


South Dakota Electric

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Cooperative Connections

OCTOBER 2015 VOL. 67 NO. 10



ANSWERING THE CALL

Pg-8



We power your life.

You might call us the backbone of rural America. From wind turbines to gas turbines and coal-based facilities and beyond, we make the electricity that powers your daily lives. We're a part of an electric cooperative network that takes great care to assure that your lights always come on and your communities thrive. We believe service extends beyond electric delivery. We're here to make your life better. That's the cooperative difference.



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South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

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Southeastern Electric, Marion, S.D.
Traverse Electric, Wheaton, Minn.
Union County Electric, Elk Point, S.D.
West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.
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Editorial

Americans are Rediscovering the Cooperative Difference



Ed Anderson
General Manager, South Dakota
Rural Electric Association

including Dairy Farmers of America or Land-O-Lakes. If the local hardware store is a True Value, Ace or Do-It-Best, then it's part of a co-op, too.

If you've been a co-op member for long, you've probably heard these examples before. What you might not realize is that this time-tested business model has been rediscovered by a new generation of Americans who appreciate doing business with locally based organizations that put people ahead of profits.

Co-ops are experiencing a surge in popularity. Today, it is estimated that one in three Americans is a member of at least one cooperative. America's electric cooperative network now serves 42 million Americans. In 2014, America's credit unions surpassed 100 million members.

In addition to the growth of true cooperative organizations, there has been a surge in the popularity of other funding and business models that feature many of the same traits as cooperatives.

Websites like Kickstarter and GoFundMe allow large groups of people to pool small contributions to achieve a larger goal. Though groups raising money through these sites aren't cooperatives, it's clear that an increasing number of people are seeing the value of working together and pooling resources to improve their communities.

The benefits of being a member of your electric co-op go far beyond the warm feelings from supporting a local business and keeping our dollars in our communities.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, our sole mission is to ensure you have safe, reliable and affordable electricity when you need it. We aren't in business to make a profit, we aren't trying to get elected to public office and we don't have a hidden agenda. Our job is to look out for you and your fellow co-op members.

That's important to keep in mind as we go through an unprecedented period of transition in the energy industry.

The coming years are likely to bring many changes to the way our nation generates, delivers, stores, consumes and regulates energy.

When an industry goes through a change of this magnitude, there will be many interest groups vying to influence policy and advance their agendas. As that process unfolds, there will only be one group that's truly acting as the voice of energy consumers and that's America's electric cooperatives.

We don't know exactly what the future holds, but you can rest assured knowing that your electric co-op – and more than 900 other not-for-profit electric cooperatives across the U.S. – will be working hard to ensure your voice is part of the conversation. And that's the cooperative difference.

Your alarm goes off and you get out of bed. You go outside and grab the morning paper. You sit down at the kitchen table to read your paper while enjoying a glass of juice and some toast. After breakfast you head down to the local hardware store to pick up supplies to tackle your weekend to-do list.

For many Americans, that simple morning routine would bring them in contact with at least five different cooperatives.

That alarm could be powered by electricity from one of hundreds of electric co-ops in America. The paper is likely filled with stories from the Associated Press. The juice might be Sunkist, Ocean Spray or Florida's Natural. The butter on your toast could have been processed by one of several dairy co-ops,

Paying Power Theft's Price

It's often an "invisible" crime. Someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage. Legitimate electricity consumers do not engage in these behaviors, so the impact of electricity theft – including the danger – is often unrecognized.

Power theft carries deadly risks. Many thieves pay for the power they steal with their lives. Electricity theft is not just dangerous for those who steal. If you are on the same power line as someone who steals electricity, you could pay the cost for their theft too. The power line could become overloaded with electric energy, which could harm your electronics and appliances that are designed to receive a certain, steady amount of electricity. Electricity theft makes power service less reliable and lower quality for paying customers.

Electricity thieves may also unknowingly feed energy back into the power line. This is dangerous for linemen who may assume that the power line they are working on is de-energized.

Safe Electricity reminds that everyone can help prevent and reduce power theft:

- Notify your electric utility immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer.
- Do not cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your own meter for any reason.
- Apply for a legal connection if you do not have one.
- Remain aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activities to your electric utility.

Most electrical theft crimes occur through meter tampering, bypassing meters and tapping power lines. Other less frequent crimes include tapping into neighboring premises, using illegal lines after being disconnected, self-reconnection without consent and electrifying fences. Possessing fraudulent electricity bills is also a federal crime and is punishable by law.

Everyone is affected by power theft and detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the price paid.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Be Safe"

Beau Michalek, 4 years old

Beau is the daughter of Anthony Michalek, Okaton, S.D., a member of West Central Electric Cooperative, Murdo, 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.



Current Issues

S.D. Legislators Tour Basin Electric Facilities

On July 29, a group of South Dakota legislators learned just what it takes to make the lights come on when they flip the switch.

The group was learning about electricity, how it's made and what types of challenges the industry is facing, specifically with forthcoming Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The 12 senators and representatives started their co-op and energy education July 28 at one of two cooperatives in South Dakota, East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison or Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, then traveled to Basin Electric headquarters, where they met and heard from Basin Electric representatives.

They had an opportunity to see processes up close as they boarded a bus and drove north toward Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station, Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant and The Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine. A highlight of the day was at the Freedom Mine. During their tour, the legislators were given the opportunity to see the inside of a dragline.

"It's that educational perspective. This tour brings the pieces of the puzzle together. And, it's the impression of the scope and magnitude of what we do, how important it is and how environmentally conscious electric co-ops are about the way that we produce power," said Ed Anderson, South Dakota Rural Electric Association general manager.

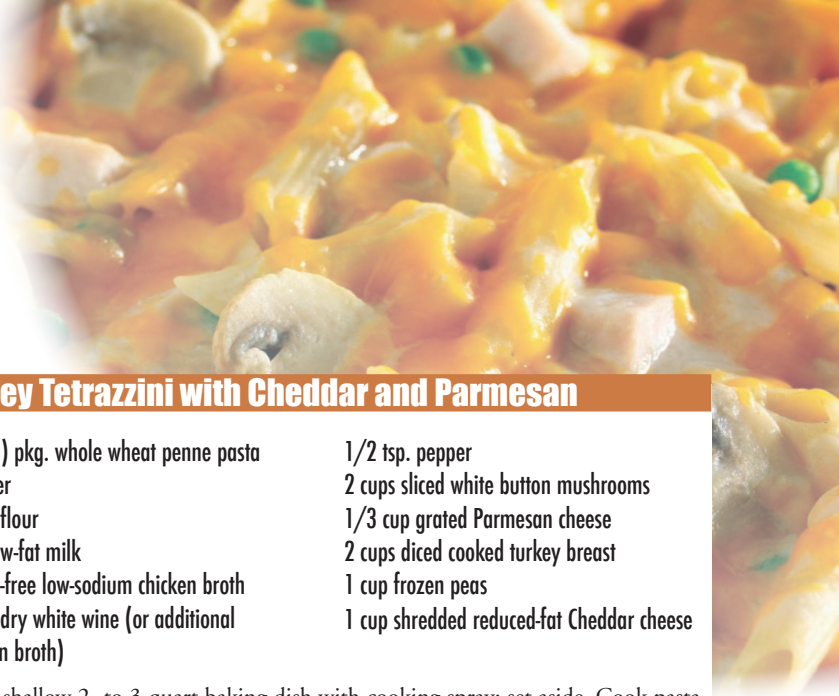


South Dakota legislators pose for a photo near a drag line bucket at Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine.

Clarification

In the September issue of this publication, the story on drive in theatres should have also included the Winner Drive-in Theatre on Hwy 18 at Winner, S.D. The theatre is open summers. The theatre's phone number is 605-842-2913.

Pasta-A-Plenty



Fettuccine Alfredo

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 lb. pasta | 1/4 cup butter |
| 8 oz. whipping cream | 8 oz. Parmesan cheese |

Prepare pasta according to package directions; drain. Combine cream and butter in saucepan. Cook over medium-low heat until butter is melted. Add to hot pasta, alternating with Parmesan cheese, tossing to mix well. Serve hot. Variation: May add sautéed scallops, shrimp or mushrooms; season with sherry and freshly ground black pepper.

Amy Schoenfelder, Cavour

Cheesy Chicken Manicotti

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 (16 oz.) jar Alfredo sauce | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. uncooked manicotti pasta shells (14 count) |
| 1-1/2 cups water | |
| 1/2 tsp. garlic salt | |
| 1 T. dried parsley | 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese |
| 1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning | 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese |
| 3 large chicken breasts, cut lengthwise into 14 strips | |

In a medium bowl, thoroughly mix pasta sauce, water, garlic salt and parsley. In an ungreased 9x13-inch glass baking dish, spread about 1 cup of pasta sauce mixture. In another medium bowl, sprinkle chicken strips with Italian seasoning. Stuff chicken strips into uncooked manicotti shells. Place stuffed manicotti shells on pasta sauce in prepared baking dish. Pour remaining sauce evenly over shells, making sure all shells have been coated with sauce. Cover with foil. Bake at 375°F. for 45 to 55 minutes or until pasta shells are tender. Remove from oven and sprinkle with shredded cheeses. Broil uncovered until cheese is melted and brown, about 4 to 5 minutes (watch carefully so it doesn't burn).

Anita Kochutin, Box Elder

Baked Spaghetti

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8 oz. spaghetti, cooked | 2 lbs. ground beef |
| 1 egg, beaten | 1 cup tomato juice |
| 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese | 1 (24 oz.) can Hunt's spaghetti sauce |
| 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped | 1/2 tsp. garlic powder or salt |
| 1/2 cup onion, chopped | 2 tsp. oregano |
| 1/2 cup celery, chopped | 1 cup mozzarella cheese |
| 3 T. butter or margarine | |
| 1 cup sour cream | |

Cook and drain spaghetti. Stir in egg and Parmesan cheese. Put spaghetti mixture in greased 9x13-inch pan. Saute green pepper, onion and celery in butter. Stir in sour cream. Spoon over spaghetti in pan. Brown ground beef. Add tomato juice, spaghetti sauce, garlic powder or salt and oregano. Spoon on top. Cover with foil. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Remove foil. Top with mozzarella cheese. Return to oven until cheese melts. Let rest 10 to 15 minutes.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Turkey Tetrazzini with Cheddar and Parmesan

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|--|---|
| 1 (12 oz.) pkg. whole wheat penne pasta | 1/2 tsp. pepper |
| 2 T. butter | 2 cups sliced white button mushrooms |
| 1/4 cup flour | 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| 3 cups low-fat milk | 2 cups diced cooked turkey breast |
| 1 cup fat-free low-sodium chicken broth | 1 cup frozen peas |
| 1/2 cup dry white wine (or additional chicken broth) | 1 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese |

Spray a shallow 2- to 3-quart baking dish with cooking spray; set aside. Cook pasta according to package directions. In large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and stir in flour. Stirring constantly, cook about 2 minutes. Whisk in milk, chicken broth, wine and pepper; bring mixture to a boil. Stir in mushrooms, reduce heat and cook about 10 minutes, stirring frequently or until mixture thickens and mushrooms are softened. Stir Parmesan cheese, pasta, turkey and peas into milk mixture; spoon into prepared baking dish. Top with Cheddar cheese and cover loosely with foil. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes or until bubbling at edges and heated through. Serves 6.

Nutrition information per serving: 490 calories; 9g total fat; 5g saturated fat; 90mg cholesterol; 370mg sodium; 57g carbohydrates; 6g dietary fiber; 44g protein

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Macaroni Coleslaw

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 (7 oz.) pkg. ring macaroni | 1 medium green pepper, chopped fine |
| 1 (16 oz.) pkg. coleslaw mix | 1 (8 oz.) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped |
| 2 stalks celery, chopped fine | 2 medium onions, chopped fine |
| 1 medium cucumber, chopped fine | |
| Dressing: | |
| 1-1/2 cups salad dressing | 1/3 cup sugar |
| 1/4 cup vinegar | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1/4 tsp. pepper | |

Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and rinse under cold water. Put in large bowl. Add coleslaw mix, celery, cucumber, green pepper, water chestnuts and onion. In a small bowl, whisk together dressing ingredients. Pour over salad and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Bowtie Pasta Dish

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 6 oz. bowtie pasta | 1 cup mushrooms |
| 1 T. olive oil | Pepper |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 4 cups fresh spinach |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | Parmesan cheese |

Prepare pasta according to package directions; drain. Saute onion, garlic, mushrooms and pepper in olive oil. Add pasta and spinach; cook slightly until wilted. Top with Parmesan cheese. May also add sautéed chicken strips if desired.

Lillian Schlechter, Scotland

Please send your favorite crock pot, holiday favorites and soup recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Insulated Window Shades Save Energy and Increase Comfort



Jim Dulley
www.dulley.com

Dear Jim: When it's cold out, my home feels very chilly, especially near the windows. I can't afford energy-efficient replacement windows right now, so can you offer alternative options? – Cara M.

Dear Cara: If you feel chilly sitting near a window, you're likely losing energy, which drives up your utility bills. This is also true during the summer when heat trans-

ferts in and forces your air conditioner to run longer. If replacement windows will exceed your budget, window shades are a reasonably priced option that will help.

Remember to caulk and weather strip your windows before making any other window efficiency improvements. Move a stick of lighted incense near all gaps and watch the trail of the smoke to find air leaks. Do this during windy weather or briefly switch on an exhaust fan to draw outdoor air in through the gaps.

Installing insulated window shades will provide the most improved comfort and energy savings year-round. Several years ago, I installed Warm Window shades with a R-6 insulation value in my home office. This increased the overall R-value from R-2 to R-8 and improved comfort.

When selecting insulated window shades, there are important factors to consider such as the R-value, how well they seal when closed, ease of operation and appearance. Before you make a purchase, try to operate a sample insulated shade that's similar in size to your needs. If the shade is difficult to open and close, you are less likely to use it as often as you should.

Almost all commercially available window shades list the R-value on the packaging. They typically include some type of air barrier film sewn inside the shade to block air flow through it. An aluminized or other type of low-emissive film is best to help block the radiant heat transfer through the shade material.

There should be deep vertical tracks, which

mount on the sides of the window opening, for the edges of the shade material. Deeper tracks create a longer path for air leakage to travel, so they provide a better seal. Adhesive-backed vinyl tracks are often included with the shades. Also, look for brush or foam weather stripping on the bottom edge where it rests on the windowsill when closed.

If you buy insulated shades that do not have vertical tracks, it is possible to make your own. Buy long pieces of aluminum U-channel. Most home center stores carry them in the hardware aisle. Stick them to the wall with a strong double-sided tape or drill small holes and mount them with screws. Aluminum is easy to saw to length and easy to drill.

Cellular shades are a less expensive option and are best to use where you want some natural light to get through. The double-cell shades create an additional air gap for better insulation. Since their width grows as they are pulled up and collapsed, side channels are not very effective with this option.

If replacement windows will exceed your budget, window shades are a reasonably priced option that will help.

The most common type of do-it-yourself window shade is a Roman shade design. The key to efficiency is to make them as thick as possible, while still being able to fold them up when opened. Include a reflective air barrier between the center layers. Reflective Mylar film works well for this and is very flexible.

If you do not want to install or make insulated shades, try closing the drapes at night. Some drapes, which are opaque and have a silvery backing, offer more efficiency improvement than plain fabric drapes.

The following companies offer insulating shades: Country Curtains, 800-937-1237, www.countrycurtains.com; Cozy Curtains, 800-342-9955, www.cozycurtains.com; Smith and Noble, 888-214-2134, www.smithandnoble.com; Symphony Shades, 877-966-3678, www.cellularwindowshades.com; and Warm Company, 800-234-9276, www.warmcompany.com.

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, *Cooperative Connections*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

Mitchell Teen Wins Nationwide Grant

Shelby Riggs, a senior at Mitchell High School and current South Dakota 4-H Rodeo Ambassador, won a nationwide student service project grant contest. Riggs will use the \$500 grant to support Special Olympics programs in the Mitchell, S.D., area.

"My project will provide much needed sports and safety equipment for my local Special Olympics delegation. If funds remain after the purchase of equipment, the money will be invested in branding and promotional signs and apparel to spread the word about Special Olympics.



The grant program was coordinated in partnership with generationOn, a global youth service organization and America's electric cooperatives, including Riggs' home co-op, Central Electric in Mitchell. Riggs was one of eight students sponsored by Central Electric on the 2015 Rural Electric Youth Tour and one of 44 total students who represented South Dakota electric cooperatives.

"Students are our beacon of hope for the future," said Ken Schlimgen, manager of Central Electric. "For 50 years, America's electric cooperatives have invested in our students by hosting an annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. — allowing some of our best and brightest students to gain firsthand insight. This grant program builds on that investment and gives our students the tools to expand their resume while applying what they've learned to directly benefit their community.

"Shelby's project will allow her to give back to the community and learn valuable hands-on leadership skills at the same time. We're honored to be able to help Shelby give back and look forward to watching her grow into a future leader."

In her grant application, Shelby explained her interest in the program by writing: "I recently learned that my local community has a Special Olympics delegation which is run by a friend of mine and her father. Not only do they dedicate their time, but they dedicate their own sports equipment and horses to use for the equestrian competition. I volunteered with them at the state equestrian competition, and I couldn't believe what great riders I saw there."

"While helping, I learned that the two find it difficult to provide enough equipment for the 60-plus athletes involved in our local program. At the horse show, the Mitchell athletes were having to switch helmets frequently because there weren't enough helmets for everyone," said Riggs.

A total of 23 grants were awarded as part of the grant program. Grant winners were chosen from a pool of applicants, all of whom were among the 1,600 participants of the 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in June.

S.D. High School BIG Idea Competition Launches

Teen entrepreneurs can win nearly \$5,000 in cash awards and scholarships in the BIG Idea Competition which is launching its ninth year of competition this fall. High school students across South Dakota are invited to compete in this business idea competition.

Students may work individually or as a team and will be able to submit their business idea applications online from Sept. 1 until Oct. 31, 2015. The online application as well as various resources and examples can be accessed at the BIG Idea website: www.BIGIdeaSD.com. The written idea entry consists of a maximum 1,075-word description of the student(s)' business concept. For the optional marketing design competition, students will create an ad and logo to support their business idea.

"We are excited for the 2015 BIG Idea Competition. It's a great experience for students interested in learning about business. For students already seriously pursuing a business, we can connect them with resources and mentors to help further their entrepreneurial growth and business success," said Coordinator Kelly Weaver of the Small Business Development Center.

The top eight scoring idea applications will be invited to the final competition and will make a presentation for the final judging component to be held Dec. 3 at Northern State University in Aberdeen. Students will participate in a panel discussion with several successful entrepreneurs. Students will hear the journey that these entrepreneurs have traveled and be able to ask questions of them. Prior to the awards presentation, all finalists will give an elevator pitch of their business idea.

The top three applications will receive cash awards of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250, respectively. College scholarships to both Northern State University and Presentation College will be awarded as well. One winner will be chosen from among all the marketing design entries and be awarded \$500.

In its eight years of existence, the BIG Idea Competition has received 1,315 entries involving nearly 1,800 students representing 67 schools. The competition is open to any high school student in the state. The winning entry in 2014 was Ace the Pace presented by Rachel Schartz of West Central High School. A complete listing of the 2014 finalists can be found on the BIG Idea website along with a video of their elevator pitches.

Questions regarding the competition can be directed to Kelly Weaver at 605-626-2565 or info@bigideasd.com.

Answering the Call

Volunteers Vital to Local Fire Departments

By
Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Lake Region Electric Association employee Leonard Diebert serves on the Webster, S.D., fire department. **Cover:** Cam Wal Electric Cooperative employees Robert Froning, Brent Reilley and Matt Hein all serve on local fire departments.

ACROSS THE REGION WHEN THE FIRE WHISTLE BLOWS (or in many areas when the pager or radios start beeping) fire trucks mobilize, bringing much needed help to the scene of an emergency.

And, in many communities, those answering the call will be members of their local volunteer fire departments.

Throughout South Dakota and western Minnesota, volunteer fire departments make up the majority of the region's fire fighters. In South Dakota, there were 8,065 certified volunteer firefighters in the state and 430 paid firefighters in 2014. Figures from the South Dakota Fire Marshal office show there are 367 volunteer fire fighting units certified in the state.

There are a total of 785 fire departments in Minnesota. There are nearly 21,000 firefighters in Minnesota. Approximately 2,100 are career and the

remainder are volunteer/paid on call firefighters.

Few – if any – fire departments in the South Dakota are flush with volunteers; there's room – and need – for more.

Beneath the volunteer fire fighter's helmet, one can find mechanics, farmers, bankers, lawyers, teachers, veterinarians, plumbers and even electric co-op employees. In communities of all sizes, volunteers from all walks of life are needed.

"When the pagers go off you get that antsy feeling. There's definitely an adrenalin rush that kicks in," said Brent Reilley a journeyman electrician at Cam Wal Electric Cooperative in Selby, S.D., and a member of that community's volunteer fire department.

Reilley is one of three Cam Wal employees who double as volunteer firefighters. Journeyman linemen Matt Hein and Robert Froning are also



volunteer fire fighters, Hein with the Selby VFD and Froning with the nearby Java, S.D., department.

All three men chalk up their work with the volunteer departments as just part of being a member of the communities where they live.

"It's a good public service. You have to put some time in, but it's totally worth it," said Reilley, one of about 16 fire fighters in Selby. The department is four fire fighters short of being at full strength.

In high school and early in his work career, Reilley worked for a city in Minnesota.

"All employees of the city were volunteer fire fighters, it's just what you did," said Reilley. So, when he moved west, it was a natural step to join the fire department, where he is now the group's treasurer.

For Hein, his dad was a volunteer fire fighter in his hometown of Wessington Springs, S.D. "I figured when I had a chance, I'd do it, too."

The experience has gone beyond fulfilling a sense of duty to one's community for Hein. "I actually like doing it – I like to help."

"I don't like to be the guy sitting at home and can't go on the fire call," said Hein.

Froning is new to the area, having joined the

Java fire department earlier in the summer of 2015. However, as an employee at Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., he spent four years on that community's fire department.

"When I moved, I just had to switch," said Froning.

The three noted that a majority of fires their departments see are brush and grass fires. And, in the summer of 2015, many of their calls have been to vehicle accidents.

"Wildfire can be as dangerous or more dangerous than a structure fire," Froning observed.

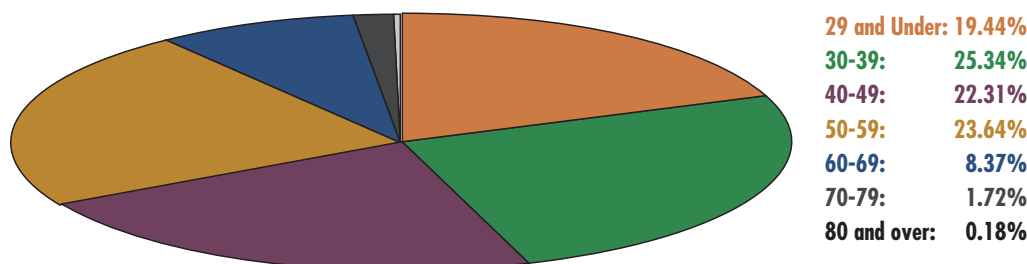
As volunteer fire fighters, the men have monthly department and safety meetings along with annual fire schools to attend.

In Webster, S.D., Lake Region Electric Association serviceman/warehouseman Leonard Deibert is the training officer for the Webster Volunteer Fire Department. Deibert noted that like other departments, Webster could use a few more volunteers to reach full strength.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer fire fighter should contact their local department.

"If you had something on fire you'd want somebody responding to the call. There's assurance of somebody coming," said Hein.

South Dakota Fire Service Demographics (2013 statistics)



National Firefighter Statistics (2011 Data)

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides a variety of national statistics about career, combination, and volunteer fire departments, which makes it possible to identify trends in U.S. fire departments by comparing the data from annual reports.

Estimated number of firefighters: 1,100,450 (career: 344,050, volunteer: 756,400)

- Seventy-three percent of career firefighters are in communities that protect a population of 25,000 or more.

- Ninety-four percent of the volunteers are in departments that protect a population of less than 25,000 and of these departments, about 50 percent are located in small, rural departments that protect a population of less than 2,500.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2011

Home Fire Inspection Checklist

Oct. 4-10 is National Fire Prevention Week. Use this Home Fire Inspection Checklist to make your home safer.

- ☐ Is your local emergency phone number on your telephone?
- ☐ Can your house number be seen from the street so that emergency vehicles can find you?
- ☐ Do you have a smoke detector in your home? Do you test it monthly?
Helpful hint: Change the batteries when you change your clocks – in the spring and fall.
- ☐ Do you practice Operation EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home) at home?
- ☐ Do your parents talk to your babysitters about the family EDITH plan?
- ☐ Is there a fire extinguisher in your home? Does everyone know where it is and how to use it?
- ☐ Are matches and lighters kept in a safe place away from children?
- ☐ Do you know that you should never run if your clothes catch on fire and that you should "STOP – DROP – ROLL"?
- ☐ Do you have a screen on your fireplace? Is it closed at all times?
- ☐ Is your yard clear of old tree branches, litter and weeds?
- ☐ Do you sleep with your bedroom door closed to prevent the spread of fire?

Fire Safety Reminders

Fire Prevention Week, sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association, is Oct. 4-10, 2015 with the theme “Hear the Beep Where you Sleep” to remind you that every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm. In addition to functioning smoke alarms, there are many safe practices that can help prevent fires and promote electrical safety through your home.

Follow these tips for a safer home:

- Smoke Alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. They should be **TESTED MONTHLY**, and batteries should be replaced each year. Replace alarms every **10 YEARS**.
- Do **NOT** overload outlets. Power strips do **NOT** provide more power to a location, only more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit into which it is connected
- Use only light bulbs that match the **RECOMMENDED WATTAGE** on the light fixture
- Have Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) installed to safeguard against **ARC-FAULTS**, which could cause a fire
- Extension cords should only be used as a **TEMPORARY SOLUTION** and should never be run through walls, doorways, ceilings, or floors
- An appliance that repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker could signify a **SERIOUS** electrical problem. **UNPLUG IMMEDIATELY** and have it repaired or replaced

PREVENT FIRES, PROTECT THE HOME

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Have Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (**AFCIs**) installed to safeguard against **ARC-FAULTS**, which could cause a **FIRE**.



Extension cords should only be used as a **TEMPORARY SOLUTION** and should never be run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors.



An appliance that repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker could signify a **SERIOUS** electrical problem. **UNPLUG IMMEDIATELY** and have it repaired or replaced.

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7

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE



Cooperatives are autonomous, self help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Scaling EPA's Power Plan Mountain

Increased Electric Costs Expected from Regulation

By Ben Dunsmoor

Below: Sen. John Thune held a meeting with utility leaders in Aberdeen in August to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. **Opposite Page:** Sen. John Thune listens to comments from attendees.

Photos by Ben Dunsmoor/
Northern Electric Cooperative

THE CLEAN POWER PLAN WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED by the Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama at the beginning of August will change the way electric cooperatives deliver power to their members. The big question that is still being analyzed, however, is just how much the new environmental rules will affect cooperatives, rates and the reliability of the electric grid.

"The rule that was released is a very, very high mountain for Basin Electric," said Basin Electric Power Cooperative senior legislative representative Steve Tomac during a meeting with South Dakota Sen. John Thune in August.

The plan calls for a dramatic reduction in emissions from coal-fired plants and a shift to renewable energy resources. Power generators will be required to reduce carbon emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by the year 2030. Generators are also required to convert 28 percent of their portfolios to renewable sources by 2030 under the new rule.

North Dakota-based Basin Electric Power Cooperative – the primary supplier of electricity to South Dakota electric cooperatives – is dissecting the 1,500-page rule to figure out what impact it will have on its facilities and the consumers down the line.

"I think it's going to take us some time to figure out exactly what they (EPA) have done with this thing," said South Dakota Rural Electric Association General Manager Ed Anderson.

Republican South Dakota Sen. John Thune met with Anderson along with Tom Boyko, manager of East River Electric Power Cooperative, and managers from Northern Electric Cooperative, FEM Electric Association, Lake Region Electric Association, Cam Wal Electric Cooperative, Steve Tomac of Basin Electric, investor-owned utility representatives and managers from 3M in the middle of August to discuss the plan and what can be done to modify, delay or stop the regulations that pose major challenges to the power industry.



Tell the White House that EPA's Power Plant Rules DON'T WORK for Rural America.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!



www.action.coop

Energy experts predict the biggest initial impact will be more expensive electricity for consumers.

"It's going to affect rates at the end of the day, but the big question is how much," Thune said. "We're looking from a Congressional point of view what the best way is to approach this."

The concern, however, isn't just about the impact the plan will have on electric rates and the economy, but also the reliability issues that could be on the horizon as electric generators scale back coal-based power production in favor of more wind and solar sources.

"It comes down to that base load and reliability. Will the power be there when we need it most?" said Northern Electric General Manager and CEO Char Hager.

According to Basin Electric's *2014 Annual Report*, the cooperative generates 55 percent of its electricity using coal-fired power plants. Nearly 17 percent of its electricity comes from wind farms scattered throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. More than 5 percent of the cooperative's generation comes from hydro-electric sources and Basin Electric gets about 18 percent of its electricity from plants fired by natural gas.

Tomac says it will be difficult to meet the requirements of the Clean Power Plan by the 2030 deadline.

"We all know we have to operate in a carbon-constrained world and we're going to do that," Tomac said about the effect of the new rule on Basin Electric. "But, I don't think we can build enough compliance resources in that short of time. I don't know physically if that's even in the realm of possibility."

Efforts To Challenge The Rule

There are already efforts to throw roadblocks in the way of the new rule. One of the efforts was launched about a year ago before the Clean Power Plan was even finalized.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley joined with a dozen other states in a lawsuit backed by West Virginia that claims the EPA doesn't have the authority to impose these regulations on states.

"For anybody who flips a light switch or turns a heater on, this is a very big deal," Jackley said.

Jackley anticipates South Dakota joining in future litigation

challenging the rule once the announced Clean Power Plan is officially registered.

"We all recognize the importance of protecting our environment and developing energy efficiency, but I am concerned the EPA has exceeded its authority granted by Congress and reduced the decision-making authority of our State," Jackley said.

In Congress, Thune and South Dakota Republican Sen. Mike Rounds are co-sponsors of the Affordable Reliable Energy Now Act (ARENA). The legislation would prevent the EPA from implementing the new regulations until all legal challenges have been settled.

"If we can get a stay and buy a year, and get a different administration, maybe we can get a delay from 2030," said Tomac.

ARENA would also prevent the EPA from implementing new technology-based standards until that technology has been tested for one year at various power plants throughout the country. Governors would also have the authority under ARENA to reject the plan if they believe it will have a negative impact on economic development, grid reliability or electric consumers in their states.

"The ARENA Act is a common-sense solution that gives states additional time and flexibility to comply with new rules. It also protects taxpayers from bearing the brunt of the rule through higher electric bills," Rounds said.

ARENA has already passed the Environment and Public Works Committee and now heads to the Senate.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a similar piece of legislation in June called the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. South Dakota Republican Rep. Kristi Noem supported the bill.

These efforts to delay, modify or stop the Clean Power Plan would essentially buy power generators more time as they determine a strategy to continue the delivery of affordable and reliable electricity to cooperative members in South Dakota and across the country.

"We're going to have to fight back and we're going to use everything we can to do that," Tomac said.



Committed to the

2015 Inductee Keith Hainy

Keith Hainy built a career grounded in agronomy and crop science and dedicated to grain cooperatives in north-eastern South Dakota.

After spending his first 20 years at South Dakota Wheat Growers in Aberdeen, ultimately serving as director of operations, he began the second phase of his co-op career as general manager of North Central Farmers Elevator in Ipswich, S.D., in 1997.

During his tenure at North Central, he negotiated nine mergers, formed four limited liability corporations and started five new businesses in five locations. When he retired in 2012, NCFE had 250 employees and sales of \$540 million. Sales and volumes for the co-op had increased 700 percent under Hainy's watch.

In his nomination, it was written, "Keith's passion for the cooperative system led him to be an integral force in the establishment of Dakotaland Feeds LLC in Huron, S.D., in 2000. The feed processing plant is owned by three partners – all cooperatives – including NCFE, SDWG and Land O'Lakes.

"When the need for community housing became an issue in Ipswich, S.D., the headquarter city of NCFE, Hainy again worked with other cooperatives to find a solution. NCFE joined with Valley Telephone Company and FEM Electric to form Dakota Rural Development LLC which in turn purchased land and created a housing development for the construction of new homes.

He and his wife, Kristi, live at Aberdeen, S.D.



Keith Hainy

2015 Inductee Roy Ireland

Roy Ireland served electric cooperatives on the local, state and regional level for 27 years.

Ireland was first elected to the local Lacreek Electric Association board in 1988.

In 1992, he was selected to represent LEA on the board of cooperative's transmission cooperative, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. In 1996, he was selected as REPC's board member to its regional generation and transmission cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D. That same year, he also began representing BEPC on the Pierre, S.D.-based South Dakota Rural Electric Association's board of directors.

During his tenure on the LEA board, the co-op's membership grew from 4,814 members to 6,576 members and the cooperative's miles of line increased from 2,842 miles to 3,149 miles. The kilowatt hours sold by the cooperative in that time frame more than doubled while total revenues increased from \$4.4 million to \$12.9 million.

During his time as a board member, Ireland has served as president and vice president for LEA, REPC and most recently BEPC, serving as president from 2011 to 2013.

"His keen knowledge and experience with engineering and agriculture gave him a credible and strong voice during his service," noted BEPC CEO Paul Sukut in a letter supporting Ireland's nomination.

Ireland and his wife, Barb, live at Martin, S.D.



Roy Ireland

MEET THE INDUCTEES

Four new members were inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame on Sept. 16 during a ceremony held in Deadwood, S.D.

Together, these four men have dedicated more than 150 years of service to cooperatives of various types in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame now consists of these four individuals – and 63 others – whose contributions have made a lasting impact on the cooperative form of business in the state.



The South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame provides recognition for a person contributing in especially significant ways to the enhancement of the cooperative idea, its broader acceptance or to the substantial advancement of cooperative enterprise in any of its various forms.

– From the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Nomination Form

1985

Arthur Jones (1905-1985)
Emil Loriks (1895-1985)

1986

Albert Schramm (1916-2000)
Herman D. Holt (1909-1986)

1987

John Riedy (1911-2001)
August Dahme (1901-1980)

1988

J. Evan Rasmussen (1905-1990)
John Skage (1904-1989)

1989

Darrell Moseson
Warren G. Grebner

1990

J.E. Krull Sr. (1909-1999)
Lawrence Stoley (1901-1987)

1991

Clifford G. Bell (1904-2000)
Warren Moe (1925-2011)

1992

Ken Holum (1915-1998)
John A. Cink (1911-2002)

1993

Clement J. Kloucek (1925-2005)
S. Douglas Murphy (1904-1996)

1994

Philip Testerman
Max Farrar (1897-1980)

1995

Quentin E. Loudon
Oscar C. Johnson (1880-1965)

1996

Vernon L. Berg (1920-1998)
Leo P. Flynn (1908-2001)

Cooperative Spirit

2015 Inductee Rod Renner

Under Rodney Renner's leadership as board chairman, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative in Wall, S.D., became one of the nation's largest telecommunications cooperatives. The co-op serves nearly one-third of the state's land mass and has nearly 31,000 cooperative members.

Renner was first elected to the board in December 1972 and has served continuously since. He has twice served as the organization's chairman, a position he still holds.

"In addition to his contributions to Golden West and its members, Rod has also had an impact on rural telecommunications service at the state and national level... Rod has willingly given his time and talent through the South Dakota Telecommunications Association and through his work with the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association. Year after year, Rod travels to many areas, including Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators and other policy makers. He advocates for regulatory initiatives aimed at ensuring the technology needs of rural communities are met in order to grow and prosper," wrote Golden West General Manager/CEO Denny Law in Renner's nomination.

Additionally, Renner has been a speaker and presenter at NTCA conferences to share his knowledge and expertise as a rural telecommunications cooperative director.

Renner lives at Wall, S.D.



Rodney Renner

2015 Inductee Carlyle Richards

Carlyle Richards, an Aberdeen attorney, has a legal career that spans 54 years, most of which left him well-versed in cooperative law in South Dakota.

During his legal career, Richards has been the legal counsel to South Dakota Wheat Growers Association and many other cooperatives, including North Central Farmers Elevator and Full Circle Ag. His work has made him the "leading cooperative legal expert" in South Dakota.

In nominating Richards, the South Dakota Wheat Growers Association wrote, "Richards embodies the spirit, foundation and purpose of a member-owned cooperative. He has lived his life and focused his law practice on providing counsel to meet the needs of his cooperative clients and their member-owners.

"There is no attorney that has been more valuable to South Dakota's cooperatives than Mr. Richards," the SDWG continued.

"Carlyle's understanding and support for the cooperative and the principles by which we operate is no secret to the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives and the many co-ops that he has served," wrote SDAC Executive Director Brenda Forman in her letter supporting Richards' nomination.

"Carlyle is a true believer in the cooperative structure and the benefits provided to their members and communities," Forman wrote.

Richards and his wife, Rev. Sheila Richards, live at Aberdeen.



Carlyle Richards

Do you know a co-op member, board member or manager who has distinguished himself or herself in one or more of the following?

- Plays or played a key role in organizing a local or regional cooperative;
- Provides or provided extensive and effective service on one or more cooperative boards;
- Provides or provided outstanding work in the area of cooperative management; and/or
- Provides or provided outstanding leadership through government or other public service on behalf of cooperatives and their members.

If you answer yes to any of these questions, please nominate that person for the 2016 Co-op Hall of Fame recognition. Nominations are typically due by June 1 each year. Find out more at www.sdac.coop.

1997

Ben Radcliffe
G.L. Moseson (1894-1973)

1998

J.D. Lynd (1933-2013)
George A. Hargens, Jr.
(1921-1999)

1999

Raymond M. Judy
(1919-1997)
Virgil Fodness

2000

Keith Taylor (1923-2002)
Joseph Hieb

2001

Robert A. Johnson
Donald N. Olson
(1928-2006)

2002

Vincent Erz
Donald Wynia

2003

Brian Meyer (1943-2003)
Don Paulsen

2004

Ed Fritzsche (1923-2005)
Dean Rasmussen

2005

Robert Ching (1924-2012)
Darrell Henderson
Alex Stoesser
(1925-2000)

2006

Dennis Hagny
Robert Rademacher

2007

Leroy Schecher
Ralph Schreurs
Merlin VanWalleghen

2008

Charles Olsen
Donald Fieber

2009

Delbert Bushong
Owen Jones

2010

Jake Boomsma
Milo Gilbertson
Barry Jensen

2011

Jeffrey L. Nelson
Wayne Wright

2012

Luverne Crosser
Gary French
Ron Minnaert
Larry Wilson

2013

Thomas Hueners
John D. Johnson
Loren Noess

2014

Gene Kroell
John Van Beek
Harvey Wollman

Regional Dateline

September 17-18

St. Joseph's Indian School
39th Annual Powwow
Chamberlain, SD
605-234-3452

September 18-19

Deadwood Jam, Main Street
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

September 18-20

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

September 19

Harvest Moon Festival, Volga, SD
605-690-1501

September 19-20

NESD Celtic Faire and Games
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-5828

September 23

Shania Twain, Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-7288

September 23-26

NSU Gypsy Days
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-3011

September 24-26

Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

September 25

Annual Buffalo Roundup
Custer State Park, Custer, SD
605-255-4515

September 25

Buffalo Wallow Chili Cook-off
Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

September 25

Badger Clark Cowboy
Music & Stories Gathering
Hot Springs, SD, 605-745-4140



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.

Events of Special Note

September 26

Family Health and Safety
Festival, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-371-1000

October 9-10

Pumpkin Fest & Night Parade
Webster, SD, 605-345-4668

September 26

Living History Fall Festival
Groton, SD

September 26

South Dakota Women's Expo
South Dakota State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

September 26

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

September 26-27

Pioneer Power Show
Menno, SD, 605-387-5770

September 29

REO Speedwagon
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

September 30-October 4

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

October 3

DSU Trojan Days
Madison, SD, 605-256-5146

October 3

FestiFall/CandleLight Walk
Canton, SD, 605-987-2263

October 3-4

Quilt Festival, Watertown, SD
605-753-0229

October 4

The Beach Boys, Deadwood, SD
605-559-1188

October 8-10

Wild West Songwriters Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1187

October 17-January 3, 2016

2015 Pheasant Hunting Season
Opens Statewide, Pierre, SD
605-223-7660

October 18

Buffalo Ridge Chorale, 4 p.m.
St. John Cantius Church
Wilno, MN, 605-479-3438

October 23-25

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

October 30-31

Haunted Heartland Country
Corn Maze, Harrisburg, SD
605-743-5984

November 6-7

Northern State University
Culturefest & Wacipi
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-3011

November 7-8

17th Annual Gun Show
Redfield, SD, 605-472-4550

November 14

Merchants & Crafters 18th
Annual Holiday Open House
Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD
605-698-7425

November 21

Buffalo Auction, Buffalo
Corrals on Wildlife Loop Road
Custer, SD, 605-255-4515