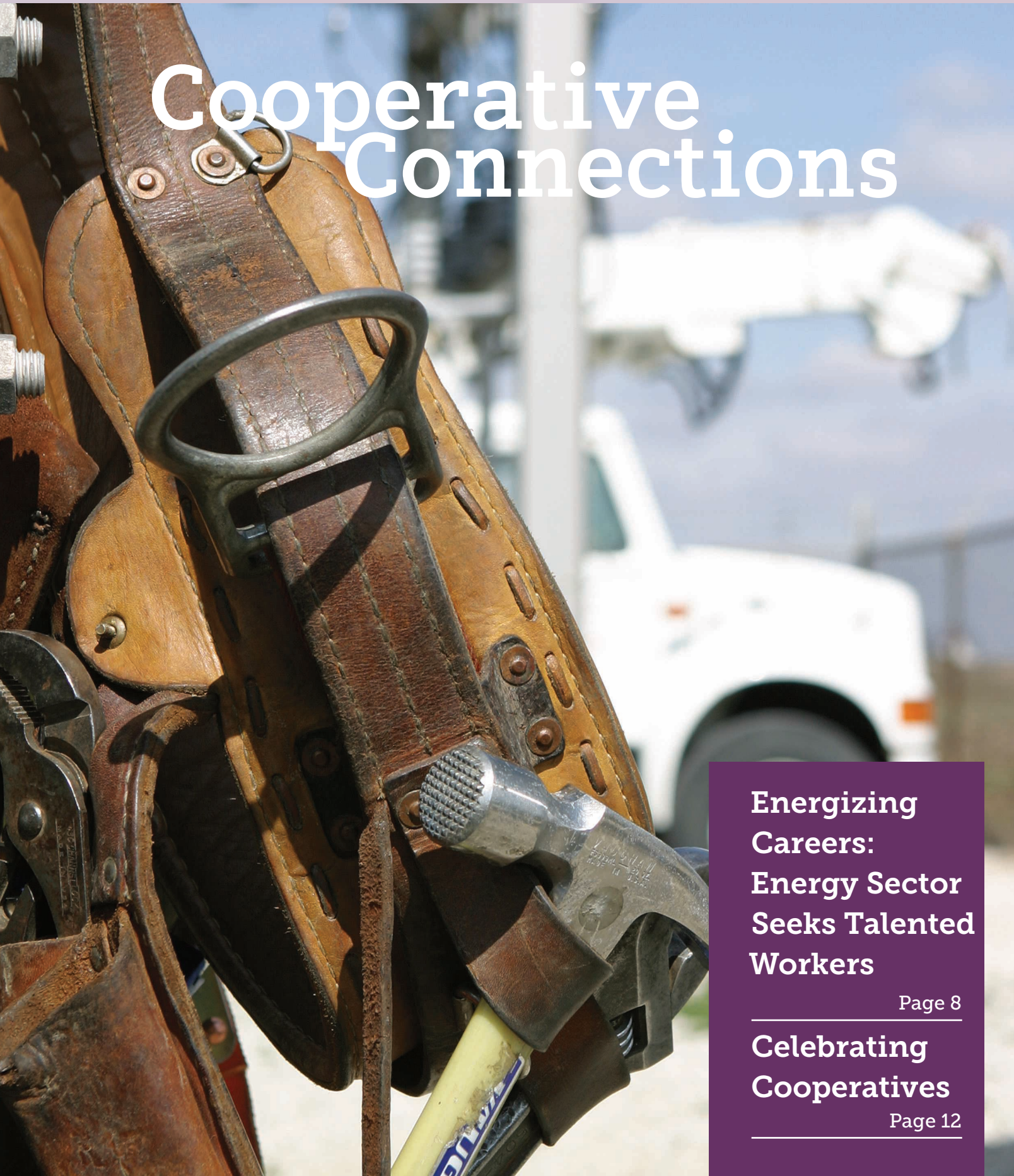
Black Hills Electric
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
October 2018 Vol. 19 No. 6

Cooperative Connections



Energizing Careers: Energy Sector Seeks Talented Workers

Page 8

Celebrating Cooperatives

Page 12

Affordable Clean Energy Rule

Will new rule benefit BHEC?

Walker Witt

CEO and General Manager
wwitt@bhec.coop

At first blush, replacing the Clean Power Plan with the proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule is a step in the right direction...

Last month I touched on some of the education and training that is required to be a line worker at your co-op. All of the education and training requirements of our lineman are necessary and beneficial. Many of those requirements are the result of government regulations. Governmental regulations have been historically essential for providing safety and health in the workplace and reasonable environmental protections. I haven't written on regulations for some time, and to be truthful, part of the reason is the divisiveness and partisanship that just having the discussion invokes. When I write on the impact of regulations, my purpose is to inform the membership of the impact that the regulation has on the co-op's ability to meet it's mission of providing safe and reliably electric service at a reasonable cost. The purpose is not to state a political position or perspective. So with that said, let's begin the regulatory discussion

On August 21st, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed the Affordable Clean Energy, or ACE, rule to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal-fired electric power plants in an effort to replace the Clean Power Plan, which was stayed by the U.S. Supreme Court in February 2016. Like most regulatory proposals, ACE is convoluted and complicated. The Federal Registry Notice with the proposal is over 230 pages long.

To analyze what the rule means to electric co-ops, I look to our industry experts and in this case, it is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson made the following statement regarding ACE—"The proposed rule appears to provide electric cooperatives with a more achievable plan that adheres to EPA's historic approach to using the Clean Air Act. This is necessary to provide electric co-ops the certainty and flexibility they need to meet their consumer-members' local energy needs. It is imperative that EPA's rules recognize the investment that cooperative members have made in power plants and that there is a prudent path forward for 42 million consumers to benefit from those investments. Electric cooperatives are built by, and belong to the communities that they serve. Because of this ownership structure, there are no shareholders to shoulder the weight of early power plant closures. The Clean Power Plan would have resulted in stranded assets and stranded debt, significantly increasing electricity costs for many consumers. At the same time, co-ops are responding to their members' needs and market forces affecting the entire electric power sector. The electric cooperative fuel mix for providing electricity is changing, with increased investments in natural gas and renewables."

I have just begun to educate myself as to all of the impacts of this rule. I have read the EPA's Fact Sheets and have started the laborious process of reading and analyzing the rule itself. I urge all that are interested in the impact of this rule to do the same.

At first blush, replacing the Clean Power Plan with the proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule is a step in the right direction to help ensure that your co-op continues to meet its mission of providing safe and reliably electric service at a reasonable cost.

Black Hills Electric
Cooperative Connections

(ISSN No. 1531-104X)

Board President: Alan Bishop

Board of Directors

Dennis Quivey – Vice President
Gary Kluthe – Secretary
Don Andersen – Assistant Secretary
Jim Preston – Treasurer
Al Perry
Dave Lindblom

CEO and General Manager: Walker Witt – wwitt@bhec.coop

Manager of Operations – Bill Brisk – billb@bhec.coop

System Coordinator – Jesse Sorenson – jsorenson@bhec.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Sammi Langendorf – slang@bhec.coop

Manager of Marketing and Member Services and *Cooperative Connections* Editor: Mike Chase – mchase@bhec.coop

BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 25191 Cooperative Way, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at www.bhec.coop.

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found on-line at http://www. ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202 690-7442) or e-mail at program. intake@usda.gov.

Subscription information: Black Hills Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for $12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 25191 Cooperative Way, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Black Hills Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730- 0792. Address all other correspondence to: Cooperative Connections, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792 Telephone: (605) 673-4461; Fax: (605) 673-3147; e-mail: bhec@bhec.coop; website: www.bhec.coop

Serving at the fair

BHEC CEO Walker Witt, front right, loads a bun with smoked pork loin during the Fall River County Fair Chuck Wagon Feed. Helping serve the meal are BHEC Board Vice President Dennis Quivey and Don Andersen, board assistant secretary. The co-op co-sponsors the meal each year.

Heat rate begins 30th season

When Black Hills Electric Cooperative began offering a lower rate for electric heat 30 years ago, 723 members jumped at the chance to save money on their heating bills. Today, almost 3,800 members are enjoying the benefits of the cooperative's electric heat rate.

Heat sales for that initial season were 5,328,238 kilowatt-hours. Last heating season, BHEC's members purchased 37,438,554 kilowatt-hours used for heat and saved a total of almost $2 million in heating costs when compared to the co-op's residential rate.

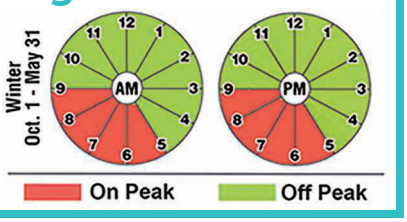
To take advantage of the lower rate for electric heat, electricity must be the primary energy used for heating. Members must have a second meter installed that records only the energy used for permanently installed electric heat. The rate is from October 1 through April 30 each year.

One problem that the co-op encounters each year is that some members turn off the breaker that provides voltage to the heat meter. Without voltage, it does not record energy being used and that energy is then billed at the regular rate instead of the lower rate.

The heat meter breaker is located in the main breaker panel and is usually marked with a red dot or the letters HM written beside it. Please make sure that breaker is turned on prior to the start of the heating season on Monday, October 1.

Demand Periods Change October 1

BHEC's two winter on-peak demand periods begin on Monday, October 1, this year. The on-peak periods are Monday through Friday from 5-9 a.m. and from 5-9 p.m. Using large loads, such as dryer, water heater and heat during off-peak times will save you money.



S.D. Fire Marshal: Know That Fires Can Start Anywhere

This year's Fire Prevention Week encourages people to be mindful that fires can start anywhere. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13 and will be observed by fire departments throughout South Dakota. This year's theme is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware – fire can happen anywhere."

"It is easy to take fire safety for granted, especially if we are staying in a new hotel or working in a new building," says State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman. "But it is important to be aware of your surroundings and know where the exits are if a fire starts."

Merriman says the three "L's" in this year's theme signify essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire:

- Look for places fire can start
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
- Learn two ways out of each room

At the same time, Merriman says individuals and families should make sure they have two ways out of their home in case of fire. He says people need to remember that fires can start anywhere in the home due to an electrical problem or another issue.

"Families should hold fire drills in their homes at least twice a year; once during the day and another time at night," Merriman says. "It is important that everyone, especially children, know how to get out of a burning structure using more than one exit."

Another emphasis during the week will be the use of smoke alarms. Merriman says the importance of smoke alarms can't be stressed enough.

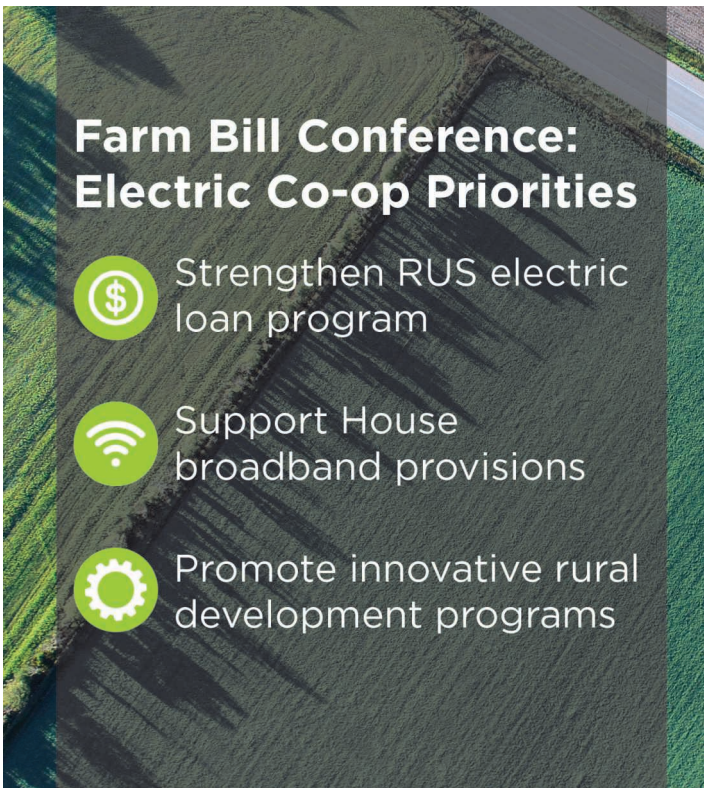
"We have seen too many house fires where there were no smoke alarms present or the alarms in the homes were not properly working," he says. "Smoke alarms can help save lives. But they do no good when not properly maintained."

Smoke alarm messages for this week include:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the Fire Department from outside the home.

To learn more, go to www.fireprevention week.org.

The state Fire Marshal's Office is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

"Don't plant trees below power lines."

Erin Kangas, 10 years old

Erin is the daughter of Andrew and Gail Kangas, Lake Norden, S.D. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake, 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.

Perfect Pasta

Pasta Rings and Deviled Ham Salad

1 (7oz.) pkg. macaroni rings, cooked and drained
2 cups ground cooked ham
3 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
1 cup finely chopped celery
1/3 cup dill pickle relish
1-1/4 cups mayonnaise
1 tsp. mustard
1/4 tsp. pepper

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Chill thoroughly before serving.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Hamburger-Macaroni Casserole

1 lb. ground beef, do not brown
1 T. instant onion
1/2 cup diced celery
1/2 cup diced green pepper
1 cup uncooked macaroni
1 can tomato soup
1 can cheese soup
1 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
1/4 T. basil, optional

Combine all ingredients in casserole; refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour. Serves 6.

Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, SD

Easy Chicken Noodle Dish

1/3 cup chopped onion
1 T. butter
3 cups noodles, uncooked
2-3/4 cups chicken broth
1/4 tsp. lemon extract
1 tsp. salt
1 cup sour cream
2 cups cooked chicken
1/4 cup silvered almonds
3 T. snipped parsley

Sauté onion in butter. Add noodles, chicken broth, extract and salt. Bring to a boil. Cover and cook on low heat for 25 minutes or until noodles are tender. Stir in sour cream, chicken, almonds and parsley. Serve hot in bowls. Serves 4.

Verna Knapp, Waubay, SD

Creamy Parmesa and Sun-dried Tomato Chicken Penne

2 cups penne pasta
2 T. butter
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1 lb. chicken tenders
1 cup half-and-half
2 T. cornstarch
1 (14.5 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes, undrained
1/4 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes
1 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Italian Seasoning
1/2 tsp. McCormick® California Style Onion Powder
1/2 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Sicilian Sea Salt
1/4 tsp. McCormick Gourmet™ Organic Black Pepper, Coarse Ground
3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, melt butter in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add garlic; cook and stir 30 seconds. Add chicken; cook and stir 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Mix half-and-half and cornstarch in small bowl until smooth. Add to skillet along with tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes, seasonings and Parmesan cheese. Bring to boil, stirring constantly with wire whisk until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Stir in pasta; toss gently to coat. Serve with additional Parmesan cheese, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

Shrimp variation: Use 1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined, in place of the chicken. Cook and stir shrimp in melted butter 2 minutes. Continue as directed.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 292, Total Fat 12g, Saturated Fat 7g, Cholesterol 66mg, Sodium 486mg, Protein 22g, Carbohydrates 24g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Please send your favorite slow cooker, holiday favorite 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Do We Owe You Money? BHEC's Missing Persons List

This following list contains the names of former Black Hills Electric Cooperative members whose capital credit checks have not been cashed or were returned to us. Please review the list and if you know anyone listed, or his or her heirs, please contact BHEC at 605-673-4461or 1-800-742-0085.

A & B Company
Frances D. Abraham
A-C Company
W. J. or Viola E. Ackerman
Zella Ackermann Estate
Robert J. Adamczcwski
Karla L. Adams
Eathel M. Anderson Estate
Gary Adrian
Agsco Dakota Corp.
Danny W. Akers
Steven F. Albin
Abbie G. Ales
Andrea Andersen
Donald E. Andersen
Mark Andersen
Michael A. or Joan E. Andersen
Dennis L. or Carol E. Anderson
Joan S. Anderson Estate
Gunnar Anderson
Jack W. Anderson
Jonathan D. or Janet Anderson
Kenneth or Jill Anderson
Mark V. or Amy M. Anderson
Roger Anderson
Ronald D. Anderson
Steve Anderson
Richard Applegate
David Armlovich
William E. Armstrong, Jr.
Gregory F. or Ann Arnold
Thomas S. or Debra Arttus
W. C. or Oleonna Ash
Gertrude Babcock
David A. Bailey
Randall G. Bailey
Diane Baird Giffin
Edith A. Baker
Ron Baker
James or Jane Bancroft
Philip or Laurel Bangs
Judith Barbour Estate
Kim Barney
Mary Barney
Patricia Barrett
James Basler
Allison V. Bates
Fred R. or Beulah Bauer Estate
Kevin Bauer
Duane R. or Amy A. Bauerle
Chris Baxter
David R. or Donna K. Baxter
Willard F. Beard
Beaver Creek Ranch
Jerry D. Becking
Mary Beckwith
Patti G. Behrens
Theresa Bennington
Karen Benson March
James O. Bentley Estate
W. J. or Donna Berkemeier
Cindy Bernal
James T. Bernard
Bob Besse
Bicentennial Bar
Bryon Biesman
Patrick Bigelbach
Jill R. Bishop
Robert D. Bishop
Carl R. or Susan Bivens
Black Hills Hunt Club
Bonnie J. Blake
Jeff or Patti Bleil
Aleks N. Block
James A. or Margaret B. Bloom
Herman or Donna Blote
William J. Blow
Robert E. or Nancy J. Boes
Ronald D. Bohnet
Scott Bolton
Michael C. Bonde
John or Dalene Boswell
Al C. Bosworth
Dean or Natalie Bowar
Linda G. Bowes
Robert M. or Linda Boyd
Boys Club Home
Guy J. or Lori Brabec
H. Richard Bray
Donald K. Brazier
Gregg or Kris A. Brenna
Larry M. Briggs
Eugene M. Britton
K. B. Broadway, Jr.
Mike Brooking
Earl R. Brown
James R. or Peggy Brown
Julie Brown
Paul M. or Kathy Brown
Rory or Wanda Brown
Tracie Brumagin Estate
Michael A. Brustad
Jon A. Bucholz
Danny V. Buckley
Kenneth M. Bue
Ann Burk
Ted M. Burkes
Norman Burnham
Ida M. Burnor
Wilma J. Burr
Reginald D. Burt
Rodney Busetti
Robert D. or Beryl K. Bushong
Gary or Carol A. Bye
Alan E. or Laura N. Bynum
C & J Sanders Water Co., Inc
Kent J. Cadieux
Kurt Caldwell
Brian T. Camburn
Bruce or Susan Campbell
Ronald E. Campbell
Stanley W. Campbell
Matt Canfield
Diane Cannon
Darrell Card
Larena Caretto Estate
Kenneth V. or Judith Carey
Robert S. or Judith Carey
Dan Carlson
Joanna Carlson
Mike or Rhonda Carlson
Thomas W. or Helen Carrico
Lyle or Jackie Carson
Russell C. Case
Ric or Debi A. Caskey
Emory Caudill
Cellular One of Rapid City
Mike M. Chapman
Thomas R. Chapman
Minnie Chase
Oren R. Child
Marcelle Childs
Marie A Christian
Marjorie R. Christiansen
Ray Christopherson
Donald Church
El or Jacquelin Church
David J. Chybowski
Circle T Enterprises
Jean Cisneros
L. W. Clark
Michael or Cheryl Clark
Dana L. Climenti
Charles or Betty Clutts
Cobb Cattle Company
Cody Ranch
Irma Coisman
Craig or Lori Comer
Ron Conn
Beth Connelly
Keith Conrad
Donald or Teresa Cook
Verlie J. Cooper
Jerry Cope
Lucille Coppess
John L. Corbett
Reynold J. Counts Estate
Fern Covell
June Covington
Charles A. Cox
Craig M. Parkhurst
John or Lisa Crawford
R. W. Creighton
David E. or Kathleen J. Crocker
Thomas M. Cronn
Daniel R. Crow
Corrin Cullum
Mary E. Cummings
John D. or Dorothy M. Curl
Randy L. Curry
Custer Lumber Co.
Robert V. Czosnyka
D & H Concrete Products
Anita Dahlberg
Doris M. Daley
Dennis Daly
Thomas E. Dam
Donald E. Daniels
Irene M. Danks
Michael O. Davis
Robert W. Davis or Jane R. Zukerberg
John (Jack) W. Davison
William Dearhamer
Donald H. Deaton Jr
Deer Mtn Resort Prop, Inc
Arlan or Jean Dejong
Bill or Twila Deming
Laura Dennis Kinser

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 6)

Craig Deuter
Art Dexter
Neil J. Dietrick
Roger or Liz Dixon
Charles D. Dodd
Jeanette F. Dohn Estate
Sandra Domen
Daryl G. Dressler
Joann Drummond
Walter Drummonds
Donald D. or Ruby S. Dunbar
Carlyle Durbin
Bob J. or Joan M. Duryea
Lyle Duvall
Thomas T. or Ann M. Dyer
Eagle Mats, Inc.
Ken (James) Eby
Donna Ecker
R. L. Edgar
William I. or Jeannine M. Egan
Elk Haven Trading Post
Dr. John R. Ellenbecker
James L. or Julia Ellison
Charles W. Eng
David L. or Starr Enyeart
Leo Erck
Eugene A. Erickson
Evelyn M. Erickson Estate
Lloyd G. Erickson
Philip R. Ertel
Nancy Etzkorn Yargus
Evans Financial Corp
Mary L. Everts
Suzanne Fahey Cox
Lynnette Fahy
Ellen K. Farrar
Robert A. Farrar
Joanne Farrell-Anderson
Eldon D. or Betty Fenicle
Laurel G. Fess
Brad or Jimi Fiedler
Graydon Filyk
Bernard Fink
Mark Fisher
John J. Fitzgerald
L. J. Fitzgibbon
James or Annette Fleming
Daniel Fletcher
Doug Fletcher
James E. Fletcher
David A. or Colleen Forde
Don L. Foster Estate
James Foster
Mark S. Foster
Gale M. Fox, Sr.
Mabel R. Frame
Joan Frasure
James Fredrickson
Paul H. Freeman
Peter Froelich
Mary Fuchs
Brenda K. Fuller
Bradley C. or Donna M. Funk
Marjorie E. Gaffin
Richard F. Galbraith
Les M. Galles
Ed Gambal
Rodney Gamet
Cheryl A. Gann
O. B. or Ardell Gann
George Gates Estate
Victoria A. Gednalske
Vernon or Dorothy Geiger
Frank or Ralone Gengler
Lona J. Geranen
Coy R. or Susan A. Getman
Lowell Gifford
Clare J. Gilchrist
Gillette Truck Sales, Inc.
Dewayne Glassgow
Joyce A. Glatt
Kimball E. Goddard
Leroy Godsell
Shirley M. Goedken
Eric Gompertz
Jamie Gonzalez or Raul Munoz
Carl V. or Fay S. Good
Jerry or Bonnie Goodroad
Rick Gottschalk
Russel or Jacqueline Gould
Kenneth Gourley Estate
Stephen L. Graf
William T. Gray
Carol A. Green
Maynard P. Green
Phillip G. or Nancy Green
Perry or Helen Grimm Estate
Willis L. Gross
Gene Grosz
Harry Groves
Marjory J. Grubl-Mcleod
Larrie A. Gulden
Sandra Gunderson
Harold J. or Kathy Gutierrez
Esaja Haataja
Ellis C. or Emma Hackett
Jack S. Hagan
Doris V. Hagen
Tim Hagen
Dave Haggar
Kathy Haider
Morris Hallett
Delmar or Joan Hamiel
Betty Hamm
Jeffery Hanes
Carol Hanna
Lee Hansen
Barbara Hanson
Grace Hanson
Patty Hanson
John or Noreen Hanzel
Randy G. or Joan Harms
Karen Harr
Carole Harris
Niles K. Harris
Ella Hart
Edna Harverd
Jane Haskvitz
Jeffrey Hauck
Tim Haugen
Sid R. Haux
Richard K. Hawthorne
John or Terri Headrick
Pat Heathershaw
Robert A. Hellier
Bethel Henderson
James E. or Carolyn Henderson
Terry Hendricksen
Steven Hendrickson
Debbie Henehan
Fred Henry
Alvin S. Herman, Jr.
Kenneth Herman
Gary Herra
Eva Hertel
Douglas B. Hesnard
Doyle W. or Maureen Hester
William T. Hewlett
Hidden Valley Ranch
Jerry Higgins
High Pines Association
Helmi J. Hill
Richard or Connie Hilliker
Marie Hill-Underwood
John J. Hinkle
David or Tanya Hinman
Leslie or Paul Hodges
Raymond T. Hoffmann
John W. or Linda L. Hofman
John Hohenthaner
Steve A. Holder
Roger Holvig
Jonathan or Debora Hooper
Margaret Horton
Nolan Horton
Mark L. Hoskey
J. Craig Hostetler
Patti Houge
Bill R. or Donna J. Howard
Marilyn B. Howard
Janice T. Hubbard
Don Huber
R. N. Huckfeldt
Betty Hughes
Billy M. Hughes
Donald or Dana Hughes
Beulah J. Hull Estate
Gordon M. Hull Estate
Robert or Roslyn Hurd
Donald J. or Denise Huso
John A. Hutt Estate
Steve Hyde
John Hynes
Igloo Grain Storage
Cindy Irrgang
Mike or Beverly Irwin
Wayne Iverson
Jack Rabbit Lines
Francis K. Jackson
Garold Jackson
James or Sheryl Jackson
Steven C. Jacobson
Arlow, Sr. or Joyce Jansen
Dennis Jantz
Leander A. or Harry Jassmann
James or Gloria Jelinek
Kathy Jensen
Norman L. Jensen
Peggy Jindrich
Johnson Bar 5 Ranch, Inc
Dorothy A. Johnson
Alice Johnson Estate
James C. Johnson
Junior Johnson
Kenneth or Jacqueline Johnson
Michael R. or Carolyn Johnson
Randal S. Johnson
Rodney E. Johnson
Rodney K. or Aimee Johnson
Stephen E. Johnson
Steve Johnson
Tom Johnston
David P. Jones
Randal F. Jones
Robert O. Jones
Frances Jordan
Robert Julson
K. L. IV, Inc
Homer Kandaras
Ronald Kazmierczak
Jeffery Kearns
Kelly Keller

(Continued on page 10)

Line workers account for a portion of energy-related careers.

ENERGIZED JOBS

Careers in Energy Fields Hold Potential

Brenda Kleinjan
editor@sdrea.coop

America's energy sector looks to put a spotlight on careers within the field during Careers in Energy Week Oct. 15-19.

According to information from the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD), key jobs in the energy workforce – line workers, technicians, plant/field operators and engineers – represent 44 percent of the energy workforce. And, demand for these jobs has remained steady.

Industry leaders work to ensure there is a balance in the supply of qualified workers with specific demands. The goal is to have the right number of workers with the right skills at the right time and in the right place.

A 2015 CEWD report noted that while the workforce is getting younger in these key jobs, gaps still exist for engineers and technicians and, in some areas, especially small, more rural areas, utilities, in particular can struggle with attracting

Jobs in the energy sector hold potential for many seeking careers.

Photo by iStock/Getty Images/Theerapong28

talent and replacing expertise lost by retiring workers.

According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, more than 116,000 people work as electrical power line installers and repairers. In South Dakota 850 people have such jobs, representing about 2.04 jobs per 100,000 jobs in the state, ranking it among the highest location quotients in the nation. (The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.)

Another visible energy job in the area deals with wind energy. According to United States Department of Labor statistics, there are 4,390 wind turbine service technicians nationwide, with 510 calling the Dakotas and Minnesota home.

The *U.S. Energy and Employment Report* released in May 2018 by the National Association of State Energy Officials and the Energy Futures Initiative noted that the traditional energy and energy efficiency sectors employed approximately 6.5 million Americans out of a total workforce of approximately 145 million. The report noted this was a 2 percent increase from the previous year, adding 133,000 net new jobs.

The report noted that within the traditional energy sector, electric power generation and fuels directly employed more than 1.9 million workers in 2017, an increase of 15,000 jobs from 2016. In 2017, 55 percent – or 1.1 million – of these employees worked in traditional coal, oil and gas electric power generation and fuels, while almost 800,000 workers were employed in other generation technologies including renewables, nuclear and natural gas.

Electric power generation and fuels directly employed more than 1.9 million workers in 2017.

Firms covered by the survey anticipate about a 6 percent growth in jobs in 2018.

But while these sectors are anticipating growth, more than 70 percent of employers reported difficulty in hiring qualified workers in the past 12 months.

Two South Dakota technical schools – Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D., and Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., offer energy-sector career training and have received national recognition for the educational programs and Minnesota's technical schools have strong energy-related programs.

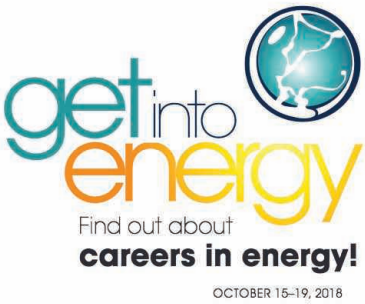


Photo by Jessie Tucker/West Central Electric

Among energy sector workers are the nation's 4,300 wind service technicians, 510 of which are in the Dakotas and Minnesota.

Photo by iStock/Getty Images/ aydinmutlu

(Continued from page 7)

William Keller
Barbara Kelley Estate
James Kelley
Kelley Trust
Grant W. or Susan R. Kern
Merlin Kesselring
Bobby W. Kesterson
Robert H. Kesterson
Justin King
Verlyn King
Dora Kirk Estate
Mari L. Kirk
Fritz Klausman
Robert L. Klawon
Neal or Vicki Klein
Robert Klein
Kevin C. Kleister
Donald H. or Barbara L. Kline
Marc Klippenstein
Darcy or Mary A. Knight
Craig K. Knock
Fred C. Knuth
Steven C. Knutson
John F. Kobbeman
Debbie or Jerry Kobes
Russ C. or Jean Koehler
David Kolander
Jeff Kolesar
Bobby Kopfmann
John or Nellie Kosine
Elmer E. Koskela
Verdis C. Krisher
James Kruse
Fred Kuypers
Steven L. or Mary Lackie
Carroll Lane
Kent Langum
Carlton Larsen Estate
Blaine Larson
Larson Bros TV & Appliance
David B. or Ila P. Larson
Fred or Martha C. Larson
Margaret Larson
Marvin Larson
Thomas Larson
Jeffrey or Marsha L. Leaf
Karil Lebeau
C. Fredrick or Lenna Lee
Gary or Kathy Leis
James or Pat Lembke
Mike Lemme
Conchita P. Leonard
James S. or Sherry Lewis
Bob Lieberman
Bill Liebig
Donald B. Liechti
Milton P. Lien
Ralph D. Lillie, Jr.
Evan Lilygren Estate
Ronald D. Liming
Lori Linde
Garry Lindley
Marc Loken
Robert J. Lopez
Steve Lopez
Clifton or Betty Love
Dave Luckett
Marlys Lund
Bruce Lundie
Carole Lundstrom
Bruce F. Lyons
Dr. John MacLeannan
Scott Macdonald
Cheyl Macken
Debora K. Mackey
Steve M. or Carol Maher
Timothy A. Malchow
Henry Malik
Kenric D. Malmberg
Patricia or Orval Mammenga
Greg or Kate Manke
Jay or Colleen Manke
Marianna Manton
Paul or Arlene Mardian
Raylene Markitan
Richard or Donna Marquardt
Charles Martin
John or Renee Martin
Ruben H. Martinez
Norma A. Mary
Roy or Cathy Mask
James R. Mathers
Joyce A. Matrisciano
A. J. Maurer, Jr.
Delores May
James K. McAtee
Jerry D. or Vera McAtee
Lawrence McCall
Delno McCallam
Dennis R. or Marilyn McCarty
Bruce D. or Tari J. McClung
Enid L. McClure
Debra or Louis McCollor
Paul M. McCombs
Charles McDonald Estate
George or Carol McGee
Helen McGeeney
Ronald L. McGinnis
Kent J. McGrew
Wayne McNeil
Medea Real Estate
Michael D. or Donna Mefferd
Bob Meier
Lucille E. Meier Estate
Edith Mellgren Estate
Marc Melucas
Robert L. Menzel
Donovan J. Merkel
Michael Messmer
Jacqueline Metz
Darwin H. or Mabel Meyer
Dorothy D. Meyer Woessner
Dennis E. or Cindy Meyers
Gary B. or Twyla A. Miller
James F. Miller
Robert or Candace Miller
Thomas W. or Marie Miller
Debbie K. Mills
Dennis M. Mills
Robert Mines
William Mink
Dave Misener
William P. Mitchell
Charles J. Mize
Virginia Moffit
Keith L. Moore
Robert E. Moore
Michael L. Moorehouse
Sue Morava
Charles H. or Robin L. Morgan
Clarence H. Morgan
Raymond Morin
James E. Morris
Marcus Munoz
Robert S. Murner
Marilyn L. Murray
William Musson
Keith or Tracy Myers
Randy Myers
Larry B. or Bonnie Naylor
Garry or Sharon Neiderworder
Daniel A. Nelson
Darrel S. Nelson
Jon Nelson
Keith D. or Virginia M. Nelson
W. G. Neuberger
Morgan L. Newman
Ruby A. Newman
Don Niblack
Hoyt, Jr. or Lois Nicholas
Myron A. Nickell
Josephine M. Nielsen Estate
Adam Nieratko
Johnny Nolen
Norwest Bank
Dolris O'Daniel
Sherry M. Olofson
John or Mary Olovich
Mike or Marlene A. Olson
Daniel L. Orwig
Greg L. Osborne
Bernard A. Owen
Dennis or Cathy Paclik
Darwin Paczowski
David A. Parker
Frank S. or R. M. Parker
Dave Parks
Craig Parlet
Eleanor Parliament
Stuart E. Parvin
Daniel D. Patton
Daniel D. or Gail Patton
Rick or Kathryn L. Paulsen
M. M. Pearson
Donald D. Peery
Gracie Pelissier
Perpetual Service Corp
Wayne N. Peterson
Terry A. Petrick
Elra E. Pigsley
Delbert L. Plooster
Randy E. Polk
Janet Porter
Larry Puckett
Frances A. Pudwill
Kenn A. Pugh
Pamella Pullen
Ray or Patricia Putney
Alice Raesly
Merlene Rank
Rapid Ride Go Kart Park
Duane or Cinda Rau
Darlene E. Ray
Robert T. or Doris I. Read
RealtyWorld
Mamie Reany
Lois Redding
Conrad G. Redlin
Martin C. or Kathleen Redman
Jeffrey A. Reed
Daniel G. or Susan Reimer
Myles or Nancy Reiner
Vicky Reiner
P. Ames Reinhold
Dennis S. Reinke
Jan Remily
Sandy Reub
Robert W. Reynolds
Howard L. Richardson
Stanley Rinard
Robert Risdall
Joe Rivera

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 10)

Elbert or Winifred Robberson
Wesley M. Robbins
Lorraine M. Roberts
Orville D. Roberts
John A. or Carol J. Robertson
Jerry Robinson
Mary Robinson
Terese Roeder
Robert or Carole Rogers
Michael Roiger
Nancy Roney-Hruska
Donald P. or Debbie Roosa
Randy Rosane
Roger Rose
Louis J. Rosnoski
Teri or Tim Rossknecht
Phillip Roth
James Rothstein
Mary Rueffert Jordon
Eugene or Joetta Rumpza
Rushmore State Bank
William J. or Evelyn Russell
Debbie Ryman
John Sabo
Merril Sailer
Harold Salathe
Robert Salsbery
Brian H. Sanderson
Gary L. Sayer
Charles D. Scarbrough
Dennis Schladweiler
Ruth Schleicher-Fraser
Barry Schoen
Wesley Schofield
Rodney W. Schroeder
Carroll or Mona Schultz
Jeffrey Schultz
Nellie Schultz
Tom Schultz
Wayne M. Schultz
E. G. Schumacher Estate
Gerald Schumacher
Glen Schut
Margaret A. Schwartz
Dennis or Joden Scott
Elsie M. Scott
Leota C. Scott
Michael E. Scott
Jack W. or Ruby J. Seat
Judy See-McGowan
Irvin Severson
Herbert Shaffer
Margaret J. Sharkey
Jim Shaw
Alta Shell
Robert or Mary A. Simmons
David F. or Joan Simons
Tim or Deanna Simonson
Singletree Company
R. Gary Skinner
Jordan M. Small
Ada Smith Estate
Eva J. Smith
Jane or Dale E. Smith
Herb Smith, Jr.
Michael J. or Ruby Smith
Michiele Smith
Sally Smith
Ted J. Smith
William E. Smith
Jeanne K. Smith-Heitz
Lea Snook
James A. Snyder
John K. or Barbara Snyder
Lynn Snyder
John H. or Marcia Solheim
Leland I. Sorensen
Lloyd E. Soske Estate
Rick Soyland
Wilma Sparks Estate
Harold Spaulding
John C. Spease Estate
Shawn Spencer
Wayne Splitt
Les Stadel
Louis Staedtler
George Stahl
Loyd E. or Susan Stahl
Stamper Black Hills Gold
Lonnie Stavig
Eugene Steinley
Leonora Steuermann
James R. Steward
Ronnie L. Stoecker
Cecil Stone
John L. Stone
Gene Stoneman
Christine S. Strait
Linda or Rod Straub
Alfred Sturzenbecher
Jilene Suedmeier
Genevieve Summy
Robert Sundall
Pamela Sutterfield-Gardner
Richard C. Svien
Cindy Swahlen
Joyce A. or Polly Swan
Hilbert Swanson Estate
Jay K. Swanson
Donald T. Swenson
Martin Taylor
Ralph J. or Marcia Taylor
Steven L. Tegtman
Annette Tennyson
Jean F. Terwilliger
Texas Beef Palace, Inc
Frank R. Thernes
William R. Thomas
Guy Thomerson
Karen Thompson
David W. Thorell
Andrew Thorn
R. J. Timm Estate
Leroy or Ruth Titus
Thomas D. Tomashek
Tompeg, Inc
Marvyn Tompkins
Donald N. Toso Estate
Tower Property Management
Tower Real Estate
David R. Tracy
Joseph Trenholm or Sharon Trenholm-Middleton
Linda Trobee
Donavon L. Tucker
Dan Uhl
Neil Uibreaslain
Wyomia Usher
Richard Valandra
Alberta Van Beckhoven
Tom Van Bockern
Gary Van Buren
Bruce Van Buskirk
Richard Van Laecken
Tomi Van Loh
Don or Becky Van Norman
Dick Vanderheiden
Robert E. Vanderwaal
Vantage Cable Assoc
Michael or Virginia Vaughn
Mitchell G. Vavich
Lois Vech
Ray L. or Cheryl J. Vestal
Mike Vickers
Reuben J. or Elmira Vig
Timothy or Imagene M. Volz
Clair or Lynda Voshall
David J. Wackel
Howard C. Wagner, Jr.
Richard D. Waldorf
Charles T. Walker
Russell A. or Ruth Walker
Donna L. or Randall G. Walsh
Kristopher C. Ward
Robert Ward
Gene Warren
Laura or Craig D. Warren
Dave Wasche
Water & Power Res Service
Ron or Patty Waterman
Beverly Watts
Jack H. or Jean M. Weaver
Charles B. Webb
Kenneth Webber
Christine Wedge
James R. Wefso
Fern H. Weinell
Charity Weiss
Robert R. or Cheryl A. Weiss
G. V. Wells Estate
Donald F. or Grace Wendt
Renee Wenzel
Jim West
Lowell West
Westel, Inc.
Stuart Wevik
Chris or Mrs. Debra Wheeler
Mark A. or Janeen Wheeler
Whetstone Ranch
Jim Whitaker
Lynne Whitaker
Gregory D. Whitcher
Doug or Evelyn White
J. R. or Bertha M. White
Steven R. or Deborah D. White
Sidney W. Whitesell
Don W. Whorton
Roger or Karen Wibbens
Steven Wilhelmi
Dennis Williams
Rodney Williams
Terrence M. or Mary Williams
Viola M. Williams
Wilson P. Williams
Alice Williamson
Glenda Williamson
Marilyn Williamson
Clarice Wilson
Debra A. Wilson
Stephen or Theresa Wimmer
Marcia J. Wood
Harold Wright
Llewellyn Wright
Melvin R. Wright
Dennis Wriglesworth
John A. or Fern L. Wurtz
Wydak Cable TV c/o Terry Thomas
Donald K. Wynia
David M. or Geralyn Yost
W. Keith Young
Leo V. Zwetzig
Mike or Terry Zwetzig

Celebrating Cooperatives

Co-ops Play Important Role in Economy

Brenda Kleinjan
editor@sdrea.coop

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services.

From the moment one wakes up to the minute one falls asleep – and throughout the night – cooperatives play a role in the daily lives of most South Dakotans and many Minnesotans.

Power from electric cooperatives charges phones, illuminates lights, heats homes and provides the electricity integral to many farms and businesses in the area. Telecommunication cooperatives across the region connect families and businesses with internet, phone and cable services, keeping them informed and connected to the world around them.

Gasoline, ethanol and propane are often bought from regional cooperatives that are among the largest cooperatives in the nation.

Grains and other products are bought and sold through farmer cooperatives big and small.

Hundreds of financial transactions occur daily at the areas credit unions.

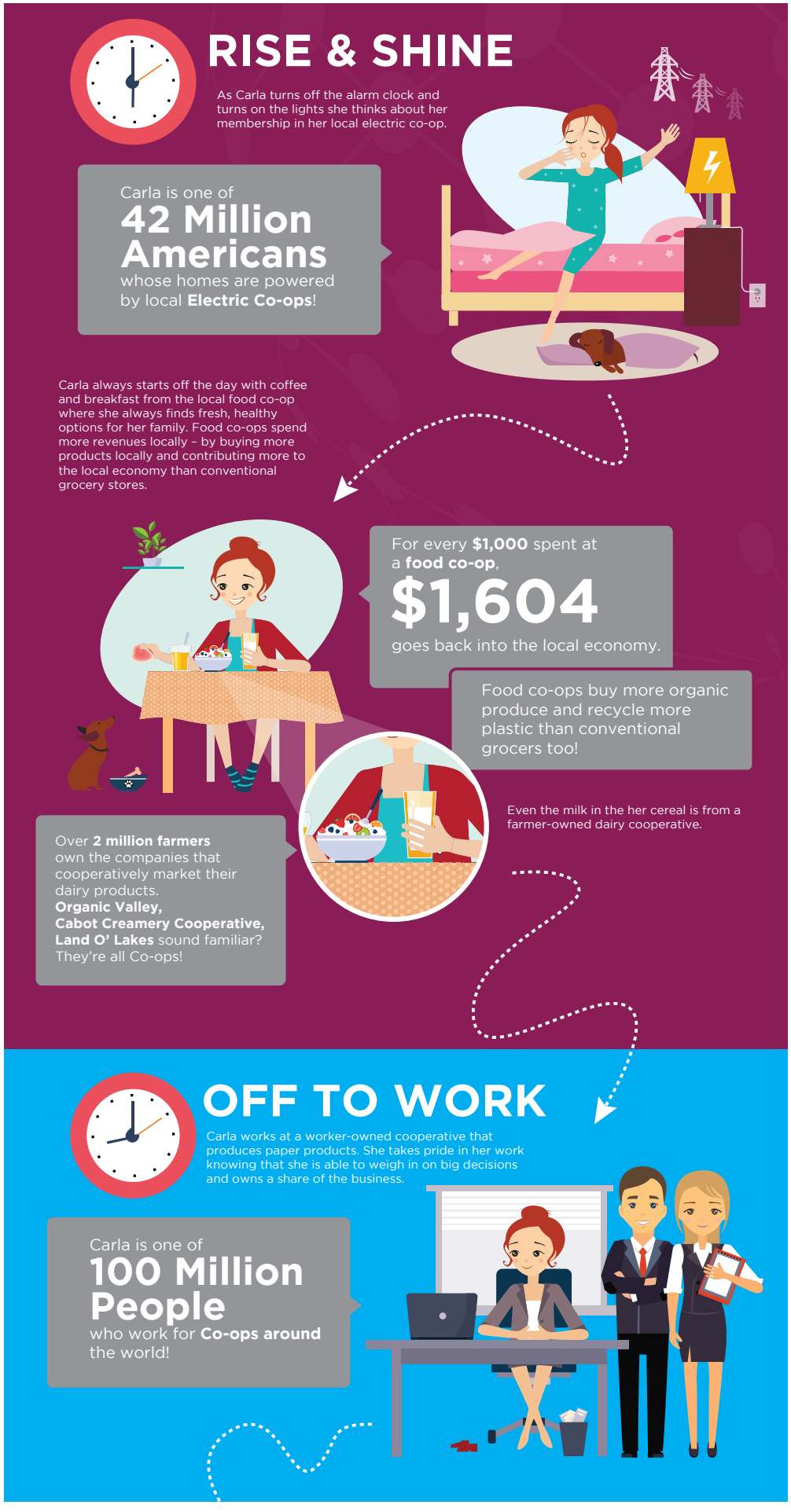
In fact, there are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with 350 million members (many people belong to more than one co-op). These cooperatives generate $514 billion in revenue and more than $25 billion in wages, according to a study conducted by the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, with support from USDA Rural Development (http://reic.uwcc.wisc.edu/default.htm).

- Cooperatives represent a strong business model and greatly contribute to both the national and local economies.
- Studies show that consumers want to do business with companies that share their values, making today's environment ideal for cooperatives and their commitment to the communities in which their members live and work.
- Co-ops don't have to answer to outside shareholders; they care about meeting their members' needs.
- Co-ops represent democracy in action, with control exercised by a board of directors elected from the ranks of members; the board hires and directs management and is ultimately responsible to the members;
- Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

Co-op Month Fun Facts

- Minnesota was the first state to declare an official Co-op Month proclamation in 1948.
- Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- The first national theme in 1964 was "Cooperatives: USDA Helps Build a Better America."
- The U.S. Government sponsored Co-op Month from 1964-70.
- Since 1971, cooperatives, statewide associations and the National Cooperative Business Association have fueled their own events and promotions.



Four Reasons Co-op Careers Are Unique

Paul Wesslund
NRECA

This is an exciting time to be a part of the energy industry.

The search for a purposeful career can begin and end at your local electric cooperative.

Those aren't just words or wishes. Working toward a greater purpose is at the heart of the co-op business model.

Electric co-ops are community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to the consumer-members they serve. This is an exciting time to be a part of the energy industry. Technology is continuously advancing and consumers want more say in the way they manage their energy use. That means electric co-ops need a variety of skillsets to develop new technologies and infrastructure, keep the electric grid secure and power the lives and economy of our local communities.

Here are four reasons why electric cooperative careers offer a unique opportunity to make a difference:

1. Member-Led

Because consumer-members lead and own the organization, co-op employees can take comfort knowing that the loyalty of their employer is with those served by the cooperative.

"If you work for an investor-owned business, you might be helping people in your community, but more likely you're helping stockholders who could live anywhere in the world," says Adam Schwartz, founder of the consulting firm, The Cooperative Way. "Co-ops, with the services they provide, can have a great impact on the quality of life in the local community."

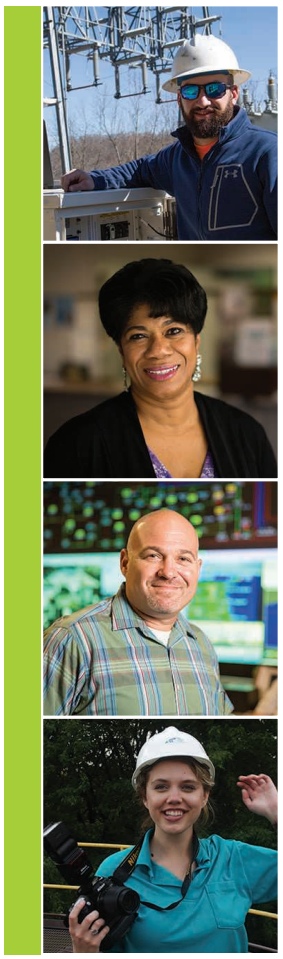
2. Locally Owned

The best thing about an electric utility owned by its consumer-members is that all it will ever care about is its local community. And that makes a difference to an employee, says Michelle Rinn, senior vice president of human resources at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"People want to feel like they're doing work that matters, like they're contributing to the world at large," she says. "For co-ops, that comes from a connection to the community and the fact that the folks you're taking care of really are your neighbors, the people you go to church with or you see at the grocery store every day."

Rinn says that when it comes to a job that provides electricity, "That's work that matters. Especially when there's a storm and the lights go out."

Both Rinn and Schwartz agree that electric co-ops also achieve a larger employment goal by providing jobs in smaller communities where they're typically located. As



Why choose a career with an electric co-op?

- **LOCAL**, community-focused organization
- **DYNAMIC** and exciting industry
- **COMPETITIVE WAGES** and excellent benefits
- **VARIETY** of job opportunities

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

long as people will need electricity, electric co-ops will help the local economy with a strong, stable business.

3. Variety of Jobs

The more than 900 electric co-ops in 47 states require a lot of different skillsets to keep the lights on. That means potential employment seekers could find work in construction, electrical equipment operation, engineering, customer service, communications and public relations, employee benefits coordination, software analysis and vehicle maintenance, to name a few.

Schwartz says another high-tech co-op career is emerging as local economic development efforts begin to ask electric co-ops for help in providing high-speed broadband service for their communities.

Rinn sees different advantages for employees depending on the size of their co-op. In larger cooperatives, a variety of professions are available. At smaller cooperatives, employees have the opportunity to flex multiple professional muscles in a single role.

"At a really small co-op, people have to wear multiple hats," she says. "You don't come in and you're just the accountant, or you're just the receptionist, or you're just the executive assistant. There's the opportunity to work on a lot of different things and build a broad range of skills."

4. Guided by Co-op Principles

The first modern co-op was formed in 1844 and developed a set of principles that guides co-ops today. Those include voluntary, open membership; democratic control by the membership; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education and training; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

America's electric cooperatives are looking for individuals to lead the charge in meeting our nation's energy needs. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

To learn more about electric co-op career opportunities, visit:

- **South Dakota:** https://www.sdrea.coop/content/employment
- **Minnesota:** https://www.mrea.coop/networking/
- **Nationally:** https://www.touchstoneenergy.com/co-op-business-resources/careers/find-co-op-jobs/

Spark Your New Career

With more than 63,000 employees nationwide, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives network offers numerous career opportunities. Our member cooperatives are seeking the best workers to supplement their teams and better serve their own members. Some of the best, brightest, most creative and dedicated people have chosen to serve their communities and develop their careers with us.

Work Environment

Recognized as a leader in the field of innovation and customer satisfaction, the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives network also offers its employees competitive salaries, excellent benefit packages and the satisfaction of knowing the work performed directly benefits their communities. Our co-ops are dedicated to helping further their employees' careers, offering a full range of opportunities for distance learning, accreditation or professional development programs.

Nationwide Employment

The electric cooperative network stretches across 47 states, from the smallest rural communities to large, bustling cities. Employees can trust that the same healthy, creative work environment and commitment to service is found across all areas, including benefit packages and career opportunities that transfer from co-op to co-op.

Co-op Job Benefits

Electric cooperatives developed their own co-op-tailored benefits more than 60 years ago through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). These benefits, which most co-ops subscribe to, are the standard for all electric co-op benefits, no matter the size of the co-op and are transferable between co-ops that participate in their plans.

Committed to Job Training and Education

Cooperatives are committed to giving our employees opportunities to learn, grow and advance in their careers. Whether you're looking to increase your skillset, advance in your job or change jobs, you can take advantage of a full range of distance learning and professional accreditation and certification programs, as well as professional development programs. Most electric co-ops even offer tuition reimbursement to obtain a certification or degree.

Diversity Powers Every Co-op

Working in cooperation to create a better community is a key principle of America's electric cooperatives. That includes the belief in treating all people with respect and dignity and commitment to the goals of equal opportunity. Electric co-ops strive to create a work environment that fosters and supports fairness, equity and respect for social and cultural diversity, free from unlawful discrimination and harassment.

At Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we recognize our talented and diverse workforce as a key competitive advantage. Our business success is a reflection of the quality and skill of our people. More than that, we value our diversity because it contributes to the richness and strength of our entire network. By including the ideas, opinions, perspectives and talents of all who comprise our workforce, we enrich our entire co-op network and the member-owners we serve.

We're committed to employing the best people to do the best job possible.

September 20-23
South Dakota Film Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2697

September 20-23
South Dakota Festival of Books, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6113

September 21-23
South Dakota Quilt Guild, Crossroads Event Center, Huron, SD, 605-352-9953

September 21-23
Annual Off Road Rally, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

September 22
Harvest Fest, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

September 23
Fall Blowout, 10 a.m., Methodist Church, Fairburn, SD, 605-891-8625

September 25-29
Black Hills Plein Air Paint-Out, Hill City, SD, 605-645-7196

September 27-29
25th Annual Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival, 10 a.m., Custer State Park Game Lodge, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 28
53rd Annual Buffalo Roundup, 7 a.m., Custer State Park Buffalo Corrals, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 29
Fall Festival – Quilt and Car Show, 10 a.m., Downtown, Edgemont, SD, 605-662-5900

September 29
Wheelin' to Wall, Main Street, Wall, SD, 605-685-3882

September 29
Living History Fall Festival, Groton, SD, 605-715-7117

September 29-30
Northern Plains Indian Art Market, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-856-8193

September 30
Crazy Horse Autumn Volksmarch, 8 a.m., Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer, SD 605-673-4681

October 5-7
Black Hills Powwow, Rapid City, SD, 605-341-0925

October 5-7
Black Hills Horse Expo, 8 a.m., James Kjerstad Event Center, Rapid City, SD, www.blackhillshorseexpo.com

October 6
Agritourism Tours, Free, Brandon, SD; 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

October 7
Run Crazy Horse Full and Half Marathon, 8 a.m., Crazy Horse Memorial to Hill City, Hill City, SD 605-574-2368

October 11-12
South Dakota Women in Ag 2018 Conference, The Lodge, Deadwood, SD, 605-390-4241, amy.pravecek@zoetis.com, southdakotawomeninag.com

October 11-13
Wild West Songwriters Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

October 11-14
Great Scarecrow Festival, Huron, SD, 605-352-9781

October 12
Pumpkin Fest and Parade of Lights, Webster, SD, 605-345-4668

October 20-21
South Dakota State and National Cornhusking Contest, State is on the 20th and National on the 21st, 9 a.m., Flandreau, SD

October 20-January 6
Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

October 26-28
Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

November 1-3
South Dakota Local Foods Conference, Brookings, SD, Contact 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

November 8-10
Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

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.