

South Dakota Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

OCTOBER 2017 VOL. 69 NO. 10

Coming Up Pumpkins

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Webster, S.D., Celebrates Pumpkin Fest





Be the light.

The world we share provides abundant vitality — time with those we love and beautiful landscapes to explore. It's why we use our natural resources to create electricity in the cleanest, safest manner possible. To us, it's more than delivering light, it's being a light for our members and our communities by ensuring our environment remains vibrant for all future generations.



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South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

ISSN No. 1067-4977

Produced by the following electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota:

Black Hills Electric, Custer, S.D.
Bon Homme Yankton Electric, Tabor, S.D.
Butte Electric, Newell, S.D.
Cam Wal Electric, Selby, S.D.
Central Electric, Mitchell, S.D.
Charles Mix Electric, Lake Andes, S.D.
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West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.
West River Electric, Wall, S.D.
Whetstone Valley Electric, Milbank, S.D.
City of Elk Point, S.D.

South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly for \$6 annually for member cooperatives, \$12 annually for non-members by South Dakota Rural Electric Association, 222 W. Pleasant Drive, Pierre, S.D. 57501. Correspondence to: Editor, *South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections*, PO Box 1138, Pierre, SD 57501; telephone (605) 224-8823; fax (605) 224-4430; e-mail editor@sdrea.coop

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Editorial

October is National Cooperative Month

Growing Up Co-op



Ed Anderson
General Manager, South Dakota
Rural Electric Association

Walking into my favorite locally owned shop, restaurant or store knowing that the profit, product and labor can make positive impacts on my community gives me a good feeling. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is in electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Electric cooperatives are as local and community-centered as they come. Founded as a way to bring electricity to communities that didn't interest investor-owned utilities (or IOUs), electric cooperatives have been a cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.

That feeling I get when I frequent local businesses is the same feeling I get when I walk into work for South Dakota's electric co-ops every day. It is a feeling of pride. I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves the communities in which we live, instead of a group of shareholders who may never have set foot in our service territories.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our communities and its members.

Electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, including the co-op I am a member of, are not-for-profit businesses. When they make more money than they need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, they return it back to their members (that's you and me!) in the form of capital credits. This means after all co-op expenses are paid, any additional money we earn goes back into our communities, instead of going into a shareholder's pocket, which is pretty great!

And because co-ops are owned by you, the members, they have a vested interest in making sure our communities are prosperous. This is done by investing in economic development and community service projects and programs that benefit members.

I hope that you view your electric cooperative not just as your electric utility provider, but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our communities. If you are interested in learning more about how South Dakota's electric co-ops keep the lights on and beyond, please stop by your co-op or give them a call.



NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH | OCTOBER 2017

Fall Electrical Safety Tips

The weather is starting to get cooler and as summer rolls into fall, we thought we'd remind everyone of ways they can keep their homes safe from fires!

Check your smoke detectors. You should test your smoke detectors twice a year – once in the spring, once in the fall. In addition, remember that smoke detectors are designed to last 10 years. If yours is older than that, it's highly recommended that you install a new one. New smoke detector laws that went into effect earlier this year require all new smoke detectors to have 10-year batteries, so you don't have to worry about replacing the batteries along the way.

Check carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Having a smoke detector isn't enough anymore; if you want to keep your family totally safe, you need to also install a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and highly toxic gas that can be deadly even in small amounts and can be released by any faulty gas appliance, including furnaces and fireplaces. Your best bet? Install a



combination smoke alarm/carbon monoxide alarm for maximum protection.

Inspect your extension cords. With the holidays coming up, you're going to want to make sure your extension cords are in good shape and not damaged or frayed. Any extension cords you're planning on using outdoors should be weather-rated. Inside, make sure you use surge protectors and power strips with internal overload protection and make sure you minimize the amount of adapters plugged into a single outlet.

Be careful with space heaters. Space heaters are convenient, but can be a major fire hazard if you're not careful with them. Make sure there is nothing flammable within three feet of the space heater and never plug it into an extension cord.

Protect your outdoor electrical systems. Any outdoor electrical outlets should be GFCI outlets and covered by a "bubble cover" to keep the elements out. If your electrical service cable is exposed, make sure it's not damaged. During the holidays, don't hang any decorations on or near the cable.

Install arc fault circuit interrupters. These are not required by building codes, but they offer a higher level of protection for your electrical system and are generally highly recommended. Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) are designed to detect an unintended electrical arc and disconnect the power before an electrical fire can start. They are the safest way to protect a home from the risk of electrical fire.

Source: kolbelectric.com

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Don't drive under a power line with your bucket high."



Gus Dennis, 9 years old

Gus is the son of Chance and Hope Dennis, Red Owl, S.D.

They are members of Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison, 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.



National Co-op Month | October 2017

Did you know? Co-ops are rooted in values to better serve their members. Co-ops are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality and solidarity.

Pasta Perfection



Creamy Grilled Chicken Piccata

Chicken:

3 T. lemon juice
3 T. olive oil
1 T. minced garlic
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. basil
2 boneless chicken breasts

Pasta:

2 cups dried penne
2 T. butter
6 T. lemon juice
1 T. minced garlic
1/2 cup half & half
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
2 tsp. dried basil
2 T. capers

Combine first 6 ingredients and mix well. Place chicken and liquid mixture in Ziploc bag and marinate overnight. Grill when done. Cook penne according to package directions; drain, reserving 1/2 cup pasta water. In same saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in lemon juice and garlic. Pour in half & half; whisk until hot. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add parmesan cheese, basil and capers; heat until cheese is melted. Check sauce consistency and add pasta water to loosen sauce if necessary. Toss in pasta.

PJ Hansel, Sherman

Bow Tie Pasta

2 lbs. ground beef
2 medium onions
1 (12 oz.) box bow tie pasta
1 jar Cheese Whiz

1 large jar Pace mild chunky salsa
1 (12 oz.) pkg. mozzarella cheese, shredded

Dice onions and fry with hamburger; drain well. Cook, rinse and drain pasta according to package directions. Stir Cheese Whiz and salsa together well. Combine all ingredients except mozzarella and place in a 9x13-inch pan. Top with mozzarella cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes. Enjoy with Italian or garlic bread!

Trudy Moberg, Bruce

Pizza Macaroni

2 eggs
1 cup milk
2 cups cooked macaroni
2 lbs. ground beef, browned

1 onion
1 can pizza sauce
Shredded cheese

Beat together eggs and milk. Add to cooked macaroni; spread on greased cookie sheet. In a saucepan, combine hamburger, onion and pizza sauce; simmer a few minutes. Spread on macaroni mixture. Top with cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 20 minutes. Let set a few minutes before serving.

Kathleen Hahn, Lennox

Ham and Spinach Two-Cheese Pasta

2 oz. dried whole-grain penne pasta (2/3 cup)
1 (5 oz.) pkg. fresh baby spinach
2 tsp. olive oil
1/2 cup chopped onion (1 medium)
1 T. all-purpose flour

1/2 tsp. McCormick® mustard, ground
1/2 cup evaporated fat-free milk
1/4 cup shredded reduced-fat Italian blend cheese
2 T. shredded Parmesan cheese
2 oz. low-sodium ham, cubed

In a medium saucepan, cook pasta according to package directions. Place spinach in a large colander in sink. Pour pasta over spinach in colander; drain well. Set aside. In same saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion; cook about 5 minutes or until tender. Stir in flour, mustard, and 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Add evaporated milk all at once. Cook and stir until slightly thickened. Cook and stir for 1 minute more. Stir in Italian blend cheese and half of the Parmesan cheese. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Stir in pasta mixture and ham; stir gently to coat. Divide mixture between 2 10-ounce ramekins or individual casserole dishes. Sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese. Bake at 400°F. about 10 minutes or until tops start to brown.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 332, Total Fat 4g, Sodium 571mg, Cholesterol 27mg, Carbohydrates 37g, Protein 23g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Lasagna

8 oz. lasagna noodles
1 lb. ground beef
2/3 (28 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce
2 lbs. ricotta cheese
1/2 cup grated Romano cheese
1 egg

1/4 C. dried basil
1 clove garlic
1 (8 oz.) pkg. sliced pepperoni sausage
8 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain. Brown hamburger; drain. In a saucepan, heat spaghetti sauce. In a medium bowl, stir together ricotta cheese, Romano cheese, egg, basil and garlic. Coat bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish with sauce. Place 3 or 4 noodles in bottom of pan, overlapping edges; cover with sauce. Spread half of the ricotta mixture over noodles. Cover ricotta with half hamburger, half pepperoni slices and 1/4 of mozzarella cheese. Repeat sauce, noodles, ricotta, meat and cheese layers. Layer sauce and noodles again; pour remaining sauce over all, being sure to cover edges. Top with remaining mozzarella. Cover pan with foil and pierce 3 or 4 times with a fork to ventilate. Bake at 375°F. for 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake an additional 15 minutes to brown top.

Courtney Reedy, Tea

Please send your favorite slow cooker, holiday treat 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 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Switch Things Up with Stylish, Efficient Lighting for Your Home



Patrick Keegan
Collaborative Efficiency

Dear Pat: After 20 years with the same lighting in our home, it's time for a change. I've done some research and there are so many types of light fixtures and bulbs it's making my head spin! How can I select something practical, affordable and efficient?

– Heidi

Dear Heidi: This is an excellent question because we often take lighting for granted. We choose fixtures and bulbs

without thinking through some of the more important issues, such as specific lighting needs of the room, how fixtures work together and how to save money on energy bills.

Saving energy starts with choosing the correct bulb. Efficiency standards for incandescent bulbs between 40 and 100 watts, which came into effect in 2012, led to the halogen bulb (also known as energy-efficient incandescent). These bulbs are at least 25 percent more efficient than the old incandescents¹. The other two common types of household bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs), are even more efficient.

EnergyStar.gov estimates that you can save \$75 a year by replacing the five most-used incandescent bulbs or light fixtures with ENERGYSTAR®-certified LED or CFL lighting.² Of the three types, LEDs tend to save more money over the long run and LED prices have decreased in recent years.³ A downside of CFLs is that they contain a small amount of toxic mercury that can be released into your home if one breaks.

When you're considering which type of bulb to buy, consider both watts and lumens. Watts indicate how much energy (and therefore, money) is used to produce light. Lumens indicate how much light the bulb produces. A handy comparison is that an 800-lumen bulb is about equal to the amount of light from a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb.⁴ Lumennow.org offers an excellent guide to understanding bulbs.

Bulbs also give off different colors of light, known as color temperature. If a bulb burns out – or in the case of an LED, as it dims over time – it can be challenging to find a replacement that matches other lights in the room. If the variation bothers you, you may want to purchase and install bulbs of the same brand

and wattage for the entire room or area at the same time⁵.

Installing dimmers instead of on/off light switches is a good way to save energy while giving you greater control of the amount of light in the room. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so be sure to check the label on the bulb. It's worth considering whether you have the right number and the right location for light switches. We recommend hiring a licensed electrician if you decide to install new lighting and switches.

Now that we've covered bulbs, let's move on to fixtures. Different types of fixtures have different functions. Ambient lights such as sconces and glass-covered fixtures provide gentler overall lighting, while directional fixtures such as pendants, desk lamps and track lighting provide task lighting that focuses on areas where work is done. Not all bulbs can be used in an enclosed fixture or work outdoors.

As you choose a light fixture, make sure it can provide the correct level of brightness, with an appropriate size and number of bulbs. It can be disappointing to install a ceiling light with the style you love, only to realize it doesn't provide enough light for the room; or the opposite, that your room is flooded with too much light, which also wastes energy and money. It's not a good idea to mix bulb types in a fixture, as the excess heat from an incandescent or a halogen light can diminish the performance of an LED.⁶

The Lighting Research Center website (<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/>) provides a resource page with many sample lighting layouts for every room in the home, which you can find by entering the phrase "lighting patterns for homes" in their website's search engine. Home décor sites like Better Homes and Gardens, Real Simple, HGTV and similar sites also give excellent lighting explanations, plans and ideas.

It's always a good idea to check with your local electric co-op as they may offer energy audits or lighting product rebates.

With a little planning, you can have a well-lit energy efficient home you'll enjoy for years to come!

SOURCES:

¹ www.epa.gov/cfl/how-energy-independence-and-security-act-2007-affects-light-bulbs

² <https://energy.gov/energysaver/lighting-choices-save-you-money>

³ <https://energy.gov/energysaver/lighting-choices-save-you-money>

⁴ www.consumerreports.org/cro/lightbulbs/buying-guide.htm

⁵ www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=fixture_guide.pr_fixtures_guide_lightquality

⁶ www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2015/01/how-to-get-your-money-s-worth-when-buying-an-led/index.htm

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on ductless heat pumps, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Conservation Speech Contest Announced

How does your watershed?

That's the question teens seeking to compete in the 57th Annual Resource Conservation Speech Contest will ponder.

Scholarships totaling \$2,300 are up for grabs in the contest, thanks to a sponsorship by East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D. and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, S.D.

The contest is organized by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Participants will compete in a local conservation district contest to advance to one of seven area speech contests prior to March 31, 2018. The top two finishers in each of the natural resource areas will advance to the state finals to be held April 28 in Pierre.

Speeches are evaluated on the contestant's adherence to the topic and appropriateness, originality, the presentation of the speech, the logic of the speech and its arguments.

The contest is open to South Dakota students in grades 9 through 12.

For more information, contact your local conservation district or the S.D. Department of Agriculture's Resource Conservation and Forestry Division at 605-773-3623.

Electric Co-op Members to Save with Energy Management System

By Christie Delfanian

Two South Dakota State University researchers are developing an energy management system that will help utility companies decrease peak-time power usage and pass those savings on to their participating customers.

Zhen Ni and Tim Hansen, assistant professors in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, received a one-year, \$80,000 grant from the South Dakota Board of Regents to develop a next-generation residential energy management system. They will be partnering with Sioux Valley Energy of Colman, S.D., which serves more than 23,000 homes, farms and business in east central South Dakota and southwest Minnesota and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo.

Utility companies purchase energy from power suppliers, Hansen explained. "They pay the wholesale market rate – whatever electricity costs at the moment."

Power suppliers charge less for non-peak energy because more efficient generators, including renewables, such as wind and solar, are in use. "Peak power generators are the most expensive to run and are, hypothetically, the most emission-intensive units," Hansen said.

With the residential electricity use in the United States expected to increase 24 percent by 2040, utility companies are looking for ways to become more efficient by using smart-home technologies. That, in turn, will result in savings for their customers.

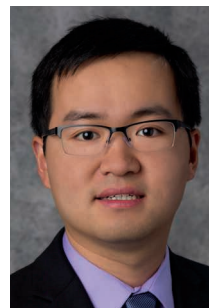
Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy CEO and general manager, said, "Nearly half of Sioux Valley Energy's total power costs each year come from demand charges. Our members would benefit from technology and systems that help them control their electrical demand during peak-use times. We are looking forward to working with South Dakota State University to develop solutions to help both consumers and the utility save on their power bills without sacrificing home comfort."

Ni will develop new optimization algorithms to minimize energy costs for utility companies and a multilevel reward system for customers who shift energy usage to nonpeak times. Activities, such as doing laundry or charging electric vehicles, would be done during nonpeak times.

"Different reward tiers will be offered depending on how much appliance usage you are willing to move," said Hansen, who will develop software to simulate what's occurring and test how effective the new method will be.

The researchers will use utility and power data from Sioux Valley Energy to validate the proposed system. Finally, the researchers will confirm the validity of the theoretical results using the smart-home laboratory at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

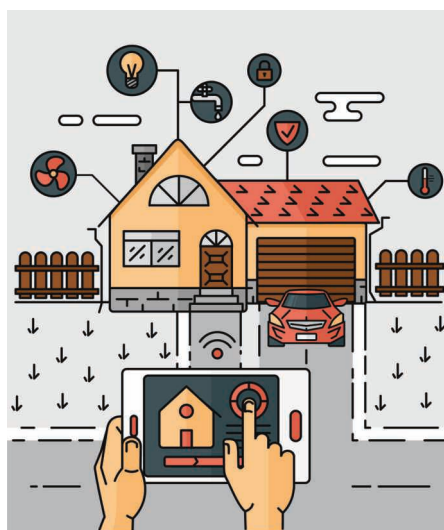
Through a one-year, \$80,000 grant from the South Dakota Board of Regents, two SDSU researchers will develop a next-generation residential energy management system that takes advantage of smart-home technologies. The system will help utility companies decrease peak-time power usage and pass those savings on to their participating customers.



Zhen Ni



Tim Hansen



Pumpkins Galore

PUMPKINS WILL TAKE CENTER STAGE AT A FESTIVAL dedicated to the ubiquitous fall vegetable Oct. 6-7 in Webster, S.D.

What started as a lighted evening parade centered around the orange squash in this northeastern South Dakota town has expanded to a two-day festival celebrating not only pumpkins, but the onset of fall in general.

"It started as a parade first and then became a full-blown Pumpkin Fest," said Marcia Lefman, secretary/treasurer for the Webster Area Chamber of Commerce, which helps organize the festival.

And, there truly is something for everyone.

On Friday, Pumpkin Fest treats and coffee can be found at Webster banks with a bake sale being held at one bank.

At 5 p.m., winners of the Sixth Annual Scarecrow Contest will be announced in both the business and individual categories. (The local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, Lake Region Electric Association in Webster, took top honors in the 2016 contest.)

"It's all a lot of fun and very festive for fall with the scarecrows and the decorated corners," said Lefman.

Later that evening, coloring contest entries are due and the American Legion hosts the first of two nights of bingo and turkey shoots.

Saturday morning, dozens of pumpkins decorated by area elementary students will be on display at the Day County Arts building.

And, pets get in on the fun in the Pumpkin Costume Contest held on Main Street with prizes for kids, adults and pets.

For adults 21 and over, there's even a poker run, but leave your motorcycle or car at home. Participants in this poker run make it from location to location using a lawn mower, ATV or golf cart as they make stops at five participating businesses to draw their best hand.

At 10 a.m., the Pumpkin King and Queen and Pumpkin Prince and Princess will be announced.

The public can nominate 3- to 5-year-olds for the prince and princess contest and voting takes place at the Dakota Bank lobby. The King and Queen Contest is also sponsored by the bank, however this year local eating establishments are having a friendly competition by sponsoring the King and Queen candidates. They can be an employee or

Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Dozens of floats are lit up for the Pumpkin Fest Lighted Night Parade on Webster's Main Street. **Cover Photo:** Mascots of all shapes can be found on Pumpkin Fest floats.

(Photo Courtesy Webster, S.D., Reporter & Farmer newspaper.)





Photo by Lake Region Electric Association

loyal patron of the business (age 45 and older).

The business is allowed to have a container in their premises to help collect votes (dimes, quarters, dollars) for “their candidate.” All funds raised go to Make-A-Wish South Dakota.

Aspiring cooks, bakers and chefs offer a variety of pumpkin-based items as they compete for honors in one of five food categories: pies, cakes, cookies/bars, breads and miscellaneous.

“In the baking contest – pumpkin needs to be the main ingredient,” said Lefman, noting that a past entry of a pumpkin moon pie was pretty memorable.

Baking contest awards are given out at noon and all entries are sampled at 1 p.m.

A unique aspect of the festival is that outside food vendors typically found at larger community events are absent from the Webster festival, allowing for local nonprofit groups and churches to serve food as a fundraiser for the entity. Different groups can be found throughout town offering bake sale items, cotton candy, Indian tacos, BBQs and other treats.

Horse-drawn wagon rides, bounce house inflatables and face painting are just a few of the other activities held throughout the day around town and the Museum of Wildlife, Science and Industry is open Friday and Saturday. A Big Boy Toy Show will be held on the museum’s grounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and musical entertainment will be on stage from noon to 3 p.m. In the afternoon, free pony rides are offered for “the wee ones” and a children’s tractor pull will be held at 1 p.m.

Skills Tested at Pumpkin Challenge

The Freedom Church Pumpkin Challenge 2017 begins at 4 p.m. and offers a variety of pumpkin-related events:

Pumpkin Crabwalk Challenge – Open to teens and adults, two-person relay teams attempt a crabwalk while carrying a pumpkin in their lap.

Pumpkin Rumble Wheelbarrow Race – Also open to teens and adults, the two-person teams attempt to race 100 feet with one person acting as the driver and the other as the wheelbarrow. The person in the wheelbarrow position must roll a pumpkin down the race course using either their head or their

hands, while also walking on their hands.

Pumpkin Kids Shuffle – Open to children ages 4 to 8, each member of the two-person relay team will carry a pumpkin 100 feet. First to cross the finish line with the pumpkin wins.

Pumpkin Dumpkin Kids Relay Hop – Kids ages 8 to 12 compete in two-person teams as each team member hops down a 50-foot field while simultaneously gripping a pumpkin between his or her legs. The first team member hands off the pumpkin to the partner who hops back to the finish line in the same fashion.

Pumpkin Chunkin Manly Man Throw – Participants will hurl a big pumpkin as far as they can, with the distance measured from the center point of impact. Winners receive Chamber Dollars, a Manly Man Award and the championship t-shirt.

Pumpkins on Parade

The festival’s shining event takes place as the sun goes down. The Pumpkin Fest Lighted Night Parade begins at 7 p.m. on Main Street. Entries are judged at 6:30 p.m., with prizes awarded for the Most Original, Most Pumpkins and Best Use of Lights.

“The lighted float is a pretty big parade,” said Lefman, noting that the northeast South Dakota event makes for a good day-trip for families. “It’s beautiful with all the lights.”



Photo courtesy Webster Area Chamber of Commerce

Above: Lake Region Electric Association in Webster, S.D., will attempt to defend its 2016 Scarecrow Decorating Contest during Webster’s Pumpkin Fest Oct. 6-7. The grand prize was \$50 in Webster Chamber Bucks that was donated from LREA to the local food pantry. The 2016 display glowed with lights at night and stood out during the day with the vibrant color scheme.

Below: Pumpkins decorated by area school children are on display during the festival.

Member Owned. Member Focused.

East River Electric Power Holds Annual Meeting

By Shayla Ebsen

EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE HELD its 67th annual meeting Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, at the Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls to explore the future of the quickly changing energy industry. The theme of this year's annual meeting was 'Member Owned. Member Focused.' and included a report from cooperative leaders on the past year's key projects and milestones. Speakers also discussed the many ways that East River Electric and its members work together to drive innovation, improve their communities and to continue

providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

"We'd like to thank everyone who attended this year's annual meeting," said Tom Boyko, East River Electric's general manager. "Our network of cooperatives work very well together and we are always looking for more ways we can share services and add value to our member systems."

East River Electric also honored National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation CEO Sheldon Petersen with the cooperative's Eminent Service Award for his 41 years of service to rural



electrification. Petersen began his career in the rural electrification program in 1976 with Nishnabotna Valley REC in Harlan, Iowa. In November 1980, he became general manager of Rock County ECA, now Rock Energy Cooperative, in Janesville, Wis. He joined CFC in August 1983 as an area representative and provided financial management and consulting services to members in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana and the Dakotas. In 1990, Petersen moved to CFC headquarters where he held various management positions. He has been CFC's chief executive officer since March 1995.

The Eminent Service Award is the most prestigious honor given by East River's board of directors. Petersen also served as the meeting's lunch keynote speaker.

A panel discussion began the afternoon session and featured senior leaders from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The panel provided an update on Basin Electric's financials and operations. A business meeting followed the panel discussion where the director election was held and the cooperative's policy statements were adopted.

East River Electric Power Cooperative is a wholesale electric power supply cooperative serving 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally owned electric system, which in turn serve more than 113,000 homes and businesses. The company's 42,000-square-mile service area covers the rural areas of 41 counties in eastern South Dakota and 22 counties in western Minnesota.

Opposite Page: Basin Electric Power Cooperative CEO Paul Sukut addressed meeting participants as Ken Rutter, Basin Electric's senior vice president of marketing and asset management, looks on. **Top Right:** East River Electric board president Jim Ryken, who represents Clay-Union Electric Corporation in Vermillion, presides over the meeting. **Middle Right:** East River Electric CEO/General Manager Tom Boyko delivers his report during the meeting. **Bottom Right:** Sheldon Petersen, chief executive officer of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, was the recipient of East River Electric's Eminent Service Award and was the luncheon speaker for the meeting.



A Brewing Tradition

Brewers Give South Dakota Flavor to Their Craft

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, GOVERNMENT AND SCIENCE are topics expected in the classroom, but for South Dakota's growing brewing community, they provide the inspiration and foundation of some uniquely flavored – and named – beverages.

Building on chemistry and biology degrees, Miner Brewing Company's Sandi Vojta incorporates a variety of South Dakota ingredients into one of the more than 80 varieties of drinks that have been created at the Hill City brewery. (Many of the brews are seasonal or limited production, but the brewery's tap room features about a dozen local offerings.)

Located in the heart of the Black Hills and owned and operated by the same family behind the award-winning Prairie Berry Winery, Miner Brewing Company, which opened in the fall of 2013, produces craft beers that are both traditional in

nature and yet uniquely and truly "South Dakota."

By infusing regional and seasonal ingredients, Vojta adapts traditional styles to create craft beers

Brenda Kleinjan

A visitor to the Miner Brewing Company in Hill City holds up two of the company's growlers. About a dozen different varieties are on tap on any given day.



with a regional character.

South Dakota wheat grown by the brewmaster's cousin graces "Miner Wheat" while South Dakota crab apples take the stage in Miner's Raspberry Crab Apple Cider, Pineapple Cider, Kombucha Cider, Fruit Side Dish and Crabby Blonde Ale.

The brewing company's well water is listed in Miner Winter Warmer, Miner Olde Winter Ale, Miner Oktoberfest, Miner Oatmeal Stout, Miner Brown Ale and Miner Black IPA.

Local strawberries and rhubarb are part of Miner Wassup Rhubarb?! while coffee beans from a Hill City coffee shop are included in Miner Third Dimension Ale.

Miner Spring Saison includes dandelions and honey from the Rushmore State and the Miner Rosehip Rye Lager includes handpicked South Dakota rosehips.

The Miner Pumpkin Cranberry Farmhouse Ale is a seasonal drink featuring South Dakota pumpkins while the Miner Imperial Porter features house-roasted South Dakota pumpkins.

For a decidedly local flavor, the Miner Pale Lager is brewed with Black Hills Spruce tips while wild prickly pears harvested at Cactus Flats, S.D., play a role in the Miner Cactus Flats.

The Miner Hippy Hole Gose features South Dakota wild plums, the Miner Black Currant Maibock is made with South Dakota black currants and both the Miner Chokecherry Brown Ale and the Miner Brown Ale have South Dakota chokecherries as an ingredient.

Geography is center stage at Spearfish's Crow Peak Brewing Company, which gets its name from nearby Crow Peak, elevation 5,787 feet.

Crow Peak's Mjollnir Ale is an American brown ale featuring spruce tips while the company's 605 Harvest Pale Ale features hops from 6th Meridian Hops in Yankton, S.D.

Across the state at Wooden Legs Brewery in Brookings, South Dakota crops and local history lore are part of the fabric of the establishment.

The brewery's name is a nod to the city's namesake, Wilmot Wood Brookings. Brookings was a Dakota Territory politician who lost his feet in a horse accident while en route from Sioux Falls



Left: Crow Peak Brewing Company in Spearfish gets its name from the nearby Crow Peak which stands 5,787 feet. **Below:** A growler from Wooden Legs Brewing Company in Brookings. The company gets its name from the city's namesake.

to Yankton for a session of the Dakota Territory Legislature. (Read more about him at <http://wooden-legsbrewing.com/our-name/>)

Among the brewery's offerings are Sanderson Gardens Strawberry Wheat Beer made with strawberries from the landmark strawberry farm near Aurora, S.D.

And, Wooden

Legs' American Oak Aged Broggot Rights mead is made with locally sourced honey from South Dakota and Nebraska.

Wooden Legs' co-owner and head brewer, Seth Koch, is listed as the officer for the South Dakota Craft Brewers Guild, which is establishing itself in the state.

One of the newest breweries in the state, The Bill of Rights Brewery, opened in Pierre in April 2017.

Learn More

The South Dakota Department of Tourism lists about 18 small South Dakota breweries at <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/explore-with-us/spotlights/good-times-great-beers>. Here you'll find a listing of breweries by region and also a brief write up about each.

Wanting to dive into history? The South Dakota State Archives has an online listing of South Dakota breweries from 1862-1942. The file lists 78 breweries in 17 South Dakota communities (Deadwood had the largest number at 22 while Yankton boasted 13 breweries.) Find the list at <http://history.sd.gov/archives/exhibits/BREWERIES%20OF%20SOUTH%20DAKOTA%201862.pdf>.



Photos by Chad Coppess/South Dakota Tourism

Capital Credits Are Part of How Co-ops Are Special

The Cooperative Principles Guide Co-ops To Be Stewards of Their Communities

EVERY OCTOBER SINCE 1930, NOT-FOR-PROFIT cooperatives of all kinds have recognized National Cooperative Month as a way to educate the public about how co-ops work and to appreciate their many members.

This year, we highlight the notions that guide all co-ops: the seven cooperative principles. These notions lead electric cooperatives like yours to do business in a better way every single day. Here are real-life examples of how the principles affect your cooperative.

No. 1: Voluntary and Open Membership/ No. 2: Democratic Member Control

Co-ops are open to anyone who is able to use its services, which means any person who moves onto co-op lines is allowed membership. Annual meetings serve as a way for members to get to know the people who run their co-op, and it's where members are updated on business matters. Every year your local electric cooperative convenes for its annual membership meeting.

"Democratic member control" means members vote for a director who represents them on a board, which governs the cooperative. Annual meetings also serve as the forum for electing directors

No. 3: Members' Economic Participation

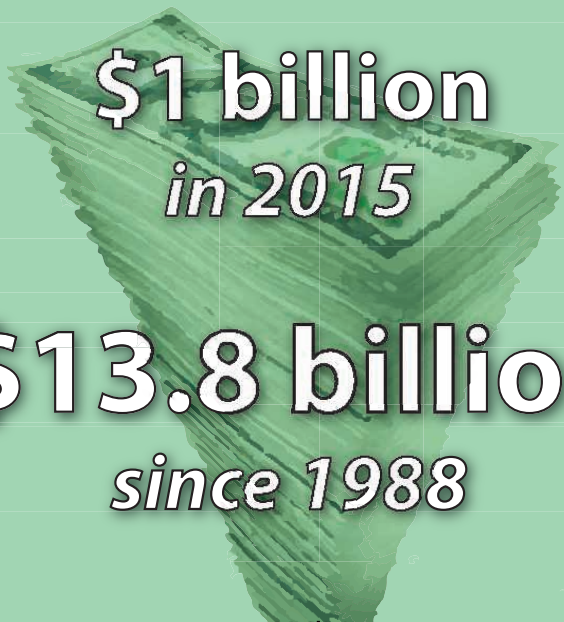
Because electric cooperatives are owned by its members, they do not create profits for distant shareholders. Any excess revenue – called "margins" – is allocated back to the membership in the form of capital credits, or patronage capital. Capital credits are "retired" and then paid back to members each year based on their purchases (in the case of electric cooperatives, electricity) from the cooperative. Margins are used by the co-op as working capital for a period of time, then paid back to individual members.

Your local board of directors sets the policy for how these credits are allocated.

Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives. Co-ops are proud to support their communities by putting money back into the local

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$13.8 billion to members since 1988 — \$1 billion in 2015 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.



\$1 billion
in 2015

\$13.8 billion
since 1988

Source: National Rural Utilities
Cooperative Finance Corporation

economy – and into the pockets of those they serve. It makes the co-op business model special.

Nationally, electric cooperatives have retired \$13.8 billion in capital credits since 1988 – \$1 billion in 2015 alone.

No. 4: Autonomy and Independence

Electric cooperatives form a vast network across America. They're found in 47 states, and cooperative-owned electric lines cover 75 percent of the nation's land mass. But what's unique is that each cooperative is an autonomous, independent business.

We work with our co-op neighbors, but the local co-op members are the sole governors of their local cooperative. The member-elected board of directors approves policies and resolutions that guide the way the cooperative does business.

No. 5: Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives have a charge to keep their members informed – not just about cooperative business, but also about topics like energy efficiency, safety, and community contribution. For example, this publication is one way your co-op keeps its members up on relevant news.

You can also stay informed via your co-op's website and Facebook page.

No. 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Even though co-ops are independent entities, they still rely on one another to share resources, information, and, in some cases, manpower.

Electric co-ops have long relied on one another to get power restored more quickly after severe weather emergencies. Called "mutual-aid agreements," it works just as it sounds: When your co-op needs extra hands after a storm, such as the Christmas Day 2016 storm experienced in many parts of South Dakota, co-ops from neighboring towns and states help out. And when neighboring co-ops need help, your local co-op sends crews to them.

In major storms or disasters, mutual-aid assistance gets power back on so much faster than co-ops can do with just their own crews.

No. 7: Concern for Community

Possibly the most visible of all the cooperative principles, the last is what drives electric co-ops to be good stewards of the communities they serve.

Your local electric cooperative undertakes a variety of projects, from food drives and charity fund-raisers to school safety presentations and other community events.

While cooperatives' first priority is delivering safe, affordable, reliable electricity to those they serve, they also feel strongly about supporting and contributing to the development of our their communities.

Sources: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

The Seven Cooperative Principles, Explained

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 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.

Regional Dateline

September 21-24

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

September 21-24

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

September 21-24

First Annual Off Road Rally
Ballpark Road, Sturgis, SD
605-720-0800

September 22-23

Badger Clark Cowboy Music
and Poetry Gathering
Hot Springs, SD, 605-440-1007

September 22-24

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

September 23

Harvest Fest, Spearfish, SD
605-717-9294

September 23

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

September 23-24

Menno Pioneer Power and
Toy Show, Menno, SD
jjnusz@gwtc.net

September 23-24

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

September 28-30

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



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.

September 29-30

Oktoberfest, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

September 29-30

Annual Oktoberfest,
Vermillion, SD, 605-624-5571

September 29-30

Sioux Falls PREMIER Rodeo
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

September 30

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

October 1

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

October 4-8

Great Scarecrow Festival
Huron, SD, 605-352-9781

October 6

Jazz with Jami Lynn and Guests
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

October 6-8

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

October 7

Harvest Fest, Huron, SD
605-352-0000

October 7

Oktoberfest, Aberdeen, SD
605-225-3441

October 7

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

October 7-8

Quilt Festival, Watertown, SD
605-753-0229

October 7, 14, 20-21

Nelly's Revenge Murder
Mystery Dinner Theater
Deadwood, SD, 605-580-5799

October 12-14

Wild West Songwriters Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

Events of Special Note

October 6-7

Pumpkin Fest and Lighted
Night Parade, Webster, SD
605-345-4668

October 7

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

October 14

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

October 14

Strawbale Winery Harvest
Festival 2017, Renner, SD
605-543-5071

October 14-15

Dakota Pieces XIV Quilt Show
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-929-5008

October 21-January 7, 2018

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

October 22

Kidz Bop Kids Best Time Ever
Tour, Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-7288

October 27-29

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