

## Cooperative Connections

**S.D. is open for  
business**

Page 8

**Co-op history  
and why it  
matters**

Page 12



Al Perry

# Stepping down after 14 years



**Al Perry**

Retiring board member

**It's an honor to have been elected to the board...**

Fourteen years ago, Al Perry was having coffee with his friends at the Johnson Siding store and the discussion of an open board seat at Black Hills Electric Cooperative came up. Al said that he hoped that the new director would serve for the benefit of all members and not have an agenda. The more he thought about it, the more he knew he could fulfill those requirements.

Perry had recently retired from Northwestern Bell Telephone after 33 years of service. “I needed something to do,” he said. He ran and was elected at the 2006 annual meeting.

During his years on Black Hills Electric’s board, Perry served three years as president and four years as assistant secretary. Over the years, he earned his credentialed cooperative director certificate, his board leadership certificate and his director gold credentials, all through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

“It’s a honor to have been elected to the board and a privilege to have served with Dan Lindblom, Don Knapp, Glen Reaser, Gary Kluthe and other great board members,” said Perry. “We have a great employee group and staff. We, as co-op members, can have confidence in them continuing to maintain and improve our electric system.”

Perry said that Black Hills Electric Cooperative has come a long way with improvements to the system. “We updated three substations and improved reliability with new transmission lines and with rights-of-way maintenance.”

Perry’s retirement was to take place at this year’s annual meeting in June. However, because of the pandemic, Perry continued to serve until the upcoming special meeting.

“We will elect a new board member on September 24 who will have the responsibility of helping the other six members of the board continue BHEC’s quality of service and providing low-cost electrical power,” he said. “You can’t always change things overnight. The board must always work together for the good of the co-op.”



Al Perry with two of his classic cars—both 1957 Ford Fairlane 500s with retractable hard tops. Perry participates in car shows around the country.

Perry was well known for being the official dessert taster at the co-op’s area meetings. “I always enjoyed the desserts with Mike (Chase). There was always a good variety of homemade desserts.” Perry holds the record for most desserts eaten at any one meeting. “I also enjoyed meeting all the co-op people at various meetings,” he said. “You find that many problems co-ops face are similar to our own and you learn of some problems unique to that co-op’s area.”

Perry plans to travel more, spend more time with his family and “play” with his classic cars. Thank you, Al, for helping guide this cooperative.

# 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](mailto:wwitt@bhec.coop)

**Manager of Operations –** Bill Brisk – [billb@bhec.coop](mailto:billb@bhec.coop)

**System Coordinator –** Jesse Sorenson – [jsorenson@bhec.coop](mailto:jsorenson@bhec.coop)

**Chief Financial Officer:** Sammi Langendorf – [slang@bhec.coop](mailto:slang@bhec.coop)

**Manager of Marketing and Member Services and Cooperative Connections Editor:** Mike Chase – [mchase@bhec.coop](mailto: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](http://www.bhec.coop).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

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](mailto:bhec@bhec.coop); website: [www.bhec.coop](http://www.bhec.coop)

## Chillin' and grillin'



Dennis Quivey, vice president of Black Hills Electric Co-op, flips burgers at the kick-off dinner at the Custer County Fair. BHEC has been a sponsor of the fair for 22 years. Other sponsors include Bishop Beef, Pop's Grocery, Farm Credit Services, Philip Livestock Auction and Belle Fourche Livestock Exchange.

## Heat rate begins 32nd season

When Black Hills Electric Cooperative began offering a lower rate for electric heat 32 years ago, 723 members jumped at the chance to save money on their heating bills. Today, more than 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 33,406,324 kilowatt-hours used for heat and saved a total of almost \$1.7 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

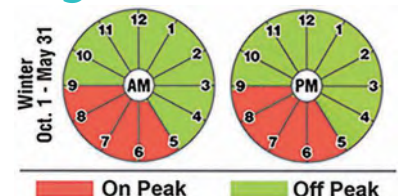
must have a second meter installed that records only the energy used for permanently installed electric heat. The rate is from October 1 through April 30 each year.

One problem that the co-op encounters every 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 heat 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 Thursday, October 1.

## Demand Periods Change October 1

BHEC's two winter on-peak demand periods begin on Thursday, 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.



# Use Safety as Your Guide When Planting Trees

If the trees in your yard have grown so tall that they touch overhead power lines, they can cause all kinds of trouble. Branches that sway in the wind and rain can snap an electric line, sending a live wire to the ground, where it can electrocute anyone who touches it.

Plus, power lines that are broken by fallen trees will cause you and your neighbors to lose electricity and require a costly trip from your electric cooperative.

That's why any tree that poses a danger—even an old or favorite tree—could be slated for removal by your electric cooperative.

You can prevent problems on the front end by planting smart.

Here are a few tips:

- Do some research and learn all you can about the particular type of tree you want to plant. Learn how tall it will grow when it matures and how wide the full span of its mature branches will become. Use those dimensions to determine how far away from an existing power line you should plant it. Some trees are safe only when they grow 30 feet or more away from a line.
- If the landscape design you like requires you to plant trees in close proximity to electric lines, choose a low-growing variety that will never be tall enough to pose a hazard.
- Before digging any holes to plant trees, call 811, the state's "call before you dig" service. If you don't call and hit underground utility lines, you could be liable for damages.
- Avoid planting in the right-of-way on the edge of your yard or personal property. Your local electric cooperative and other utility companies must maintain that space and could wind up trimming trees out of the way of power lines, possibly leaving the tree looking lopsided.
- Don't plant shrubs too close to your home's outdoor air conditioning unit. AC units require breathing room and should never be crowded by shrubbery or debris.
- If your yard is already home to trees that are close to power lines, keep the trees trimmed so they don't touch any overhead wires. Hire a professional tree trimmer with the proper tools and training to provide this service for you. Don't risk doing it yourself.



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

**"Watch Your Loader Bucket!"**

**Adalin Homola, 11 years old**

Adalin Homola is the daughter of Joe and Sonja Homola from Lake Nordin. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

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.

# People-Pleasing Pasta

## Pasta Florentine

16 oz. penne pasta	1 zucchini, cut in thin strips
1 red pepper, thin cut	2 cans mushrooms, drained
1 onion, chopped	1/8 cup butter
1 cup tomatoes, chopped	1/4 cup flour
1 cup skim milk	1 cup chicken broth
1/2 tsp. nutmeg	1/2 tsp. pepper
1 pkg. frozen spinach, thawed, drained	1/4 cup Parmesan

Prepare pasta, cooking 7 minutes. Drain. Spoon into greased 9x13 baking dish. Cook and stir zucchini, peppers, mushrooms, and onions for 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in tomatoes. Spoon mixture over pasta and gently mix. Whisk flour with drippings in skillet. Whisk in milk. Add broth, nutmeg and pepper. Cook over medium heat and stir until mixture comes to boil and thickens. Add spinach and cheese. Pour sauce over casserole. Cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

Glen and Linda Erickson, Chester, SD

## One Pan Chicken Alfredo

3 tablespoons olive oil	1/2 lb. penne pasta, or any bite-sized shape pasta, uncooked
1/4 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts	2 c. freshly shredded real parmesan cheese
2 cloves garlic, minced	Salt and pepper
2 c. low sodium chicken broth	Flat leaf parsley for garnish
1 c. heavy cream or half and half	

Cut chicken breasts into half-inch and 1-inch pieces. Season with salt/pepper. Brown chicken in olive oil over medium heat. It will finish cooking as it simmers. Add minced garlic and saute for 1 minute. Add broth, cream or half and half and uncooked pasta and stir. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce to a simmer. Keep pan covered while simmering. Simmer for 15-20 minutes or until pasta is tender. Remove from heat, stir in shredded parmesan cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

Judy Mendel, Doland, SD

## Pizza Hot Dish

2 lb. hamburger - brown, sprinkle with onion and garlic salt	1/2 cup water
1 10-oz. can pizza sauce	1/2 tsp. salt
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce	1/4 tsp. pepper
	1 tsp. oregano

Simmer above ingredients 20 minutes. Add 1-1/2 cup grated American cheese (Velveeta) and 8-oz. package of wide noodles, cooked. Put 1/2 of sauce in 9x13 cake pan. Top with noodles. Add rest of sauce. Top with mozzarella cheese and sprinkle generously with parmesan cheese. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees.

Shirley Miller, Winfred, SD

## Shrimp Scampi

8 ounces pasta linguine	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons butter	1 dash crushed red pepper flakes
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil	1-1/2 pounds large or extra-large Aqua Star shrimp, shelled
4 garlic cloves, minced	1/3 cup parsley, chopped
1/2 cup dry white wine or seafood broth	1/2 lemon, juice only
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt	

Cook pasta according to package directions. In large skillet, melt butter and oil. Add garlic and saute until fragrant. Add wine or broth, salt, red pepper flakes and black pepper. Bring to simmer and reduce by half. Add shrimp and saute until shrimp turn pink and opaque, approximately 2-4 minutes depending on size. Stir in parsley, lemon juice and cooked pasta. Provided by [www.aquastar.com](http://www.aquastar.com).

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.

# 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 605-673-4461 or 1-800-742-0085.

Frances D. Abraham  
 W. J. or Viola E. Ackerman  
 Danny W. Akers  
 Shirley B. Akers Estate  
 James Albee  
 L. D. Alderson  
 Charles H. or Cathy L. Aldrich  
 Abbie G. Ales  
 Donald R. Alexander  
 Rodman L. Allen Estate  
 Andrea Andersen  
 Donald E. Andersen  
 Mark Andersen  
 Debra J. or Larry Anderson  
 Dennis L. or Carol E. Anderson  
 Eathel M. Anderson Estate  
 Joan S. Anderson Estate  
 Gunnar Anderson  
 Jonathan D. or Janet K. Anderson  
 Mark V. or Amy M. Anderson  
 Raymond Anderson  
 Ronald D. Anderson  
 Steve Anderson  
 Beverly A. Andrews  
 Richard Applegate  
 William E. Armstrong, Jr. Estate  
 Gregory F. or Ann Arnold  
 Charles Austin  
 B. J. Land Company, Inc.  
 Gertrude Babcock  
 Timothy C. Bailey  
 Edith A. Baker  
 Philip or Laurel Bangs  
 George A. Banton  
 Harold Barber Estate  
 Barkley Ranch, Inc.  
 Kim Barney  
 Clancy Barrett  
 Robert F. or Carol L. Barrett  
 Stephen C. Barron  
 Donald Barrows  
 Harold K. Barte Estate  
 Patricia A. Barton  
 James Basler  
 Allison V. Bates  
 Duane R. or Amy A. Bauerle  
 Michael Baughman  
 David Baxter  
 Jerry D. Becking  
 Mary Beckwith  
 Barry E. or Carol Beechie

David Beeman Estate  
 Josephine Beld  
 Patricia A. or Gorden L. Bell  
 Shirley Bennett  
 Theresa Bennington  
 Scott or Larene Benson  
 Kevin E. or Joyce Bentsch  
 Chris Bentley  
 James K. or Cathy J. Berggren  
 Edward Bergmann Estate  
 Myron Berry  
 Bob Besse  
 Michael Bevier  
 Carl R. or Susan Bivens  
 Debra E. Black  
 Aleks N. Block  
 Herman or Donna Blote  
 William J. Blow  
 Robert E. or Nancy J. Boes  
 Ronald D. Bohnet  
 Scott Bolton  
 Al C. Bosworth  
 Steve Bowker  
 Bruce G. Boyle  
 Guy J. or Lori Brabec  
 Yvonne Bradley  
 Larry L. Brandt  
 Carl or Cheryl Bray  
 H. Richard Bray  
 Donald K. Brazier  
 Sue Brickley  
 K. B. Broadway, Jr.  
 Mike Brooking  
 Donald W. or Bette Brown  
 Earl R. Brown  
 Laurie S. Brown  
 Paul M. or Kathy Brown  
 Betty A. Broz  
 Jerry D. Bruce  
 John H. Brunson  
 Michael A. Brustad  
 Jon A. Bucholz  
 John K. or Karen M. Buck  
 Danny V. Buckley  
 Joe or Marcy Buckner  
 Michael Buckwheat  
 Max L. Burrows  
 Reginald D. Burt  
 Robert D. or Beryl K. Bushong  
 Bruce Buswell  
 Gary or Carol A. Bye

Alan E. or Laura N. Bynum  
 C. C. Lumber & Building  
 Allen H. or Joan B. Caldwell  
 Kurt Caldwell  
 Robert A. or Jacque Callis  
 Bruce or Susan Campbell  
 Gordon H. or Linda Campbell  
 Kenneth V. or Judith Carey  
 Robert S. or Judith Carey  
 Joe A. Carlin  
 Dan Carlson  
 Thomas W. or Helen Carrico  
 Russell Carstens  
 Luella Caruss  
 Russell C. Case  
 Betty A. or James Casey  
 Cellular One of Rapid City  
 Timothy or Carol Ceynowa  
 Carrol Chabot  
 James C. Chamberlain  
 Thomas R. Chapman  
 Minnie Chase  
 William B. Cheney  
 Donald or Carol Chew  
 Marcelle Childs  
 Carolyn M. Chipman  
 Lisa M. Christensen  
 Val D. Christensen  
 Marjorie R. Christiansen  
 Patricia Christianson  
 Ray Christopherson  
 Donald Church  
 El or Jacqueline Church  
 Circle T Enterprises  
 Michael or Cheryl Clark  
 Steve Clark  
 Timothy or Pamela Clark  
 Tom or Carol Clark  
 Dana L. Climenti  
 Kathryn C. Cochran  
 Cody Ranch or R & L Cattle Co.  
 David W. or Deann Cohn  
 Clay or Sharon Coil  
 Gale or Sheri Coleman  
 Stacy L. Collings  
 Ron Conn  
 Donald or Teresa Cook  
 Verlie J. Cooper  
 Cooperative Capital Corporation  
 John L. Corbett  
 Eleanor Corbin  
 Gregory R. Corr  
 Carolyn A. Counts Estate  
 Reynold J. Counts Estate  
 Fern Covell  
 June Covington  
 Charles A. Cox  
 Tamara J. or Daniel D. Coy  
 Brad or Debra Crawford  
 John or Lisa Crawford

Paul or Kathryn Crawford  
 Paul W. or Carolyn S. Crecelius  
 R. W. Creighton  
 Tamela A. Crisman  
 Robin L. Crisp  
 Theodore D. or Leaann Cudmore  
 Corrin Cullum  
 J. Aaron Cundall  
 Peter Curry  
 Custer Lumber Company  
 D & H Concrete Products  
 Harold or Ruth Dahl  
 Hazel Dahlquist  
 David or Lori Dahlstrom  
 Dennis Daly  
 Marshall Damgaard  
 Marcy Daniel  
 Patricia K. Danielson  
 Irene M. Danks  
 Birdie A. Daughters  
 Randolph Davenport  
 Claud or Donna N Davidson  
 Frank E. Davis  
 Jim Davis  
 John B. or Andrea Davis  
 Kathleen D. Davis  
 Terry L. or Carleen Davis  
 John (Jack) W. Davison  
 Jim or Radley Ann Day  
 William Dearhamer  
 Donald H. Deaton, Jr  
 Rodney Deaux  
 Pamela F. Dedrick  
 Deer Mtn Resort Prop, Inc  
 Renee Hardesty Dehaven  
 Arlan or Jean Dejong  
 Barbara A. Dellamorte  
 Albert Denardo  
 Diane Determan  
 Art Dexter  
 Janel Dexter  
 Al Dial  
 Candy Dikoff  
 Roger A. Dingess  
 Roger or Liz Dixon  
 Donald G. or Maureen L. Dobbins  
 Gerald Dobson  
 Patrick J. or Rose Dodge  
 Jeanette F. Dohn Estate  
 David Doll  
 Don Oyler Construction  
 Michael or Laurie Donohoe  
 Carla Dorsett  
 Warren Dossey  
 Bonnie Doughty  
 Steven E. or Vicki A. Douglas  
 Walter Drummonds  
 Tom or Nancy Dryden  
 Trent or Kathleen Dubois

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 6)

Jay Duechting  
 Carlyle Durbin  
 Derek Durkee  
 Bob J. or Joan M. Duryea  
 Thomas T. or Ann M. Dyer  
 Vivian Dyer  
 Eagle Mats, Inc.  
 A. Robert Easson  
 Ken (James) Eby  
 William I. or Jeannine M. Egan  
 Brad or Lori Ehresmann  
 Peggy Eisenbeisz  
 Kim Ellard  
 Frank Elliott  
 James L. or Julia Ellison  
 Gerald E. or Bonnie Emery  
 James R. Engler  
 David S. English  
 Brian D. or Sandy Erickson  
 Karen M. Erickson  
 Lloyd G. Erickson  
 Lavern or Georgie A. Ernst  
 Philip R. or Karen M. Ertel  
 Dave or Kathleen Evans  
 Roy A. or Linda L. Evans  
 Sara Fahey  
 Ellen K. Farrar  
 David J. or Priscilla Farrel  
 Robert or Dorothy Farrell  
 Federal Savings & Loan  
 Rand E. or Margaret R. Feind  
 Leslie or Leona Ferguson  
 Twila Ferguson  
 Stan R. Fettig  
 Brad or Jimi Fiedler  
 Richard L. Figsnow  
 Graydon Filyk  
 Teresa Finck  
 Gary W. Fine  
 Denis M. Fish  
 John J. Fitzgerald  
 L. J. Fitzgibbon  
 Rodger Fleek  
 Tony R. Fleharty  
 Charis Fleming  
 James or Annette Fleming  
 Ray or Vi Flemmer  
 James E. Fletcher  
 James C. Florke  
 Jason A. or Linda M. Fly  
 David A. or Colleen Forde  
 Lynne or Brian Foss  
 Vivian Fossum  
 James Foster  
 Alan M. Fowler Estate  
 Ray M. Fraley  
 Mabel R. Frame  
 Robert N. Frappier  
 Harvey R. Fraser  
 Grace or Franz Frassmann  
 Joan Frasure

James W. Frazee  
 Ms. Phil Free  
 Paul C. or Pamela A. Freed  
 Paul H. Freeman  
 Joan Freiberg  
 R. G. Frey  
 Peter Froelich  
 Mary Fuchs  
 Hilea F. Fuller Estate  
 Sandi Fuller  
 G & R, Inc.  
 David A. Gaberel  
 Marjorie E. Gaffin  
 Bradley J. Gagner  
 Kevin C. or Sherri Galbreath  
 Beverly J. Gale  
 Brenda S. Gamache  
 Rodney Gamet  
 O. B. or Ardell Gann  
 Joy C. Gardner  
 George Gates Estate  
 Robert A. or Laurie A. Gaudino  
 Vernon or Dorothy Geiger  
 Mel R. or Lynne Gerlach  
 Paul J. German  
 Jim D. or Mary Gibson  
 Lowell Gifford  
 Gilbert Central Corp  
 Barbara Gill  
 Larry Gill  
 Gillette Truck Sales, Inc.  
 Charles or Charlotte Gilson  
 Jennifer Giroux  
 Albert or Evelyn C. Glatt  
 Michael R. Gleason  
 Daniel or Eula Gluhm  
 Kimball E. Goddard  
 Mike Goddard  
 Jamie F. Gonzalez or Raul Munoz  
 Carl V. or Fay S. Good  
 Good Faith Mining Corp.  
 Scott or Elizabeth Gorder  
 Russel or Jacqueline Gould  
 Stephen L. Graf  
 Virgil P. Graff  
 Ann L. Grant  
 William T. Gray  
 Dewey L. Greager  
 Great Western Properties  
 Carol A. Green  
 Deborah K. Green  
 Jerry L. Green  
 Maynard P. Green  
 Dennis or Wanda Greene  
 Mark W. Greising  
 Arlene J. Griffin  
 Patricia Griffith or Mary Mead  
 Perry or Helen Grimm Estate  
 Harry Groves  
 Curt Grudniewski  
 Grant or Mary A. Gubbrud  
 Guernsey Stone

Larrie A. Gulden  
 Harold J. or Kathy Gutierrez  
 Jack S. Hagan  
 Doris V. Hagen  
 Dave Haggard  
 Don E. or Sherrie Q. Hall  
 Frank L. Hall  
 Morris Hallett  
 Rebecca L. Halls  
 Thomasa E. Halls  
 William T. Hamblin  
 Gary Hamilton  
 K. W. Hammerquist Estate  
 James V. or J. L. Hanbury  
 Kimberly S. or Joe R. Hanes  
 Donald C. or Cindy Hansen  
 Mike or Connie Hansen  
 Barbara Hanson  
 Patty Hanson  
 Loren Hantsbarger  
 John or Noreen Hanzel  
 Bill Harrington  
 Milton D. Harrington  
 Carole Harris  
 Ella Hart  
 Monte Hartl  
 Ed Hartle  
 John Hartman  
 Edna Harverd  
 Timothy or Annette Harvey  
 Jane Haskvitz  
 Tim Haugen  
 Harris B. or Linda M. Haupt  
 Catherine Haveman  
 Tony or Jean Hay  
 John Headrick  
 Patricia Hedger  
 Anthony Heglar Estate  
 Paul Heib  
 Sandra Heilman  
 Donald G. or Vergie Heinen  
 Robert A. Hellier  
 Dennis Hemenway  
 Bethel Henderson  
 James E. or Carolyn J. Henderson  
 Terry Hendricksen  
 Steven Hendrickson  
 Fred Henry  
 Dennis or Marlene Herman  
 Kenneth Herman  
 Hermosa Cable TV, Inc  
 Eva Hertel  
 Doyle W. or Maureen Hester  
 Todd Hickling  
 High Pines Association  
 Richard or Connie Hilliker  
 Greg Hilt  
 Stephen Humber  
 Ira M. or Barbara A. Hinkle  
 David or Tanya Hinman  
 Paul J. or Ann Paul  
 Larry B. or Jana E. Hobbs

Dean Hochhalter  
 Leslie or Paul Hodges  
 Daryl J. or Kathleen Hoebel  
 Daryl J. or Sheila M. Hoebel  
 Stuart Hofer  
 Perry L. or Donna Hoffman  
 John Hohenthauer  
 Frank Hoke  
 Theresa Holcomb  
 George C. Holder  
 Hole In The Wall Water  
 Roger Hollrah  
 Wiliam M. or Christine Holtry  
 Kristie Hooper  
 Gary or Doris M. Horne  
 Nolan Horton  
 Mark L. Hoskey  
 J. Craig Hostetler  
 Barry G. Jeri Houdyshell  
 Michael or Jeri Houghton  
 Jim Hoyt  
 Brent R. Hrcncir  
 Janice T. Hubbard  
 Paul A. Hubbeling  
 Don Huber  
 Tim or Cindy Huber  
 Betty Hughes  
 Donald or Dana Hughes  
 Rita Hughes  
 Andrew J. or Kathleen Huisentruit  
 Herbert or Emma Hulse  
 Jerry M. or Tamara S. Hurd  
 Robert or Roslyn Hurd  
 Donald J. or Denise Huso  
 Nancy D. Hutchinson  
 John A. Hutt Estate  
 Van D. or Sandra K. Hyde  
 Igloo Grain Storage  
 Michael B. Inghram  
 Cindy Irrgang  
 Mike or Beverly Irwin  
 Jeffrey Isenhardt  
 Jack Rabbit Lines  
 Sandra J. Jack  
 Andrew J. Jackson  
 James or Sheryl Jackson  
 Raymond or Alison C. Jackson  
 Tully Jackson  
 Lewis T. or Anna Jacobson  
 Steven C. Jacobson  
 Tom A. Jahrig  
 Arlow Sr. or Joyce Jansen  
 Leander A. or Harry P. Jassmann  
 Ardith or James Jeffries  
 Betty Jenkins  
 Penny Jennings  
 Kathy Jensen  
 Norman L. Jensen  
 Jim Jewett  
 Mark or Rachel Johannson  
 Anton E. Johnson

(Continued on page 10)



While the ag markets have experienced shifts and changes, rural South Dakota continues to offer a favorable business climate for many industry sectors.

# S.D. IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

## REED Fund supports business growth in rural areas

**Billy Gibson**

editor@sdrea.coop

The old adage about making hay while the sun is shining is not lost on the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

During the summer months, the department launched an aggressive regional advertising campaign called "South Dakota Means Business," aimed at encouraging companies from surrounding states to relocate to a more business-friendly environment.

The timing of this marketing strategy was intended to take advantage of the favorable national publicity the state has received for its response to COVID-19 and also to lure disaffected businesses weary of increasingly onerous and burdensome regulatory policies in other states.

The promotional initiative was based on a long list of advantages that make it easier in South Dakota for companies to maximize positive margins and plan for future growth.

The campaign featured Gov. Kristi Noem emphasizing the fact that South Dakota has been ranked best in the nation in several categories: lowest business costs; most accessible financing; two-year college graduation rates; lowest regulatory restrictions; lowest state tax revenue volatility; and more.

"We hear over and over from business owners in other states that increased government regulations are making it difficult to earn a profit and plan for growth," said Commissioner Steve Westra. "We want to get the word out that it doesn't have to be this way."

"As out-of-state businesses become more frustrated with

Dakota Style is a thriving business that has received REED funding through Codington-Clark Electric.



overreach by their state governments, they're turning to South Dakota," said Gov. Noem. "The number of new businesses interested in moving to South Dakota has increased dramatically. We're ready to show these businesses what South Dakota can do for them."

While Gov. Noem pushes to attract more businesses to South Dakota, the state's rural electric cooperatives continue to be engaged in efforts to spark community development. Twenty of the state's electric cooperatives collaborate with five western-Minnesota co-ops to support local business growth through the Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund. The non-profit corporation provides financing in all or parts of roughly 70 counties in the two states.

The REED Fund was created in 1997 to boost business growth in small communities and has issued nearly 400 loans totaling more



than \$102 million. That financial support has resulted in more than 9,000 jobs.

While the fund is used by rural electric cooperatives to boost economic activity in their service areas, it is not restricted to co-ops. Many loans have gone to retail entities, manufacturing facilities, agriculture processing and marketing and support services. The fund has also been used to support rural health care, education, recreation, arts, public safety, community infrastructure, housing and office space.

The fund is supported by state and federal government entities, including the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, and also private groups such as Dakota Resources, Basin Electric Cooperative and banking institutions.

The REED Fund had a record year in 2019, with \$12.8 million in new loans. REED and Avera Health also signed a new workforce housing development financing partnership as Avera committed to a \$2 million investment in the fund. This investment, along with an additional \$1 million pledge from SDN Communications and another \$1 million from First Bank & Trust, will expand efforts to finance workforce housing.

Two loans issued in August went to Lesterville Fire and Rescue from Bon Homme Yankton Electric, and to 605 Sires, LLC, from Southeastern Electric.

Bon Homme Electric Manager Stephanie Horst said the money would go toward the purchase of new air packs and a new building addition for the local volunteer fire department.

"A big part of our guiding principles as locally-owned, locally-controlled electric cooperatives is to do whatever we can to improve the quality of life in our service areas and to expand the range of economic opportunities available to our members and our communities," Horst said. "It's very gratifying for us to know we're making a positive impact."

She noted that more than 80 percent of the REED Fund's lending is established in communities of fewer than 4,000 people and 98 percent of REED-financed projects have local ownership.

At Southeastern Electric, General Manager Brad Schardin said 605 Sires, LLC, used its financing to expand its family-owned, full-service bull collection and donor facility. The company opened in 2017 and delivers its products to customers both domestically and internationally.

According to Schardin, "Delivering electrical power that is safe, affordable, reliable and accessible is a tall order in itself. But our commitment goes beyond providing electricity. We also have an obligation to enhance and improve the communities we serve. The REED Fund is an excellent resource to help us fulfill that commitment."

For more information on the REED Fund, visit [www.reedfund.coop](http://www.reedfund.coop) or call 605-256-8015.

## Future of Energy Storage

Energy storage technology is extremely versatile - it's small enough to fit in your phone, or large enough to power your entire home.

Many people are familiar with small-scale batteries for handheld devices, but utility-scale batteries take energy storage to a whole new level. The ability to store energy helps to ensure that energy demand meets supply at any given time, making electricity available when you need it.

The most widespread form of energy storage in the U.S. is through pumped hydropower, a form of mechanical energy storage. Pumped hydropower has been used for several decades now, and currently makes up about 97 percent of the country's utility storage capacity.

Energy is stored by pumping water uphill from a lower elevation reservoir to store in an upper water basin. When energy is needed, the water is allowed

to flow through an electric turbine to generate energy, the same way it flows through a hydroelectric dam. This method is largely dependent on surrounding geography and any potential resulting ecosystem issues.

Battery technology is also gaining a lot of ground. In 2018, the power capacity from battery storage systems more than doubled from 2010. The most common type of battery chemistry is lithium-ion because of a high-cycle efficiency and fast response time. Some less-common battery types for utility storage include lead acid batteries, nickel-based batteries and sodium-based batteries. However, each chemistry has varying limitations. Beyond pumped hydropower and batteries, there are a few other forms of energy storage used at the utility scale: thermal, hydrogen and compressed air.

Energy storage currently plays a crucial role in incorporating renewable energy into our electric grid. Solar and wind energy are weather-dependent, so when energy demand is low but energy supply is high from the sun or wind, storing the excess energy makes it possible to use it later when demand is higher. As renewable energy becomes more prevalent, energy storage will help to create a more resilient grid.

Although battery prices have been decreasing steadily over the last several years, energy storage can be expensive to attain. Currently, there are 25 gigawatts of electrical energy storage capacity in the U.S., and many experts expect capacity to grow.



Energy storage plays a crucial role in incorporating renewable energy into our electric grid. Photo by Dennis Gainer

(Continued from page 7)

David J. Johnson  
 Davis L. Johnson  
 Edwin or Ladonna Johnson  
 J. P. or Donna Johnson  
 Jeffrey W. Johnson  
 Jerry C. Johnson  
 June H. Johnson  
 Naomi Johnson  
 Paul S. or Donna Johnson  
 Rodney E. Johnson  
 Rodney K. or Aimee Johnson  
 Stephen E. Johnson  
 Chris Johnston  
 Charles E. or Christine Jones  
 Kenneth W. Jones  
 Tony Jordan  
 Ronald or Shirlene Joseph  
 Robert Julson  
 Walter or Jo E. Kaminski  
 Marvin Kaus  
 Jeffery Kearns  
 John S. Kearns  
 Edwin W. Keil  
 Toni or Dean Keller  
 William Keller  
 James Kelley  
 Mary T. Kelley  
 Kelley Trust  
 Regina J. Kelly  
 Grant W. or Susan R. Kern  
 Robert H. Kesterson  
 Dan or Jacqueline Kieley  
 Michael Kincaid  
 Kelly Kindred  
 Albert W. or Theresa G. King  
 Justin King  
 Dora Kirk Estate  
 Mari L. Kirk  
 Robert L. Klawon  
 Eugene A. or Jackie L. Klein  
 Donald H. or Barbara L. Kline  
 David Kling  
 Robert Klinger  
 Jay T. Klopfenstein  
 Henry C. or Joyce M. Knapp  
 Darcy or Mary A. Knight  
 Andrew W. Knoblauch  
 Craig K. Knock  
 Mark Knodel  
 Robert D. or Patricia Knoll  
 Curtis L. or Sandra J. Knox  
 Fred C. Knuth  
 John F. Kobbeman  
 Debbie or Jerry Kobes  
 Vernon Koenig  
 Jeff Kolesar  
 C. H. Kolleen  
 William D. Kones  
 Bobby Kopfmann  
 Ronald L. Kortemeyer  
 Ronald or Janice Kortemeyer

Elmer E. Koskela  
 Lothar E. or Shirley L. Kost  
 Gary A. or E. Naomi Kraai  
 Dulia Kramer  
 Al Kraus  
 Greg D. Krebs  
 Carol A. Kremer  
 Kathy Kriz or Don Sulzbach  
 James E. or Patricia A. Kruse  
 Thomas J. Kushman  
 Paul P. Kuzma  
 Steven L. or Mary Lackie  
 Lady C Ranch  
 Quintin B. or Janis R. Lagrande  
 Lakota Youth Camp  
 Carroll Lane  
 Kent Langum  
 Rick Lantgen  
 Jadee J. or Marilyn L. Larkin  
 Howard or Ellen Laroche  
 Bonnie Larson  
 Larson Bros TV & Appliance  
 Daniel Larson  
 James E. or Diane Larson  
 Margaret Larson  
 Marvin Larson  
 Robert or Lorna Lauinger  
 Gloria or Russell Leahy  
 Karil Lebeau  
 C. Fredrick or Lenna Lee  
 Daivd W. or Karen D. Lee  
 Edward O. or Barbara J. Lee  
 William L. Lee  
 Linda Lefebre  
 Robin Legrand  
 Walter Lehrkamp  
 Conchita P. Leonard  
 Sharron Lewellyn  
 Chico Lewis  
 Nancy W. or Ted G. Lewis  
 Roger K. Lewis  
 Timothy or Dorian Lewis  
 Ernest R. Liberatore, Jr.  
 Phyllis M. Lien  
 Steven C. Lillis  
 Evan Lilygren Estate  
 Ronald D. Liming  
 Lori Linde  
 Tony Linden  
 Virgil or Frances Lingrel  
 Michael Litchfield  
 Bill or Gabrielle Litzenberg  
 Allan or Teresa Loen  
 David A. Loguda  
 Bonnie Lohmiller  
 Curtis or Pamela Lohmiller  
 Diane or Mitchell Loobey  
 Eugene Loofbourrow  
 Steve Lopez  
 Mark or Heidi Lorence  
 Clifton or Betty Love  
 Ralph V. or Eileen Lowe

Bradley C. Lundstrom  
 Carole Lundstrom  
 Laura Maas  
 Moira or Peter L. Maas  
 Scott Macdonald  
 Cheryl Macken  
 Debora K. Mackey  
 Les or Toni Madsen  
 Arthur Mahoney  
 Timothy A. Malchow  
 Henry Malik  
 Ronald or Terry Mallary  
 Kenric D. Malmberg  
 Donald H. or Kathryn A. Malon  
 Mike or Margo Malon  
 Patricia A. or Orval Mammenga  
 Peter Maningas  
 Jay or Colleen Manke  
 Marianna Manton  
 Paul or Arlene Mardian  
 Sandi A. Mariner  
 Raylene Markitan  
 Susan Markley  
 Jim Marotz  
 Richard D. or Donna Marquardt  
 Viola J. Marshall  
 Brad or Virginia Martin  
 Charles Martin  
 John or Renee Martin  
 Kathi N. or Siegmunt Martin  
 Larry or Kristie Martin  
 Marlin W. or Cindi Martin  
 Paul K. Martin  
 Norma A. Mary  
 Clare Marzenell  
 Roy or Cathy Mask  
 Ardis T. Mathis  
 John W. or Valentina Mattis  
 Mary L. Mattson  
 Benice Matzke  
 A. J. Maurer Jr.  
 Charlene Maxwell  
 Pete Mazzio  
 Jerry D. or Vera Mcatee  
 Vicki McBride  
 Lawrence McCall  
 Dennis R. or Marilyn L. McCarty  
 Brian Mccauley  
 Bryan L. Mccliskey  
 Louise M. Mcclean  
 Debra or Louis Mccollor  
 Paul M. McCombs  
 Margueritte Mcdowell  
 George or Carol McGee  
 Kent J. McGrew  
 Stan Mckee  
 Patrick Mckernan  
 Dolris Mckown  
 Michael or Marjory Mcleod  
 Kevin L. Mcmillin  
 Norma L. McNair  
 Wayne McNeil

Michael E. Mcnickle  
 Michael D. or Donna Mefferd  
 Ed or Duana Meidinger  
 Bob Meier  
 Conrad or Jacqueli Meier  
 Edith Mellgren Estate  
 Jilberto or Chrystal Mello  
 Marc Melucas  
 Hector Merced  
 Greg or Laura Merchen  
 Andrew N. or Sall Mercier  
 Judy Merritt  
 Michael C. Mesick  
 Robert or Judy M. Messer  
 Jacqueline Metz  
 Carol Meyer or Sarah A. Lee  
 Carol or Phillip Meyer  
 Mies Inc. or Peter Mies  
 Carman Miller  
 Chuck Miller  
 Gary B. or Twyla A. Miller  
 James F. Miller  
 Robert or Candace Miller  
 Christopher Mills  
 Dennis M. Mills  
 Robert Mines  
 William Mink  
 David L. Minten  
 Robert L. or Susan B. Mitchell  
 William P. Mitchell  
 Ms. Lee or Day Mitchelson  
 Michael P. or Theres Modelle  
 Alvin J. or Jill A. Moen  
 Virginia Moffit  
 Paul Moldenhauer  
 Bill or Joyce Molitor  
 Roberta Moltzen  
 Roy E. or Irma G. Monnot  
 John W. or Davetta Moore  
 Keith L. Moore  
 Michael L. Moorehouse  
 Sue Morava  
 Don Morford  
 Charles H. or Robin L. Morgan  
 Kenneth D. Morgan  
 Robert L. Morgan  
 Keith Morrill  
 Brian S. or Michelle D. Morris  
 James E. Morris  
 Leonard S. Moskal  
 Kent Mundon  
 Benjamin B. Munoz  
 Marcus Munoz  
 Robert S. Murner  
 Marilyn L. Murray  
 James Mutschelknaus  
 Clifford or Karen Myers  
 Keith or Tracy Myers  
 Randy Myers  
 Dr. Carl Nagel  
 William Neff

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 10)

Daniel A. Nelson  
 Robert L. or Lori Nelson  
 W. G. Neuberger  
 Morgan L. Newman  
 Scott J. or Karen M. Newman  
 Don Niblack  
 Hoyt Jr. or Lois Nicholas  
 Todd J. Nicolai  
 Adam Nieratko  
 Gina R. Nissen  
 NOAA National Weather  
 Duane F. Noecker  
 Noranda Exploration, Inc  
 Richard A. or Connie Nordness  
 Dennis or Kelly Northrup  
 Norwest Bank  
 Elaine J. Nygaard  
 Jack S. or Harriet Oakes  
 Wendell E. Oaks  
 Michael O'Brien  
 Patrick O'Bryan  
 Clara O'Chocki  
 Irene or John O'Dea  
 Richard or Marguerite Olesen  
 Burdette Oleson  
 Steve Olivier  
 Sherry M. Olofson  
 Chris Olson  
 Richard G. Olson  
 Robert L. or Luverna Olson  
 Irene M. O'Malley  
 Paul A. or Marcia K. Orgish  
 Mick or Kim Osbon  
 Kevin P. or Leslie Osborn  
 Greg L. Osborne  
 Robert Overturf  
 Ron or Vicki Owen  
 Cheryl or Gregory Owston  
 Ox Yoke Ranch Inn  
 Dennis or Cathy Paclik  
 Jeffrey M. or Renee L. Pansch  
 David A. Parker  
 Frank S. or R. M. Parker  
 Rita Parker  
 Craig M. Parkhurst  
 Eleanor Parliament  
 Bill Parsons  
 Donald or Veronica Parsons  
 Stuart E. Parvin  
 Gerald W. or Barbara J. Patenaude  
 Gene Patrick  
 Daniel D. Patton  
 Daniel D. or Gail Patton  
 Dorothy A. Patton  
 Louis W. Pearson  
 M. M. Pearson  
 Steve or Pamela Peeples  
 Gracie Pelissier  
 Rich Peller  
 Penny J. Penfield  
 Mary L. Pepper  
 Steve or Carol Perry  
 Dan Petersen  
 Allyson L. Peterson  
 Carl H. Peterson, Jr.  
 Tom or Beth Peterson  
 Wayne N. Peterson  
 Tom Phallon  
 Corbin Phillips  
 Alan C. Pickering  
 Clifford S. or Joyce Picotte  
 Elra E. Pigsley  
 Linda or Ivan Plett  
 Eric Plotner  
 Randy E. or Dee A. Polk  
 John or Jeannine Poloncic  
 Gregory or Kathy Pool  
 Deborah L. Poppen  
 Janet Porter  
 Frank M. or Candy R. Potthoff  
 Randy Potthoff  
 Danny Powell  
 Elizabeth A. Powell  
 Scott or Carol Prentice  
 Robert Provart  
 Larry Puckett  
 Frances A. Pudwill  
 Jay Pugh  
 Kenn A. Pugh  
 Pamella Pullen  
 Brent Pushing  
 Debbie Quiettt  
 Dana Quinn  
 James A. Radermacher  
 Alice Raesly  
 William Rahmer  
 Ralph's Property Management  
 Lawrence W. Rambo  
 Larry Lauri Randolph  
 Dorothy S. Ransom  
 Rapid Ride Go Kart Park  
 Evelyn Rasmussen  
 Keith M. or M. L. Rave  
 Darlene E. Ray  
 Del L. or Janice L. Rea  
 Realty World  
 Mamie Reany  
 Robert or Susan Redden  
 Martin C. or Kathleen A. Redman  
 William K. Reed  
 Nancy Reifel  
 Josephine M. Relf  
 Jan Remily  
 Jerry or Laura Renne  
 Sandy Reub  
 Richard W. or Deborah J. Rhode  
 Candis Richards  
 Ronald G. Richmond  
 James A. Richter  
 Herb W. Rickenbach Estate  
 Dale Riddle  
 Roger or Beth Riendeau  
 Joseph or Iva J. Rinehart  
 Floyd F. Ringer  
 Toni Ristau  
 Joe Rivera  
 Elbert or Winifred Robberson  
 Craig Robbins  
 Wesley M. Robbins  
 Capt. P. Roberts  
 Joseph F. or Sheila Roberts  
 Lorraine M. Roberts  
 Orville D. Roberts  
 Diana L. Robinson  
 Dennis K. Roeber  
 Marvin or Arlene M. Roemmich  
 Michael Roiger  
 Florence I. Romey Estate  
 Vern Rominger  
 Floyd W. Roney  
 Charles E. or Rose M. Rooks  
 Earl E. Rose  
 Roger Rose  
 Sharon Rose-Froelich  
 Donald H. Ross  
 Ralph or Patricia Rossknecht  
 Terry Rossman  
 Phillip Roth  
 Rosemary Rounds  
 Edna Royston  
 John M. Rud  
 Charles F. Ruffing  
 William F. Runge  
 William J. or Evelyn Russell  
 Peter or Sharon Russo  
 Kathryn Rutherford  
 Debbie Ryman  
 Keith J. or Judy Sabers  
 John Sabo  
 Merril Sailer  
 Harold Salathe  
 Joan Sales  
 Jeffrey or Karen Saline  
 Robert Salsbery  
 Terry Sampson  
 Brian H. Sanderson  
 James L. Sanderson  
 Gary L. Sayer  
 Linda Schacher  
 Randy S. or Karen Scheibe  
 Robert Schemmel  
 Dennis Schladweiler  
 Ruth Schleicher-Fraser  
 Jon or Denise C. Schleusner  
 Dr. John L. Schneller  
 Barry Schoen  
 Paul Schoenfelder  
 Douglas or Teresa Schone  
 Glenn G. Schraeder  
 David Schrier  
 Craig K. Schroder  
 Leonard P. Schroeder  
 Paul A. Schuchardt  
 Wilma J. Schulte  
 Clark A. or Lynne M. Schultz  
 Mark or Kara K. Schultz  
 Nellie Schultz  
 E. G. Schumacher Estate  
 Gerald Schumacher  
 Joyce Schumacher  
 James or Susie Schwartz  
 Dennis or Joden Scott  
 Leota C. Scott  
 Michael E. or Carol A. Scott  
 Wilmer L. or Sandra S. Scott  
 Jack W. or Ruby J. Seat  
 Florence Seeley  
 Judy See-McGowan  
 Jeffrey J. Seidl  
 Stacy S. Seitz  
 Jim Sewell  
 Herbert Shaffer  
 Shardal Builders  
 Margaret J. Sharkey  
 Barbara L. Shaw Estate  
 Roderick L. Sherman  
 Ellis J. Shoop  
 Francis J. Shymanski  
 Vaughn Simkins  
 Michael T. Simmons  
 Patrick or Robert S. Simmons  
 Singletree Company  
 Miles or Lisa Sipma  
 Jerry or Mary Sires  
 James A. Sittner  
 Dave Skalberg  
 Kenneth D. Skyberg  
 David or Pam Slavic  
 Jordan M. Small  
 Anthony J. Smith  
 Carol D. or Philip B. Smith  
 Casey M. Smith  
 Jane or Dale E. Smith  
 Michael V. Smith  
 Richard or Yvonne Smith  
 Sally Smith  
 Jeanne K. Smith  
 Cynthia or Leonard Snavely  
 Richard J. Snedeker  
 Elizabeth Snidow Estate  
 James A. Snyder  
 John or Kristi Snyder  
 Lynn Snyder  
 Richard or Allen Snyder  
 Suzanne Sondrol  
 Lloyd E. Soske Estate  
 Rick Soyland  
 Harold Spaulding  
 John C. Spease Estate  
 Sidney or Amy L. Spelts  
 Shawn Spencer  
 Gary Spicer  
 Curtis or Elizabeth Splichal  
 Wayne Splitt  
 Opal Splittstoesser Estate  
 Jim Sprung

(Continued on page 14)



Life on farms and in small towns changed for the better when electric co-ops brought power to the countryside.

# CO-OP HISTORY

## Co-op legacy provides a road map to success

**Billy Gibson**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

On Nov. 29, 1935, a handful of local farmers huddled together in a nondescript general store near Vermillion.

They knew that six months earlier President Franklin Roosevelt had signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). They knew the purpose of this new federal entity was to provide low-interest loans so that small communities all across the nation could build the power delivery infrastructures required to bring power to the countryside. And they knew this would be their best opportunity to accomplish something for themselves that the for-profit corporate utilities were unwilling to do: energize rural America. They were all in.

While there were a few fits-and-starts along the way, what emerged out of that meeting was South Dakota's first rural electric cooperative, Clay-Union Electric Corp.

Meanwhile, this exact scenario was being replicated in other small towns and villages from coast-to-coast as the rural electrification movement gained momentum and transformed the lives of millions. From those humble beginnings, the movement has swelled to more than 900 locally-owned and locally-controlled cooperatives serving 42 million Americans in 47 states.

The improbable feat of individuals coming together, organizing, planning and building such a vast power delivery system through the most sparsely populated and inhospitable landscapes has been recognized as one of the country's crowning achievements.

America's electric cooperatives take a great deal of pride in their legacy of service, their spirit of independence, their ability to work together for a common purpose and their democratic system of control and decision-making. It's a system rooted in the



Local citizens got together in the 1930s to organize electric co-ops.

very ideals that made the country great.

So why should today's generation care about this legacy?

Dan Lindblom thinks he knows. Lindblom, along with his fellow co-op leader Verdon Lamb, recently received the South Dakota Rural Electric Association's (SDREA) Legacy of Leadership Award for 2020. He said the rich history of the cooperative movement is important because it provides a model for success that both current and future generations can use to overcome obstacles and challenges, to help navigate through difficult and seemingly intractable situations.

Having served 27 years on the board at Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer and 23 years on the SDREA board, Lindblom certainly knows about how to approach difficult dilemmas. As a statewide board officer, Lindblom found himself in the middle of many imbroglios and political squabbles over the decades.

Whether the battleground was in Pierre or Washington, Lindblom fought to protect the interests of electric cooperative



Co-ops led the way in energizing rural America and today lead the way in developing new technologies such as electric vehicles.

members through a wide range of issues such as service territory disputes, state and federal environmental regulations, taxation, transportation and more.

In the process, he learned the art of compromise and the virtue of demonstrating mutual respect. He recalls the not-too-distant past when political



Co-ops improved the lives of all citizens in their communities.

opponents maintained personal, respectful relationships despite any ideological or policy differences they may have had. He also learned the meaning of the old axiom, “United we stand, divided we fall.”

“Speaking with one voice pays off, especially in the political arena,” Lindblom said. “We had situations where an issue may impact one or two co-ops, but we all had to stand together to provide the strength we needed to win. It’s a difficult decision to engage in a fight when you think you don’t have a dog in the hunt, but it’s necessary if you’re going to do what’s good for co-op members across the state. The next time, it may be your issue that comes up and you’ll need the support.”

Lindblom said the secret sauce of success is adopting a posture of give-and-take while standing in solidarity behind a set of shared values.

Verdon Lamb, the other 2020 Legacy of Leadership recipient, served 40 years on the board at Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative in Watertown and also served on the SDREA board. He said the history of the electric co-op movement is a prime example of what can be accomplished when people work together.

“It’s about leadership, sacrifice and working in harmony to do something that’s worth doing for other people,” Lamb said. “I always felt it was worth the sacrifice of giving up my personal time and my farming time to represent the members who put their faith in me and elected me to serve on the board.”

While some say the sense of community, sacrifice and selflessness are lost on the current generation, Lamb said he has hope that young adults will come to understand those ideals exemplified by electric co-ops.

“You know, people said the same things about us when we were kids,” said Lamb, who graduated from high school in 1953. “They said we weren’t going to amount to much, but we turned out okay.”

Chris Larson is manager at Clay-Union Electric Corp., where South Dakota’s electric cooperative system began. He pointed out that the legacy of electric cooperatives is rooted in friends, family and the community. Because cooperatives have always been owned, operated and controlled independently, and have always been geared for local service, they demonstrate the power of human connections and the strength that comes with

teamwork. He said this is especially clear to see as cooperatives and their members deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

“When times get tough, you look to your family and friends, and those are the people who make up our cooperative,” Larson said. “Cooperative communities work together to accomplish things that would be impossible to do alone. That’s what the cooperative legacy is all about, and we see how it lifts us up and sustains us through troubling times.”

Larson said electric co-op history points back to a time in the 1930s when the country was racked by a slumping economy. Co-op organizers went door-to-door to rally support and ask for a membership fee. It was money that many households simply didn’t have. He noted that the first attempt at forming the co-op failed because the start-up funds weren’t there. But by working together and staying focused on the goal, the community accomplished the mission of energizing homes, farms, schools and businesses.

“Friends and families in the Clay County area pulled together and found a way to improve the quality of life for all,” Larson said. “The result is that today we provide power to water districts, banks, grocery stores, elevators, hotels, ag supply stores and more. Electricity is the life blood that makes our local economy run. That’s why our history is so important – it shows the possibilities of what can be done. It’s a road map for achieving what some think is impossible. That’s a message we can all learn from and has no expiration date.”

Larson said that by being attentive to the legacy of electric cooperatives, members of the younger generation can make a real difference in the future of the country.

(Continued from page 11)

Louis Staedtler  
 J. W. Stambaugh  
 Dor-Shal or Marcia Stanley  
 Thomas or Kathleen Stark  
 Michael J. or Mary A. Statz  
 George Stec  
 Mark Steckler  
 Carney S. Steel  
 Tom or Kim Steele  
 Karen Steinberg  
 Leonora Steuermann  
 David or Rebecca Stevens  
 Timothy or Janine Stevenson  
 R. Dean or Nelda Stewart  
 Robert H. Stewart  
 Cecil Stone  
 Richard H. or Dianne K. Stone  
 Evelyn E. Stover Estate  
 Ben or Denise Stratton  
 Rod Strayer  
 Kathy L. Strohfus  
 Milt Stromer  
 Ronald J. or Judy Struif  
 Alfred Sturzenbecher  
 Jilene Suedmeier  
 Genevieve Summy  
 Robert Sundall  
 Pamela Sutterfield-Gardner  
 Vicki Suurmeyer  
 Cindy Swahlen  
 Dawn Swan  
 Erik T. Swanson  
 Hilbert Swanson Estate  
 Jerry Swanson  
 Kenneth or Ione Swedlund  
 Tanya Sybert  
 Robert J. Szmania  
 W. Gerald or Carla K. Taff  
 Martin Taylor  
 Rebecca Taylor  
 Robert or Karen Taylor  
 Tamara Taylor  
 Teepee Campground  
 Bill Teevens  
 Steven L. Tegtman  
 Annette Tennyson  
 Natalie Termes  
 Fidel Terrones  
 Karen L. Testerman  
 Scott N. or Wendi L. Thayer  
 The Lunch Box  
 Frank R. Thernes  
 Howard Thiesse  
 Larry or Carol Thmpson  
 Deborah or Peter Thomas  
 G. W. or Shirley Thomas  
 Wayne A. or Sandra A. Thomas  
 William R. Thomas  
 Robert or Loretta Thompson  
 David W. Thorell  
 Andrew Thorn

Robert W. or Dennel Tiensvold  
 Velna M. Tieszen  
 R. J. Timm Estate  
 Leroy or Ruth Titus  
 Thomas D. Tomashek  
 Harry K. Torrey  
 Maryann L. Torrey  
 Robert or Karen Tosterud  
 Tower Property Management  
 Robert or Elizabeth Townsend  
 Robert J. or Barbara J. Trefz  
 Joseph Trenholm or  
 Sharon Trenholm-Middleton  
 Brian E. Trescott  
 Linda Trobee  
 Gayle Trotter  
 Donavon L. Tucker  
 Doug Tucker  
 Michael E. or Susan Turner  
 Tony C. Turner  
 Andrew Two Bulls  
 Dan Uhl  
 Rick or Constance Uhre  
 Neil Uibreaslain  
 Roger or Donna Urbanec  
 Dale F. Utter  
 Katherine L. Van  
 Kathryn Van Der Vorste  
 Tomi Van Loh  
 Clay or Kathleen Van Meter  
 Dick Vanderheiden  
 Mark Vandersnick  
 Robert E. Vanderwaal  
 W. J. Vanneman  
 Richard C. or Marilyn Vanpool  
 Vantage Cable Association  
 Michael or Virginia Vaughn  
 Mitchell G. Vavich  
 Lois Vech  
 Steve or Cindy Verburg  
 Roger E. or Arlene M. Vick  
 Reuben J. or Elmira Vig  
 David Viger  
 Timothy J. or Kimberly Villa  
 Barbara H. Voas  
 Bradley W. Volk  
 C. J. or Lynda Voshall  
 Howard C. Wagner, Jr.  
 Joseph Wagner  
 Leslie Wagner  
 Randy J. or Sarah Wagner  
 Virginia Wagoner  
 Richard D. Waldorf  
 Daniel R. Walker  
 Russell A. or Ruth Walker  
 Verna Walker  
 Donald D. Wall  
 Beulah or Josiah A. Wallace  
 Joyce Walsh  
 Eugene G. or Jeannine R. Ward  
 Kristopher C. Ward  
 Wade C. or Jami J. Wasserburger

Ron or Patty Waterman  
 Alvin M. or Karen Watkins  
 Roy or Lois Watson  
 P. A. Wattleworth  
 Beverly Watts  
 Jack H. or Jean M. Weaver  
 Steve A. or Julie Weaver  
 Charles B. Webb  
 Kenneth Webber  
 Laura M. Webber  
 Robert L. or Susan H. Weber  
 Christine Wedge  
 Eric W. or Shelley D. Weeks  
 Veronica A. Weibel  
 Charles or Pauline Weichler  
 John or Paulette Weinbrecht  
 Fern H. Weinell  
 Charles E. Weir  
 Charity Weiss  
 Jonas or Mary Weiss  
 Billy J. or Susan E. Welder  
 Larry or Susan Weldy  
 Thomas M. Wellman  
 G. V. Wells Estate  
 Hugh Welsh  
 Judith Welsh  
 Thomas or Edith Welty  
 Lonny or Deborah Weltzer  
 Donald F. or Grace Wendt  
 Dorothy M. West  
 Lisa A. West  
 Lowell West  
 Westel, Inc.  
 Western Mining Corp  
 Western Telecommunications Fiber  
 Stuart Wevik  
 Mark A. or Janeen Wheeler  
 Sylvia or Vincent Whipple

Doug or Evelyn White  
 William Whiteside, Jr.  
 John Whitford Estate  
 Allen or Lois Whiting  
 W. T. or Judith B. Whiting  
 Roger or Karen Wibbens  
 Dan R. Wiedrich  
 Steven Wilhelmi  
 Jerry Wilkerson  
 Donna J. Williams  
 John or Lisa Williams  
 Mr. Ivy or Grace Williams  
 Rodney Williams  
 Roger Williams  
 Wilson P. Williams  
 Jill Williamson  
 Marilyn Williamson  
 Robert A. Willson  
 Clarice Wilson  
 Stephen or Theresa Wimmer  
 Lea Winckler  
 Robin S. Wink  
 Charles J. Woodward  
 Jayda Woodworth  
 Debbie or Grant Wooster  
 Kenneth A. or Betty Wootten  
 Pieter or Margery Wouden  
 Melvin R. Wright  
 Richard L. Wright  
 Dennis Wriglesworth  
 John A. or Fern L. Wurtz  
 Wydak Cable TV c/o Terry  
 Thomas  
 W. Keith Young  
 Glen Youngs  
 Roland L. Zachow  
 Craig or Verla Zeitler  
 Dale Ziemann

**Capital credits are the annual profits**—called margins by cooperatives—that are left over from revenues after all operating expenses are deducted. Margins, along with borrowed funds, are used to finance capital improvements, such as wire, poles, transformers, substations, etc.

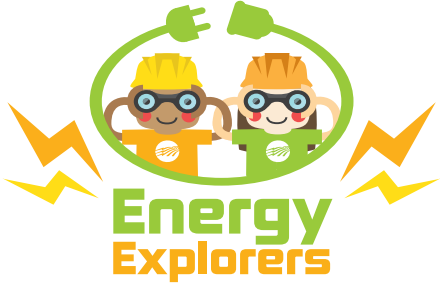
When the financial condition of the cooperative allows, the board of directors authorizes the return of previous years' capital credits. In December of 2019, Black Hills Electric Cooperative returned more than \$2.1 million to members who received electric service through 1993.

We need current addresses for the people listed in order to pay their share of past margins.

If you know who to contact for the people listed, please contact us at 673-4461 or 1-800-742-0085.

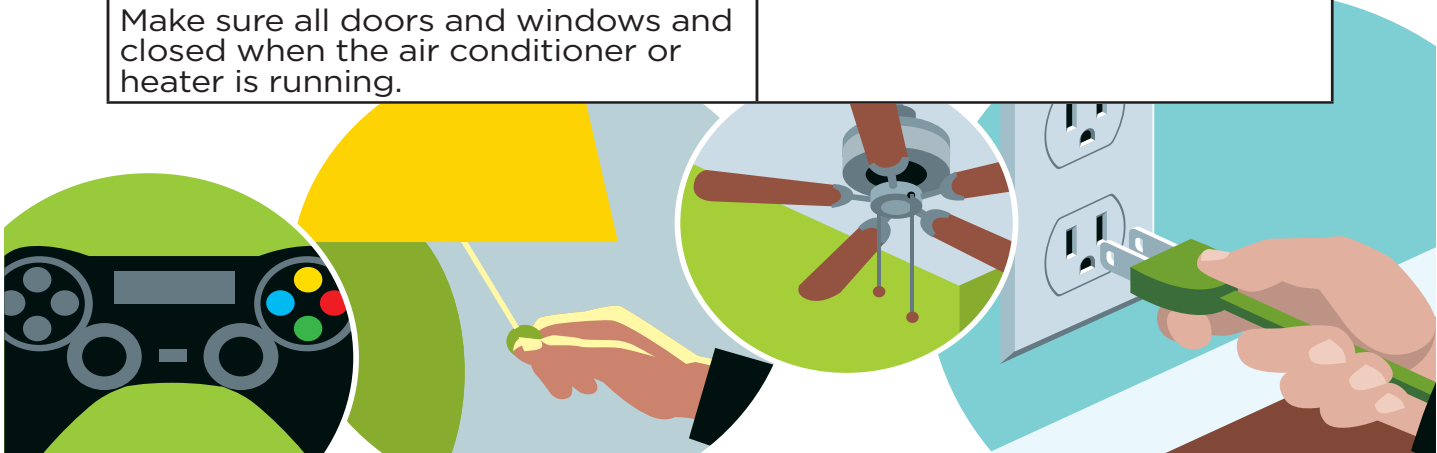
If you move off Black Hills Electric Cooperative's system, please keep your mailing address and contact information current at the co-op's office for future capital credit payments.

# ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN FOR THE FAMILY



There are several easy ways you and your family can save energy at home! Print this page, assign each energy-saving task, then place it on your fridge so your family can work together to save energy - and money.

WAY TO SAVE ENERGY	ASSIGNED TO:
Turn off lights in empty rooms.	
Replace any incandescent and/or CFL bulbs with LED bulbs.	
Turn off electronics that aren't in use (TVs, gaming consoles, etc.).	
Unplug phone chargers that aren't in use.	
Turn off ceiling fans in empty rooms.	
Adjust the thermostat when you leave the house. (Set it higher in the summer and lower in the winter.)	
Once a week, make a meal that doesn't require cooking in the kitchen. (Make PB&Js or cook outside.)	
Make sure all doors and windows are closed when the air conditioner or heater is running.	



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

---

**September 24**

Special Meeting of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 5:30 p.m., Roy's Black Hills Twin Drive-In Theatre, Hermosa, SD, 605-718-7431

---

**September 24-26**

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

---

**September 26**

Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival, 526 Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

---

**September 26**

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

---

**September 26-27**

Menno Pioneer Power Show, 616 N Fifth Street, Menno, SD

---

**September 26**

Wheelin' to Wall, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD

---

**October 2-3**

First United Methodist Church Rummage Sale, 629 Kansas City St, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-4294

---

**October 2-3**

Oktoberfest, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

---

**October 3**

Cruiser Car Show & Street Fair, Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

---

**October 3**

Cowboys, Cowgirls and Cowcatchers Soiree, 6 p.m., South Dakota State Railroad Museum, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9000



**Sept. 26**  
Wheelin' to Wall, Wall, SD,

---

**October 3-4**

Marshall Area Gun Show, Red Baron Arena, 1651 Victory Dr., Marshall, MN, 507-401-6227

---

**October 3-4**

Harvest Festival, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

---

**October 3-18**

Pumpkin Festival, Canton, SD, 605-987-5171

---

**October 10**

Annual Fall Festival, 4-6 p.m., Fairburn United Methodist Church, Fairburn, SD 605-255-4329

---

**October 10**

Groton's 5th Annual Pumpkin Fest, Groton City Park, Groton, SD, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch Served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

---

**October 10-11**

Pumpkin Festival, 27249 SD Hwy 115, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

---

**October 24**

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

---

**October 29-30**

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

---

**October 31-November 1**

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

---

**November 7**

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

---

**November 7**

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to Register Your Team

---

**November 14**

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

---

**November 21-22**

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S Washington Street, Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

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.