South Dakota Electric

Cooperative Connections

MARCH 2017 VOL. 69 NO. 3

A Lineman's Guide to Good Eats!

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> Brenda Kleinjan, Editor Dawn Trapp, Communications Specialist

Involvement is Key



Ed Anderson General Manager, South Dakota **Rural Electric Association**

Members in good standing with their co-op have the right to seek election to the board of directors. While serving on a board is certainly not for everyone, it is healthy for any co-op to have an engaged membership with a portion of the members interested in serving in a leadership role.

South Dakota's electric cooperatives are governed by local boards of directors. More than 230 men and women represent their neighbors on the 28 local distribution cooperative boards in the state. From these boards, directors are selected to repre-

sent their cooperative on the boards of the state's generation and transmission cooperatives. Additional directors are selected to represent the co-ops on a regional generation and transmission cooperative and also on the board of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. At all these levels, we are governed by locally elected directors, elected by the membership, that provide strategic direction and guidance to ensure we continue to serve the interests of you, the member-owner.

Through active engagement and participation of the membership, the co-op can ensure it is leading in a direction that the members will want to follow.

While democracy itself is an imperfect system, it remains the best way to ensure the maximum number of voices are heard.

Democracy cannot and should not be taken for granted.

The electric co-op's mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power has been achieved. Now, as the utility industry enters an era of change, when people have more choices for the way they receive electricity, it is critically important that we hear your voice and the voices of the most diverse group of members. Through active engagement and participation of the membership, the co-op can ensure it is leading in a direction that the members will want to follow.

In addition to ensuring the co-op serves the best interests of its members, the board of directors is committed to providing solutions that maintain the vibrancy of our local communities. Being a co-op board member requires a real commitment of time and effort and an attitude of being a servant leader, meaning board members should want to engage to make a real contribution to the membership and community.

One of the greatest resources of South Dakota's electric cooperatives are our people. If you are interested in running for a seat on your local co-op board or are interested in becoming more involved with your cooperative, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact the cooperatives listed to the left to learn more.



Protect Your Family

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical cords and temporary wiring account for more than 25 percent of the estimated 81,000 electrical system fires that occur each year. These fires can be prevented by following these essential home electrical safety tips.

Extension cord safety

• Don't use extension cords as a substitute for repairing building wiring.

• Inspect extension cords for broken connectors, damaged insulation and missing hardware before each use.

• Do not run extension cords through walls, over beams, around corners or through doorways.

- Only use extension cords approved for the environment and loads expected.
- Equip extension cords with ground fault interruption (GFI) devices.
- Don't use coiled extension cords.
- Discard damaged extension cords; Don't try to repair them.

• Use only surge protected power strips. Inspect the power strips regularly for damage or signs of overloading.

Temporary wiring

• Don't substitute temporary and flexible wiring for repairing building wiring.

• Use temporary wiring only when needed for maintenance, repair or demolition activities.



• Limit temporary wiring for holiday or ornamental lighting to no more than 90 days.

- In outdoor settings, use only outdoor approved temporary wiring and extension cords.
- Don't route temporary wiring across floors, around doors or through walls.

• Locate temporary wiring at least 7 feet above any walking or working surface.

• Protect temporary wiring from sharp edges, heat and sunlight to avoid breakdown of the insulation.

Equipment power cords

• Inspect equipment cords for damage before each use.

• Don't operate equipment cords without a ground connection unless they are double insulated.

• Don't splice equipment cords to repair damage or to extend the original length.

Maintenance and inspection

• Lock out or tag all electrical equipment or lines while they are being serviced, maintained or adjusted.

• Inspect all electrical appliances to ensure they're properly grounded. Cords that are frayed or damaged should be removed and replaced immediately, not spliced or taped. Shut down main power source when replacing fuses.

Safeguards to install

• Write the purpose of each circuit breaker, fuse or switch on the panel board.

• Label all disconnecting switches and circuit breakers.

• Make sure there is sufficient access and working space around all electrical equipment for safe operation and maintenance.

• Cover all unused electrical openings (including conduit knockouts) with electrical enclosures and fittings.

Source: nationwide.com

Kids' Corner Safety Poster





Ashton Massey, Fourth-grader at Menno School District

Ashton is the daughter of Frank and Stacey Massey, Olivet, S.D. They are members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Marion, 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.

4 March 2017 • COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Reader **Recipes**

2 T. butter

2 T. olive oil

1/4 tsp. salt

1 lb. uncooked large shrimp,

peeled and deveined

8 oz. pasta such as fusilli 1 cup finely chopped onion

1 cup chicken broth

Savory Seafood



Lemon Pasta with Spinach and Shrimp

Melt butter in large skillet. Add olive oil and heat until very

hot. Add shrimp and salt; saute until shrimp turns pink.

Remove shrimp and set aside. Cook pasta in well-salted water until al dente. While pasta is cooking, add onion to

butter and olive oil mixture; cook over medium heat until

on a thicker consistency. Add ricotta cheese and pepper, stirring until smooth. Pull the al dente pasta out of the

boiling water with a strainer. Drop it into the sauce. The little bit of starchy water that goes in with the pasta will help

thicken the sauce. Stir in shrimp and spinach. The spinach will wilt as it heats up. When well combined and heated

onion is soft. Add broth to pan, along with lemon juice and zest. Cook and stir until mixture reduces slightly and takes

Baked Fish Dijon

1-1/2 lbs. firm white fish fillets, such as cod, pollock, flounder or sole
Juice of 1 lemon
1 T. Dijon mustard
1 T. olive oil

1 tsp. McCormick® Dill Weed 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Ground 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder 1 carrot, peeled and shredded 3 T. grated Parmesan cheese

Rinse fish and pat dry. Set aside. Mix lemon juice, mustard, oil, dill, pepper and garlic powder in small bowl. Brush dressing on both sides of fish fillets. Arrange fish, overlapping thinnest portions, in 13x9-inch baking dish. Drizzle remaining dressing over fish. Arrange shredded carrot over fish. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350°F. about 12 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork. Makes 6 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 131, Total Fat 4g, Cholesterol 54mg, Sodium 154mg, Carbohydrates 2g, Dietary Fiber 1g, Protein 20g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Crab Quiche

- 4 eggs, beaten 3/4 cup milk 1/2 tsp. salt 1/2 tsp. ground thyme 1 T. chopped pimento 1-1/2 cups fresh broccoli, chopped
- 6 oz. imitation crab 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese 2 T. minced onion 1 unbaked 10-inch pie shell

Combine eggs, milk, salt, thyme and pimento; set aside. Toss chopped broccoli, crab, cheeses and onion together; place in pie shell. Pour liquid mixture over all. Bake at 350°F. for 50 to 55 minutes. Let cool 10 to 15 minutes before cutting. The red and green are pretty for a Christmas brunch.

Barbara Angerhofer, Hendricks, MN

Salmon Casserole

1 can salmon 1/8 tsp. pepper 1 cup crushed saltine crackers 1 egg 1/3 cup chopped onion 1 can cream of mushroom soup 2 T. chopped celery

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce Milk Gravy: 2 T. butter 2 T. flour 2 cups milk Salt and pepper, to taste 2 slices cheese, if desired

Combine all casserole ingredients; put in loaf pan. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. for 30 to 40 minutes. For gravy, in skillet combine butter, flour, salt and pepper. Add milk slowly; cooking until thickened. Add cheese if desired. Serve over top of casserole.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

through, stir in Parmesan cheese. Makes 4 servings. Deborah Rieck, Edgerton, MN

Simple Salmon Soup

1 (14-3/4 oz.) can salmon, undrained 1 (10-3/4 oz.) can celery soup 4 cups milk 1/2 tsp. dried dill weed Chopped fresh parsley or chives Sliced, hard-cooked eggs, optional

Remove and discard skin and bones from salmon. Break salmon into small pieces. Place into a large 4-quart saucepan. Combine soup, milk and dill weed; add to salmon. Heat over medium until hot, stirring occasionally.

June Herke, Watertown

Tuna and Noodles – On the Light Side

1 T. diet margarine 2 T. flour 1/2 cup evaporated skim milk 1/2 can mushrooms, drained 2 tsp. onion flakes 1 can tuna, drained Salt and pepper to taste 4 oz. cooked peas 1/2 cup cooked noodles

Combine margarine and flour in saucepan. Gradually add milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring until thickened. Remove from heat and add remaining ingredients. Place in casserole dish. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes.

Mary Ellen Luikens, Scotland

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage or casserole recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and coopera-

tive name.

1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 T. grated lemon zest
1/3 cup ricotta cheese
1/2 tsp. black pepper
8 oz. baby spinach leaves, fresh
1 cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese

Choosing the Right Air Conditioner for Your Home



Energy Efficiency NOTES

Patrick Keegan Collaborative Efficiency

Dear Pat: I have a central air conditioner in my home that is at least 15 years old – it is not very efficient, but still works. Should I look into replacing it now or wait until it fails? – Bob

Dear Bob: Replacing an inefficient air conditioner (AC) with a more efficient model could significantly reduce

your electric bill. A new AC unit is 20 percent to 40 percent more efficient than one from the 1990s – and ENERGY STAR[®]-certified systems are even more efficient. Replacing an aging system now, before summer starts, could help you avoid delays or price premiums.

How much money you save by replacing your current AC unit depends on how often your AC runs and your electric rate. If you are in a hot climate and you keep your home's temperature in the low 70s, your cost of cooling will be substantial and so will the potential savings from replacing your old air conditioner with an efficient new one.

The best way to determine possible savings is to have an in-home assessment conducted by a qualified heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) professional or a certified energy auditor. Electric coops are often interested in reducing peak summer loads and sometimes offer information, rebates or a list of qualified professionals. It's a plus if the contractor has North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certification. Contractors should be knowledgeable about energy efficient systems and have good references.

Your contractor needs to size the system to your home. Ken Maleski, the residential advisor at Central Electric Cooperative in Pennsylvania, says a unit that is too small will not cool your home to the levels you want. If it is too large, it may not dehumidify your home sufficiently, and it will cycle on and off more frequently, which can increase wear and tear on the system and shorten its life significantly.

In order to size the system, the contractor will need to look at the efficiency of the home by checking insulation levels. If you add insulation where it's most needed, you may be able to install a smaller AC unit and you should enjoy greater comfort and lower cooling costs. The HVAC contractor you hire should also assess your ductwork, which is often poorly designed, leaky or inadequately insulated.

As you talk to your contractor, it's good to know there are several air conditioning options suited to different situations. It may or may not be practical to change to a different type of system.

Central air conditioning is generally one of two types: either split or packaged. A split system, which has the cold coils inside the home and an outside unit exhausting heat, is the most common. Packaged systems, which are sometimes installed because of space constraints, combine these functions into one box located outside the home.

A heat pump can provide cooling and heating in homes with or without ducts. If you are currently using propane or natural gas as your fuel source, this may be a good option.

A ductless mini-split heat pump can be an efficient way to cool up to four zones inside the home. If your existing ductwork is in bad shape or poorly designed, this could be a good solution.

Window units are much less efficient than other options, but they can still be effective for cooling a single room. It's worth paying a little more for a new ENERGY STAR-compliant unit, rather than the dusty \$80 unit from the yard sale or auction that wheezes its way through the summer.

Evaporative (or "swamp") coolers are an alternative in very dry climates. While they use a quarter of the energy and are less expensive to install than central air conditioning, they also require more frequent maintenance.

Replacing an aging air conditioner is a great way to improve comfort, cut energy costs and reduce peak energy demand. Your co-op may be able to help, and you can learn a lot from the information resources available on our website and on the ENERGY STAR and energy.gov websites.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheeless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more ideas on efficiency apps and how to save energy, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.



Educators Sought for 2017 Lignite Seminar

On June 12-15, 2017, the Lignite Energy Council will conduct an education seminar for approximately 130 elementary and secondary teachers from Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. The seminar was totally revamped in 2009 and made into a two-credit class which lasts for four days.

The teacher education seminar is sponsored by the Lignite Energy Council, in cooperation with four North Dakota colleges and universities. During the seminar, teachers hear presentations by educators, researchers and lignite industry representatives. One day is devoted to touring mining operations, reclamation sites and coal conversion facilities. Question and answer sessions in the classroom and on the tour give teachers the opportunity to find out what they need to know for their individual classroom needs.

Two graduate professional development credits are available through the Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D., North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., or Minot State University, Minot, N.D. To receive the credits, teachers must attend all portions of the seminar and prepare lesson plans demonstrating how they will use the seminar information and materials in their classrooms.

Teachers attending the seminar will receive lecture outlines on each presentation, examples of lesson plans, classroom exercises, coal and ash samples, audiovisual materials and information on the facilities they tour. In addition, they also receive resource guides listing publications and audiovisual materials available for energy education.

The seminar, which will be held at Bismarck State College, Bismarck, N.D., will provide teachers with the information and educational materials they need to teach their students about how lignite is mined and used to produce electricity for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. In addition, the seminar covers lignite's economic impact on the region, as well as important environmental issues affecting the lignite industry.

Since 1986, more than 3,200 teachers have attended the Lignite Energy Council's teacher education seminar.

The Lignite Education Seminar is a no-cost seminar for K-12 teachers in North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and Iowa to attend. Teachers may incur transportation costs to and from the seminar. The Lignite Energy Council provides housing and most meals during the seminar. Graduate professional development credits are paid for on behalf of the Lignite Energy Council.

Applications will be accepted until the seminar is full or until April 15, 2017, whichever occurs first. Typically, all eligible teachers are accepted.

To register, go to https://www.lignite.com/our-programs/ teachers-seminar/out_ofstate_teachers/

Rapid City Stevens Defends Science Title

For the third year in a row, students from Rapid City Stevens High School will be representing South Dakota at the National Science Bowl April 27 to May 1 in Washington, D.C.

The young science enthusiasts earned the honor when they captured top honors at the South Dakota Regional Science Bowl held Jan. 21 in Huron, S.D.

"The National Science Bowl® continues to be one of the premier academic competitions across the country and prepares America's students for future successes in some of the world's fastest growing fields in science, technology and engineering,' said Dr. J. Stephen Binkley, acting director of the Department's Office of Science, which sponsors the nationwide competition, now in its 27th year.

The NSB brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in a fast-paced question-andanswer format where they solve technical problems and



Rapid City Stevens High School repeated as Regional Science Fair Champs in January. Team members Alan Zhu, Isaiah Morin-Baxter, Gabriel Spahn, Joshua Morin-Baxter and Anthony Nesland display their trophy and banner with their coach Jason Reub.

answer questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics and math.

S.D. Science Bowl Champions Since 1995

2017: Rapid City Stevens High School 2007: Greater Sioux Falls Home 2016: Rapid City Stevens High School 2015: Rapid City Stevens High School 2006: Rapid City Central High School – Team No. 1 2014: Rapid City Central High School 2004: Rapid City Stevens High School – Team No. 1 **2013:** Rapid City Central High School – Team No. 1 **2012:** Aberdeen Central High School – Team No. 2 2011: Vermillion High School **2010:** Greater Sioux Falls Home School Association

2009: Aberdeen Central High School 2008: Aberdeen Central High School

- School Association
- 2005: Rapid City Central High School
- 2003: Rapid City Stevens High School
- 2002: Vermillion High School
- 2001: Huron High School
- 2000: Huron High School
- 1999: Huron High School
- **1998:** Vermillion High School
- 1997: Alcester-Hudson High School
- **1996:** Philip High School
- **1995:** Aberdeen Central High School

Source: https://www.wapa.gov/regions/UGP/ScienceBowl/ Pages/south-dakota-winners.aspx

A Lineman's Guide to Good Eats

HEN ONE'S 'MOBILE OFFICE' CAN TAKE ONE MILES and miles away from home in a given day, grabbing a quick bite to eat at home at noon isn't always an option.

For the hundreds of co-op linemen in the state, their work environment may often mean a sack lunch packed at home. But sometimes, the worksite is close enough that a lunch break at a favorite dining spot can happen. And, given that many towns in cooperative areas don't have a national chain restaurant in them, local eateries delight locals and visitors alike.

(At one time, according to the consumerist.com, a point east of Bison, S.D. was the furthest point from a McDonalds in the lower 48-states. But, when a California McDonalds closed its doors, a point in Nevada edged out the South Dakota location by eight miles in 2013, measuring 115 miles to the closest golden arches.)

We asked a few linemen in different parts of the state for some recommendations for their favorite places to grab a bite to eat.

The responses varied and by no means does it provide a comprehensive list to the hundreds of great places to eat in South Dakota and western Minnesota, but below are a few of the recommendations.

The stretch of S.D. Highway 34 extending west from Fort Pierre to Sturgis doesn't look like it would yield many culinary offerings, but the food is good at Nellie's in Enning and down the road at Bull Creek in Union Center, said West River Electric Association Line Foreman Lane Butler, who works out of the co-op's Enning outpost.



Brenda Kleinjan

Heading to the northeast, the Burger Shack in Faulkton hit the recommendation list. Located along U.S. Highway 212, the eatery specializes in different types of burgers.

Looking for a Mom and Pop type dining experience in northeast South Dakota?

Depending on the season, you may find Northern Electric Cooperative journeyman lineman Tyler Marken and his colleagues eating at one of several places, including the Wake Side Resort at Mina Lake west of Aberdeen. (Other places on the list? Pounders in Aberdeen, Anchors Away at Richmond Lake and the Airport Cafe made Marken's list.)

Heading south along the Interstate 29 corridor, H-D Electric lineworker Josh Risty offered a few suggestions.

The Sioux Land Bar and Grill along the shores of Lake Poinsett in Hamlin County made his list as did the State Line Bar and Grill on Lake Cochrane near Gary on the South Dakota/Minnesota border.

Having worked several storm jobs assisting other cooperatives, Risty had this observation.

"The local diners have always done a great job. I would say at times it is better than the restaurants anywhere," said Risty.

Getting into the Sioux Falls area there scores of options, but as one heads a bit to the west, The Battle Creek Steakhouse on Lake Vermillion near Canistota was one recommended by employees at Southeastern Electric Cooperative at Marion.

Looking for local recommendations and possibly meal deals?

The Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative Connec-

tions Card has hundreds of restaurants participating. Many restaurants listed offer deals for co-op members. (There's even an app for Android and Apple devices so you have easy access to listings, even when on the road.)

Eats and Drinks from South Dakota Tourism

Still seeking more? Check out the featured "Eat and Drink" listings at travelsouthdakota.com. Among the 169 places listed are:

Aberdeen: The Brass Kettle Arlington: 1481 Grille Belle Fourche: Belle Fourche Country Club Brookings: Cafe Coteau; Nick's Hamburger Shop; The Pheasant Restaurant and Lounge Crazy Horse: Laughing Water Restaurant Custer: Bavarian Inn; Black Hills Burger and Bun; Blue Bell Lodge; Bobkat's Purple Pie Place; Legion Lake Lodge; Oliver's Twist Ice Cream and Eatery State Game Lodge; Sylvan Lake Lodge DeSmet: Oxbow Restaurant

Jrant Elk Point: Edgar's Old Fashioned Soda Fountain and Pioneer Drug; H&S BBQ N More; Los Amigo's Restaurant

Gettysburg: Bob's Resort

Hartford: Hartford Steak Co. Tavern

Hill City: Alpine Inn, Hubcap Diner; Miner Brewing Company

Huron: 21 Baker Street; 444 Bar & Grill/ Elks Lodge; Big D's Timeout Sports Bar & Grill; Burger Plus; Don't Spill the Beans; Putters and Scoops

Keystone: Mount Slushmore; Teddy's Deli Lead: Stampmill Inn, Restaurant and

Saloon Milbank: Millstone Family Restaurant

You can also download the "Pints and Platters" e-guide at https:// www.travelsouthdakota.com/things-todo/eat-drink Mitchell: Chef Louie's Oacoma: Cedar Shore Resort Philip: Badlands Trading Post Pierre: Cattleman's Club Steakhouse; La Minestra; Mad Mary's Steakhouse and Saloon; Spring Creek Resort and Marina; View 34

Rapid City: Botticelli Ristorante Italiano; Everest Cuisine; Firehouse Brewing Company; Kathmandu Bistro; Kol; Tally's Silver Spoon; ¿Que Pasa? Cantina

Sioux Falls: Bracco World Cafe and Island Bar; Camille's Sidewalk Cafe; CH Patisserie; Foley's Fish, Chop and Steakhouse; Phillips Avenue Diner; Sanaa's 8th Street Gourmet

Vermillion: Cafe Brule; Old Lumber Company Grill and Bar; RED Steakhouse; The Silk Road Cafe

Wall: The Wall Drug Store, Inc.

Wessington Springs: Springs Inn Cafe and Lounge; Sweet Grass Bakery and Coffee Shop

Whitewood: Bullwacker's Saloon

Yankton: The Landing Restaurant and Lounge

Check out the full listing at https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/things-to-do/eat-drink/list

Celebrating 75 Years

South Dakota Electric Cooperatives Working Together

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L HE SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIAtion's 75th annual meeting was held in Pierre on Jan. 12-13 and attracted 320 South Dakota cooperative directors, managers and employees and 100 state legislators. The theme celebrating the 75-year milestone was Rock Solid: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

The event was kicked off with an appearance by Secretary of State Shantel Krebs who spoke on the fallout and possible replacement of Initiated Measure 22. Secretary Krebs presented potential solutions to the ethical debacle most people are finding in the anti-corruption act. Her solutions included forming a campaign finance ethics commission and creating new rules to govern campaign finances.

Jocelyn Romey

In an informative and educational platform, the annual meeting presented historical accounts as well as financial and business updates of SDREA and its member cooperatives.

During the event, attendees learned the importance of embracing workplace diversity and being effective in their career and personal life goals from guest speakers Rhonda Kemmis and Jay Gubrud. Co-op directors and employees also toured the Capitol and met with legislators on behalf of their co-op. This meet-and-greet session continued when many legislators attended the SDREA Legislative Dinner following the visit to the Capitol. Reports of this event were positive and many attendees believed it was effective.

Special recognition went to Ken VanZee, retiring general manager and line superintendent of Douglas Electric Cooperative in Armour, S.D., and Joe Connot, retired manager of member services of West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D. VanZee and Connot received the Legacy of Leadership Award for their years of serving electric cooperatives in South Dakota.

Eight electric cooperative directors also received recognition for earning Director Gold status, which consists of earning CCD and BLC credentials and furthering their education through additional courses and service. The South Dakota directors who received this status are Larry Bowar, FEM Electric; John Long, Grand Electric; Steven Hanson and Alvin Kangas, H-D Electric; Lois Bartlett and Barb Begeman, Moreau-Grand Electric; and Steve Holmberg and Daryl Terveen, Southeastern Electric.

During the ACRE breakfast, recognition was given to cooperatives who attained the honor roll of 100 percent board, management and employee participation. In 2016, South Dakota had 704 ACRE

Left: SDREA General Manager Ed Anderson listens as Board **President Don Heeren** (not pictured) talks about legislation that co-ops fought for at the very beginning of the association. Below left: Jim Woster spoke of the role electric cooperatives played in the lives of families across the state. **Below Middle: Speaker** Rhonda Kemmis spoke about workplace issues. Below Right: Speaker Jay Gubrud gave the "Shifting **Gears and Changing** Lanes" presentation.

members. Going forward, the state ACRE officers will be the same as in 2016. They are the following: Jerry Hammerquist, West River Electric, chairman; Ken Gillaspie, Oahe Electric, vice chairman; Greg Hollister, East River Electric, secretary; and Melissa Maher, Moreau-Grand Electric, treasurer.

During the annual meeting luncheon, Jim Woster reflected on rural electrification across the nation and in South Dakota. He noted the impact it has in this country compared to those countries who do not have it.

At one point, Woster said, "I hope we never forget the tremendous gift from God we got when they started turning these lights on."

At the annual meeting's conclusion, the SDREA board met to reorganize. All officers kept their positions on the board which are as follows: Don Heeren, Southeastern Electric, president; John Long, Grand Electric, vice president; Richard Abrahamson, Kingsbury Electric, secretary; and D.J. Mertens, West Central Electric, treasurer.

Above Left: SDREA Board President Don Heeren, left, presents the Legacy of Leadership Award to Douglas Electric Cooperative Manager Ken Van Zee. Van Zee retired in January 2017 after 45 years with the cooperative. Above Right: Heeren presents the Legacy of Leadership Award to Joe Connot of Murdo. Connot retired in October after more than 40 years at West Central Electric Cooperative. Opposite Page: Sheldon Peterson, Governor and CEO of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation gave a presentation on economic factors facing cooperatives.

Area Co-ops Represented by Trio

Three area men among 11 directors guiding Basin Electric Power Cooperative

By Chris Gessele and Tracie Bettenhausen Basin Electric Power Cooperative

As a COOPERATIVE MEMBER, YOU PROBABLY REALIZE THAT the board of directors of your local electric cooperative is comprised of people you probably call "neighbor." But did you know that your cooperative makes up one of the largest cooperatives in the nation?

Rural electric cooperative pioneers in the Missouri River basin created Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D., in 1961 to provide supplemental wholesale power to their distribution cooperatives. Basin Electric's growth and success during the past 50-plus years is due to the commitment, support and resolve of these visionary co-op leaders and their consumers.

Basin Electric's 11-member board of directors are elected by its members – more than 140 cooperatives in nine states. These directors have been elected to the boards of their local distribution systems and then, with the exception of Districts 9, to their respective intermediate generation and transmission systems. Many of the Class A members are generation and transmission (G&T) electric cooperatives.

Basin Electric's member systems' service territories span 540,000 square miles from the Canadian to the Mexican borders. Its members constitute a vital network of generation, transmission and distribution systems that deliver electricity to 3 million consumers in parts of North Dakota,

South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Montana and New Mexico.

Here are profiles on three directors representing South Dakota and Minnesota electric cooperatives.

Kermit Pearson:

The more he got involved, the more he realized serving rural electric cooperatives was what he was meant to do.

When Kermit Pearson was asked to join the Webster, S.D.-based Lake Region Electric Association board in 1981, it was something he didn't expect.

He had no experience in the electric cooperative world and had no family history there either. He was 35 years old and says even at that time, most of the directors on electric cooperative boards were nearing retirement age.

He was filling the seat of Art Jones, a pioneer in electric cooperative history. Jones helped to organize Lake Region Electric, East River Electric Power Coop-

erative and finally Basin Electric where he served as the first board president.

"There was some legacy there to follow," Pearson says. He felt young, but the more he got involved, the more Pearson realized serving rural electric cooperatives was what he was meant to do.

In addition to the Lake Region Electric board, Pearson has served on the East River Electric board since 1989 and has served on the Basin Electric board since 1997, representing District 1. Currently he serves as the Basin Electric board's vice president and represents Basin Electric on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board of directors.

Since that unexpected phone call, Pearson has never been involved with another board. His energy is directed into the rural electrics. "Electric cooperatives are so well run and well organized and there are quality people in these organizations throughout," he says. "Being around good people is fun and it's fun when you're all fighting for the same cause — to improve the quality of life for rural people."

Pearson farms and ranches in partnership with his brother, Neal. The Pearson Gelbvieh Cattle Company sits a dozen miles east of Britton, S.D., in the northeastern corner of the state. Off the road leading to Fort Sisseton State Park, the farmstead has a nice thick buffer of trees, some that have been planted over the past 67 years by a Pearson, and at least one that was a good 25 years old before the Pearsons ever set foot on the place. There are lakes in almost every direction and many are named for the distance they are from the fort – Four Mile Lake, Nine Mile Lake and so on. In addition to the purebred Gelbvieh herd, Pearson grows soybeans, wheat, oats and alfalfa.

He hasn't always lived this life, though. After college at South Dakota State University, Pearson taught vocational agriculture in Redfield, S.D., and then managed the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, S.D.

Kermit and Peggy Pearson were starting their lives together about that time and decided life in Huron would not be a long-term thing. The desire to farm and ranch pulled Pearson back toward his home. "Neal and dad were working together at that time. If we were to grow and expand, it took another hand and that was me," he says. "I had an interest in the purebred aspect of the cattle operation. I guess you can't take the farm out of a boy."

Thinking back, Kermit Pearson says his state government experience with the South Dakota State Fair and his previous teaching experience is what made the Nominating Committee at Lake Region Electric think of him for a board seat.

From the days when Art Jones was the first president of the Basin Electric board, to his Lake Region Electric successor's work today, Pearson says, "Basin Electric has always survived and not only have we survived, but we have grown and prospered as a result of the way we tackled those issues. We have a good cause to fight for."

Pearson serves as the Basin Electric vice president.

Gary Drost:

Drost represents District 2, L&O Power Cooperative, and serves as Basin Electric's secretary/treasurer.

Gary Drost and his co-op companions stepped into the Longworth House Office Building cafeteria – a noisy and bustling expanse of welldressed people. The cafeteria didn't seem much different than the rest of Capitol Hill.

Drost represents Basin Electric's District 2, L&O Power Cooperative of Rock Rapids, Iowa, and serves as Basin Electric's secretary/treasurer. He also serves on several Basin Electric subsidiary boards. He represents Sioux Valley Energy of Colman, S.D., on the L&O board of directors.

Drost's cafeteria stop was part of a mid-September 2014 trip to Washington, D.C., with other cooperative colleagues to visit legislators and attend the annual Fall Fly-In reception for congressional staffers, which is coordinated by Basin Electric. During the visits, the group visited the Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota congressional delegation and Roger Johnson, National Farmers Union president.

Each legislator was joined by at least one staff member who would take notes and ask visitors questions about the issues they face.

"We've been told by legislators, 'When you folks come in, we listen. You don't come in with three or four people – you come in with a delegation that's much larger.' There's strength in numbers," Drost says.

It was warm outside as the group moved between buildings. That fact and the day's frantic pace didn't wear down Drost: He's busy enough on his farm near Luverne, Minn., where he and Debra grow corn and soybeans. They farm with their son, who also raises beef cattle and hogs. Gary and Debra also have a daughter and three grandchildren.

Drost's life as a co-op director can take him far from home, but he knows the importance of these trips: co-ops were born in politics, linking co-op leaders and the nation's leaders.

It was a nonstop, tightly scheduled stay in D.C. for Drost and his cooperative counterparts, though well worth the effort to visit about topics that could have profound effects on the energy industry.

"The rural electric program was born in politics and will survive or die in politics," Drost says.

Drost, a former lineman and retired U.S. Navy Reserve serviceman, has been a Basin Electric director since 1999 and electric cooperative board member since 1987. He remembers his first visit to Basin Electric's annual meeting of the membership as a new cooperative board director.

"I was just awestruck by what Basin Electric was and everything Basin Electric was doing. I wouldn't have dreamed that 12 years later I'd be a director on the Basin Electric board," he says.

In 1987, the cooperative and its members were challenged by surplus generation. Drost and the other directors face challenges of a different sort today.

"It's a pretty exciting time because of the challenges of growth and capacity shortages we face going forward. Everything is continually changing, and we must meet the membership's needs while also recognizing needs of the future member," Drost says. "I'm comfortable looking toward the future because we have a committed staff and board at Basin Electric, and a membership that is committed to Basin Electric and is very much a part of our future."

Mike McQuistion:

McQuistion's first co-op memories are tied to needing the cooperation of neighboring homes.

The drive to Mike McQuistion's ranch in central South Dakota is similar to a trip into a national park. Prairie scenery gives way to bluffs and hills and valleys, roads wind and get more rugged and the sky opens up to endlessness.

Out in the pasture, driving in four-wheel over lumps and bumps, suddenly the land in front of your windshield gives way to the view of Lake Oahe sprawling as far as your eyesight can stretch.

"This part of the world can

humble you pretty quickly," says McQuistion, Basin Electric director for District 7, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D.

McQuistion is showing off the artesian well system on his land. Wells 2,400 feet deep, flowing 35 to 40 gallons per minute. The water is potable but "it's got a taste to it. You don't have to take your vitamins," he jokes.

The wells keep the cattle watered and a reverse osmosis system in the house allows his family to use the water as well.

Living along the Missouri River, just north of the Oahe Dam, means McQuistion has the kind of views people will drive for hours to see. His family has a history on this land going back five generations. In the 1960s, his grandparents moved their house and barn to a higher altitude so that when the dam was built, they wouldn't be flooded. The house remains on that far-off hill, nobody living there for 40 years now.

McQuistion's first co-op memories are tied to needing the cooperation of neighboring homes. "Probably the first co-op function I went to was rural water and what is now Golden West Telecommunications. They were our phone provider," he says. "I can remember taking an old phone, going over to the neighbor's and there was a pole with a little deal at the bottom where you could wire the phone in. That's what we did when we had to make a phone call. And that was just the way it was."

Today, he takes his children, Zach and Ally, to electric co-op annual meetings. Zach went on the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in 2016.

And since McQuistion has been on the Basin Electric board since 2013, he made the choice to put his cattle out on shares so he has the time to attend Ally's soccer games and Zach's football and basketball games. "I decided, until they are out of school, I'm going to do electric stuff and I'm going to chase them and go where they go," he says.

McQuistion first got into "electric stuff" in 1996, when he was elected to the board of West Central Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Murdo, S.D. He knew quite a few of the co-op's members then because he spent his high school years working for the veterinarian at the local sale barn.

In 2010, McQuistion was elected to the Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative board, a Class A Basin Electric member. He also served on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board from 2003-2010.

He was 26 years old when elected to the West Central Electric board. "You go to the meetings, you meet the people and you talk ag, so I really enjoyed it," he says. "Once you know your goal is to keep the lights on and the rates down, that fit me really well."

Updates to Garrison Dam Keep the

Investments being made in the six dams along the Missouri River should keep the power flowing from these workhorses for the next several decades.

Garrison Dam, located in North Dakota, is the first of the six dams that will have had significant rehab projects completed, according to information reported in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha District Hydropower Master Plan final submittal released in August 2016.

Omaha District
Hydropowersubmittal released in
The rehab project
to be complete by 20
pieces of the more th

From the

The rehab projects at Garrison are scheduled to be complete by 2020, with many of the major pieces of the more than \$110 million in projects completed or in process.

The Hydropower Master Plan provides current and future requirements, describes constraints, and depicts future facility and infrastructure development plans.

Along the Missouri River, the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers (USACE) operates a total of 36 generator units capable of producing approximately 2.4 million kilowatts of power. Through many years of Federal water resource legislation, several acts influenced or guided how the system has developed and its regulation. The 1944 Flood Control Act, commonly called the Pick-Sloan Program, authorized construction of all of the Missouri River System projects with the exception of Fort Peck, which was authorized by the River and Harbors Act of 1935 and the Fort Peck Power Act of 1938.

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) markets and delivers reliable, cost-based hydroelectric power for a 15-state region of the central and western United States, including hydroelectricity generated by the Pick-Sloan dams. WAPA transmits this power to rural electric cooperatives, municipal entities, public-owned systems, Native

Garrison Dam Statistics

(Cubic Feet per Second = CFS; Mean Sea Level = MSL; Kilowatts = Kw; Revolutions per Minute = RPM) Significant Dates: Operating Since: 1955 • Construction Start: 1946 • Closure: April 15, 1953

Reservoir filling initiated: December 1953

Reservoir first at minimum operating pool: Aug. 7, 1955

Initial Power Generation – First and Last Units: January 1956 – October 1960

Powerplant: Number of turbines: 5 Francis, 90 rpm • Max power generation capability: 583,300 Kw Size: Ranking: 42nd largest reservoir in the world, 3rd largest reservoir in the United States

Length of Dam: 11,300 feet (excluding spillway) • Maximum width at base: 3,400 feet (total) Damming Height: 180 feet (low water to maximum operating pool) • Maximum Height: 210 feet Elevation at crest: 1,854 feet msl

Construction: Abutment formations (under dam & embankment): Fort Union day shale Type of Fill: Rolled-earth fill • Amount of Fill: 66,500,000 cubic yards of fill Amount of Concrete: 1,500,000 cubic yards

Surge tanks at Garrison Dam hydropower plant near Riverdale, N.D. The power plant has five generating units that produce an annual average 2.6 million mega-watt hours of electricity, valued in excess of \$39 million in revenue.

American tribes, and federal/state agencies.

Section 212 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 authorizes USACE to accept customer funds to maintain and operate the hydroelectric power plants. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers entered into Contract No. 04-UPGR-65 which provides for the Western States Upper Great Plains (UGP) to contribute funds for activities necessary to maintain the reliability and good operating condition of the power facilities to include operation, maintenance, replacement, additions, and construction of features at USACE UGP Region power plants where such activities will optimize the efficiency of energy production or increase the capacity of the facility.

In the last few years, the Garrison Power Plant received funding to address a systemic turbine blade cracking problem and grew to include generator replacements after stator winding failures occurred during the turbine fabrications phase of the project. In 2015, customer funding was provided for the rewind of the Garrison autotransformer. The only other customer work was projects to provide a system-wide transformer assessment, and to provide new PPCS servers to the plant.

The main work at Garrison is completing the major rehab requirement. Additionally a project to replace the intake structure roof and structural deck is under way.

Assuming Garrison continues to be well maintained and carefully operated, it is expected that the plant will operate with good reliability throughout its design life until 2045, the Master Plan authors concluded.

In 2015, the six dams that comprise the Pick Sloan System (Fort Peck, Garrison, Oahe, Big Bend, Fort Randall and Gavins Point) had an availability factor of 87 percent when it came to power production and had a net generation of more than 9.3 million MWh.

For more on the Hydropower Master Plan, go to http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Dam-and-Lake-Projects/Hydropower/

PICK-SLOAN HISTORY

Between 1932 and 1957, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District built six main stem dams and many smaller dams along Missouri River tributaries. These, along with a system of federal and private levees, provide flood risk reduction for urban and agricultural property.

In 1943 a spring thaw caused eight of the Missouri's tributaries to spill over the banks. The main stem itself flooded between Pierre, S.D., and Rulo, Neb. A total of 700,000 acres were submerged with damages reaching almost \$8 million.

Later that year, two separate downpours inundated 540,000 and 1.2 million acres. The estimated damages amounted to \$32 million. The floods interrupted wartime training, production, and ruined crops needed by American allies overseas. The combined torrents, known as the "Flood of '43" had a long-term impact on the Missouri River basin. The flood became the catalyst in markedly changing the mission and program of the Civil Works program within the Omaha District.

Colonel Lewis A. Pick's concern as Missouri River Division Engineer focused on flooding. Pick had served as the New Orleans District Engineer just after the record-breaking Mississippi River floods of 1927 and had served as the engineer assistant to Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover on the Relief Commission to the area.

Pick's experience with the lower Mississippi River garnered credibility toward his 13-page proposal that addressed managing the Missouri River. Previous river developments in the valley had been oriented toward specific projects rather than a broad program. Pick's plan shifted the emphasis from a single to multiple-purpose concept. It envisioned a vastly expanded federal water policy in the basin.

Pick recommended that the USACE construct multiple-purpose dams in the Dakotas. These dams would store flood-producing water and use it to provide hydroelectric power, wildlife and recreation facilities, a navigable channel and irrigation, plus water for domestic and sanitary needs. He expected other benefits as well, including protecting lives and property, and stabilizing and encouraging economic development.

His plan proposed a progressive development. Pick concluded that it would not be feasible to construct all the multiple-purpose units simultaneously. He recommended an orderly, four-phase approach as circumstances and funds permitted.

Also focused on taming the Missouri was William G. Sloan, assistant director of the Region 6 office of the Bureau of Reclamation in Billings, MT. After the passage of the 1939 Reclamation Act, Sloan was assigned to prepare a basinwide water resources development plan in order to bring the greatest good to the greatest number of people. The Bureau's report assumed that farming would remain the primary basis of the basin's economy.

William G. Sloan, left, and Col. Lewis Pick

The USACE and Bureau Join Forces:

The Pick plan, with its emphasis on flood control and navigation, drew its strength from lower basin interests and their advocates in Congress. Support for Sloan's plan for irrigation and hydroelectricity came from upriver and had congressional backing.

Both of the original plans proposed a series of big dams and reservoirs on the main stem above Sioux City. Both would develop hydropower, where feasible, after meeting primary demands for irrigation or navigation and flood control. The two agencies made major compromises on proposed main stem dams between Fort Peck and Sioux City. They agreed on five in the Dakotas, which would impound 72 percent of the new water storage in the entire basin. The USACE and the Bureau settled additional differences in the original proposal, bringing together both groups through the Pick-Sloan Plan.

On Dec. 22, 1944, President Roosevelt approved the Flood Control Act, authorizing the Pick-Sloan Plan. The legislation provided the framework for the development of water resources on the Missouri River and the basis for Omaha District major undertakings on the main stem in the years to come with eight authorized purposes: flood control, navigation, fish and wildlife, irrigation, hydropower generation, recreation, water supply, and water quality.

<u>Regional Dateline</u>

December 15-March 31 South Dakota Snowmobile Trails Season, Lead, SD 605-584-3896

February 24-25

SD State High School Wrestling Tournaments, Sioux Falls, SD 605-224-9261

February 25

11th Annual Outhouse Races and Chili Cook-off Contest 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nemo, SD, 605-578-2708

March 8-12

SD State Pool Tournament Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

March 9-11

SD State High School A Girls Basketball Tournament Frost Arena, Brookings, SD 605-224-9261

March 9-11

SD State High School B Girls Basketball Tournament Huron Arena, Huron, SD 605-224-9261

March 11-12

2017 Gun Show, American Legion Hall, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. MST, Philip, SD 605-859-2635, 605-859-2280 605-859-2892

March 16-18

SD State High School AA Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD 605-224-9261

Events of Special Note

March 4-7

2017 Summit League Basketball Championship Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

March 17-18

28 Below Fatbike Race Lead, SD, 605-584-3435

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.

March 16-18

SD State High School A Boys Basketball Tournament Premier Center Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

March 16-18

SD State High School B Boys Basketball Tournament Barnett Center, Aberdeen, SD 605-224-9261

March 18-19

Black Hills Motorcycle Show Rushmore Hall, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

March 23-25

SD All-State Band Concert Sioux Falls, SD, 605-224-9261

March₂4

Mother King In Concert Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

March 24-25, March 31-April 1 59th Annual Schmeckfest Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 24-26

Black Hills Home Builders Home Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD blackhillshomebuilders.com

March 25-26

SD State AAU Wrestling Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD 605-394-4115

March 28

Badlands Bad River Regional Job Fair and Business Expo School Fine Arts Building Philip, SD, 605-441-2059

March 30

I Love The 90's Tour Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

March 31-April 1

Holiday Arts Spring Craft Show, Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD 605-248-2526

March 31-April 2

Professional Bull Riders Built Ford Tough Series Sioux Falls, SD 605-367-7288

April 7-8

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food and Wine Festival Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

April 14-16

Sioux Empire Film Festival Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-4616

April 20

Peter Mawanga and the Amaravi Movement Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

April 22-23

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Rapid City, SD 605-394-4101

April 26-29

Black Hills Film Festival Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454