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

October 3-6

South Dakota Festival of Books, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6113

October 5

Harvest Festival, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-4416

October 5

Prairie Village Hobo Marlin Pumpkin Train, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

October 11-13

Black Hills Powwow, Rapid City, SD, 605-341-0925

October 11-13

Black Hills Horse Expo, Rapid City, SD

October 19

4th Annual Fall Festival, East Pierre Landscape and Garden Center, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pierre, SD, 605-224-8832

October 19-January 5

Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

October 25-27

Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

October 31-November 2

Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

November 9

Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters 22nd Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

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.