

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Let's Go Fly a Kite

**Brookings Kite Festival
Creates Excitement**

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Cooperative Metering

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Photo Credit: Visit Brookings





Thank You For a Memorable Annual Meeting

I want to say thank you to all who were able to attend Lake Region Electric Association's Annual Meeting. Eighty three years of getting together to share the financial health of your cooperative; wow! Lake Region's annual meeting is so much more than just business. This has always been a time of togetherness. A time for our members to come together and visit about family and what's been going on at the farm or in the community. This is the time that the staff and directors get the chance to see you all face to face and just visit. And this year was even more special.

I would like again to say thank you to the town of Langford. This lovely community is always so welcoming to our membership. Lake Region has a long standing contractual agreement to assist Langford with maintaining their municipal electric system. We are supportive of the school system by offering education and safety

demonstrations, student internships, career fairs, scholarships and the South Dakota Youth Foundation that helps prepare young teachers. Lake Region gives back to the Langford community through donations to the school, fire department, and other organizations.

I would like to give a huge thank you to the employees of Lake Region for all of the planning and effort they put in to making this such a successful event!

One of the biggest parts of the evening for me was the announcement of my retirement. That's right: I will be leaving Lake Region Electric in early September. What a privilege it has been to be a part of this employee team for the past 20 years, 11 of which I spent as your General Manager. It's even a little hard for me to grasp some days, that after 37 years in the utility industry, I will be retiring. It is with great pride and admiration for the employees and directors that I can say I have no doubt that I am leaving you all in good hands and that Lake Region Electric Association will remain strong well into the future.

I give a heart-filled thank you to my employees, directors and to you, the member-owners of Lake Region Electric for such a wonderful career.

Thank you & God Bless,

Timothy McIntyre
General Manager & CEO

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**LAKE REGION ELECTRIC
RIPPLES**

(USPS 018-904)

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LAKE REGION RIPPLES COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 341, 1212 N Main St., Webster, SD 57274. Lake Region Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, Lake Region Electric members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. (USPS 018-904) Periodicals Postage Paid at Webster, SD 57274 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lake Region Ripples Cooperative Connections, PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274. Telephone 605-345-3379; Toll Free 1-800-657-5869; Fax 605-345-4442 E-mail: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

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Incumbent Directors Re-elected

Two director seats were up for election at this year's annual meeting. Incumbent Andrea Kilker ran unopposed to serve the membership for District One. Incumbent Amy Kuecker ran unopposed for District 7. Both Incumbents were re-elected by unanimous vote of the attending members.

Serving on the Board of Directors is a commitment that requires representatives to attend local meetings on a monthly basis as well as state and national meetings. Board members attend training courses and pursue educational opportunities so that they are well informed on regulations and industry trends in order to best serve the members of Lake Region Electric Association.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

April

Ryan & Mackenzie Smith
Brian Drum
Duane & Kristin Kronbach
Nicole Fenez
Paul Price
Joey & Tanya Pierson
Swanberg Construction
Christopher and Yasmine Gravley

May

Jennifer Rondell
Kathleen Berns
LC Enterprises LLC
James & Jeanette Remmers
Chris Garhart
Megan Highland
David Forrette
Nicholas Van Elsacher & Amanda Beatie

Fireworks Safety

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal but they are not safe.

Every year, thousands of people are injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, with many of the injuries to children and young adults. While the majority of these incidents are due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, home-made or other illegal fireworks or explosives, less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant injury.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 19,000 fires each year.

Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

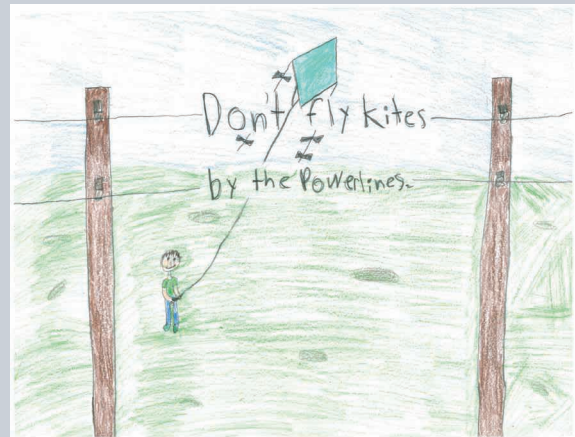
Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under five years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

Source: National Safety Council



**“Let’s Go Fly a Kite Up to
the Highest Heights.”**

Eldon Femrite, Age 12

Eldon Femrite warns readers to not fly kites by power lines this summer. Eldon’s parents are Jody and Rosemary Femrite, members of Codington-Clark Electric.

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.

DELICIOUS Desserts

NO CHURN ICE CREAM

Ingredients:

2 cups heavy cream
14 oz. sweetened condensed milk
Other mix-ins as desired

Method

In a mixing bowl, whip heavy cream until stiff peaks form.

Mix in sweetened condensed milk and any flavors/mix-ins you like (strawberries, Oreos, lemon, vanilla extract, etc.).

Pour into loaf pan and freeze until solid (2+ hours).

Kayla Beaner
Centerville, S.D.

CINNAMON PECAN PIE

Ingredients:

1 refrigerated pie crust, (from 14.1-oz. pkg.)
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
2 tbsps. butter, melted
1 tbsps. cinnamon extract
1 1/2 cups pecan pieces

Method

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare pie crust as directed on package for one-crust pie using 9-inch pie plate.

Mix eggs, sugar, corn syrup, butter and cinnamon flavor in large bowl until well blended. Stir in pecans.

Pour into crust. Bake 50 to 55 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean. Cool completely on wire rack.

McCormick.com

RHUBARB PIE

Ingredients:

Crust

1-2 cups flour
1/2 stick butter or margarine
1/4 cup water

Pie

3 tbsps. butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
3 eggs, separated
2 tbsps. flour
1/2 tsp. salt
2 1/2 cups cut rhubarb
Smucker's caramel sundae syrup

Method

Crust: Add ingredients and knead to complete pie crust. Amounts will vary due to humidity. Knead dough into pie pan and poke holes into the bottom as needed. You may make creative edges as you wish, however it is not necessary.

Pie: Soften butter or margarine and stir together with the sugar, egg yolks, flour, and salt. Beat egg whites until stiff. Add rhubarb and fold in the egg whites. Add the filling to the 8-inch, unbaked pie crust. You may add a drizzle of Smucker's sundae syrup for additional flavoring before baking. Bake in oven set at 400 until golden brown. You may also add more caramel syrup to pie after baking for ultimate effect.

Lisa Kummer Soukup
Tea, S.D.

Please send your favorite 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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Charles Johnson Board of Trustees Awards Three Scholarships

Laura London

Three area students were awarded scholarships from the Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust to help ease some of the burden of higher education costs. The Board of Trustees chose the winning applicants based on the application and a letter of recommendation submitted by the applicants.

Charles Johnson is known for being instrumental in bringing Mereen Johnson Manufacturing to Webster when he started the Western Division of MJ in 1973. He cared about manufacturing and about the people who worked for him. He was all about improving business, people and the community. Honoring the memory of Charles Johnson, Russell D. McBroom, past president of Mereen Johnson Machine Company, made funds available to form The Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust in 2017. The purpose of this trust is to promote education, training, hiring and placement of persons to work and potentially begin their lifelong careers in the manufacturing and fabrication industry or trades within the Day County area.

Tacey Miller, son of Dale and Amy Miller of Webster was awarded \$2,500. Tacey is eager to pursue his educational and career goals in the field of Energy Technology at Lake Area Technical College. Tacey says “From a young age, I have been motivated by a passion for understanding how things work and a deep appreciation for hands-on problem solving. It was on a tour of Lake Area Tech that I discovered the energy technology program and was impressed by the variety of specialties offered.”



Carter Williams, son of Dan and Stephanie Williams of Webster, was awarded \$2,000. Carter is enrolled at Mitchell Technical College in the Powerline Construction and Maintenance program. After graduating, Carter hopes to find a job as a lineman with a Rural Electric Cooperative. Eventually, he would like to purchase a home on an acreage

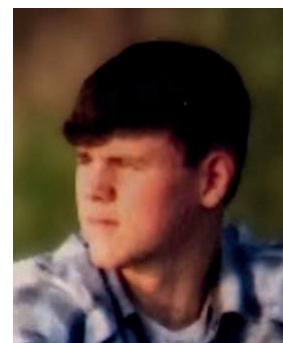
where he can have a little livestock. Carter, coming from a family of linemen says, “I look forward to the day when I can sit around the table with my grandpa and dad and tell stories about our experiences in the power line field.” Carter is appreciative of the scholarship, “I am truly grateful for the scholarship support; this will help reduce my financial burden which will allow me to focus on my schoolwork. Thank you for your support and generosity. I am excited for this new journey in the Powerline field and look forward to the future path it leads me down.”



Peyton Kuecker, son of Curtis and Mandy Kuecker of Webster was awarded \$2,000. Peyton will be attending Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls to pursue a degree in the plumbing industry. After he finishes school, Peyton plans to return to the Webster area where he would like to work for his dad at their family business, Northstar Mechanical, Inc. as a plumber.

Peyton expressed his gratitude to the board “Thank you for awarding this scholarship to me! It will greatly benefit me in my education and future.”

The Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust Board of Trustees recognizes that the work ethic and goals of these students align with the purpose of this trust. They are proud to have such fine people who came from this community and hope to return to the area to continue their chosen trades and support our community.



From East River to Missouri River

Tom Boyko's 2,400-Mile Canoe Journey

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

What's a former CEO of East River Power Cooperative to do after they retire? For Tom Boyko, retirement after 37 years in the electric industry and serving nine years as East River's chief executive officer meant an opportunity to embark on a well-earned canoe odyssey from the headwaters of the Missouri River in Three Forks, Mont., to St. Louis, Mo., with his son, Jacob Boyko, who accompanied his father for a portion of the journey.

According to Boyko, the 2,400-mile trip had been brewing in his mind for a long time, so when he retired at the end of August 2023, he wasted no time planning and executing his adventure, jumping from his cozy office chair to his canoe in just six months.

"I grew up on the Missouri in Stanton, N.D., so I've been wanting to do this trip forever," said Boyko. "It's just something I've always wanted to do."

Boyko continued, "At first, my family didn't think I would follow through. But through the winter, I built a tank so I could sit and practice paddling, day after day. Then they realized I was going to do it. My wife and daughter actually drove Jacob and I out to Montana. They weren't sure I was going to make it all the way, and they thought we might call it quits, but we didn't."

Having read the journals of Lewis and Clark, Boyko wanted to follow in the pioneering duo's footsteps along the Missouri River. However, instead of relying on the historic travelers' accommodations, Boyko took a more modern approach to his journey with modern provisions, including a canoe packed to the brim with packets of chicken and tuna, boxes of mac and cheese, a valuable cache of instant coffee, a tent, two propane stoves, and many other supplies.

"I got ahold of David Miller's book, *The Complete Paddler*, and he really went through, step-by-step, what he experienced when he went down the Missouri River," said Boyko. "He logged the locations of the campgrounds and included a lot of great information, so it was a great book to have with."

Armed with the knowledge to navigate hordes of flies and mosquitos, unpredictable summer storms, and the channels of the Missouri River, Boyko launched his expedition on May 16 with his son, who had just graduated college with a degree in Journalism from South Dakota State University. Jacob had also just won a Pulitzer fellowship for a writing project about the Matanza Riachuelo River in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As a result, Jacob left the Missouri River expedition in Williston, N.D., to explore his own river-centric journey in Argentina. The rest of the trip, Tom tackled solo.

"When you get to be a dad like me, you just so appreciate the



Tom Boyko stands with his son, Jacob, at Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina, a campground in McKenzie County, N.D. Photo submitted by Tom Boyko.

opportunity to do something like this with your son," said Boyko. "He enjoyed it, and he plans to finish the trip at some point in his life. And the cool thing is that every guy my age I met on the trip said the same thing, 'I wish I could have done that with my son.' I was very fortunate, and I very much appreciate that he came with me."

Although Boyko tackled most of the trip by himself, he did have help along the way. Boyko received help from family, friends, and co-workers from the co-op industry when portaging his canoe over the many dams along the way.

"My brother portaged me around Garrison Dam," said Boyko. "Jordan Lamb, the general manager of Oahe Electric, helped me portage Oahe Dam. Russell Gall with Charles-Mix Electric and Ervin Fink, a former director of East River, helped me through Fort Randall. Stephanie Horst with Bon Homme Yankton paddled Lewis and Clark Lake with me. Even my family came down and to help me portage Gavin's Point. It was great to see friends and family along the way."

Even bolstered by the help of friends, the trip wasn't always smooth sailing. Over the course of his 98-day journey, Boyko traversed strong winds and high waves on Lake Oahe, which forced him to ground his canoe and camp along the beaches of the reservoir. He drifted through oppressive 114-degree heat in Missouri and navigated past large barge traffic. There was even a rowdy raccoon who helped himself to some mac and cheese – all part of the adventure.

"I started packing the canoe when it became evident that a raccoon had been in my canoe during the night and ate through one of my food dry bags leaving mac and cheese noodles and orange cheese throughout the boat," wrote Boyko in his travel journal. "What a mess."

But it wasn't all bad. Boyko said he met some great people and found some real gems along the way.

"I worked for the Western Area Power Association for many years, so I was very familiar with the river and the dams... but when you are actually canoeing it, you get a different appreciation," said Boyko. "It's a beautiful river."

KITE FESTIVAL



Photo Credit: Visit Brookings

Let's Go Fly a Kite

Shannon Marvel

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The sky becomes more of an art canvas during the Brookings Kite Festival. For the last 25 years, kite fliers from across the country gather to let their art take flight at the festival.

One of those artists is Mike Gee of North Dakota.

“We go down there to Brookings and really like the kite flying field there. It’s just nice to come down and fly kites with friends who also enjoy flying kites,” Gee said.

Gee flies what’s called “show kites”, which are big, inflatable kites that can span 20 feet across the sky.

There are other kites flown during the festival, including soft kites, stick kites and sport kites.

A sport kite is one that is attached to two or four lines. Often they’ll be flown in teams and perform maneuvers in the sky.

“If you talk about crazy kites, there’s a wide variety. There are so many different creative people building things in creative ways,” Gee said. “It is definitely an art. It’s what you put on the canvas that makes it special.”

The kites are typically made with nylon, sail making cloth that doesn’t stretch.

“You can’t just go to the fabric store and buy tent fabric. We have a couple different weights of fabrics we use. And you need that tail on there to keep the kite stable,” Gee said.

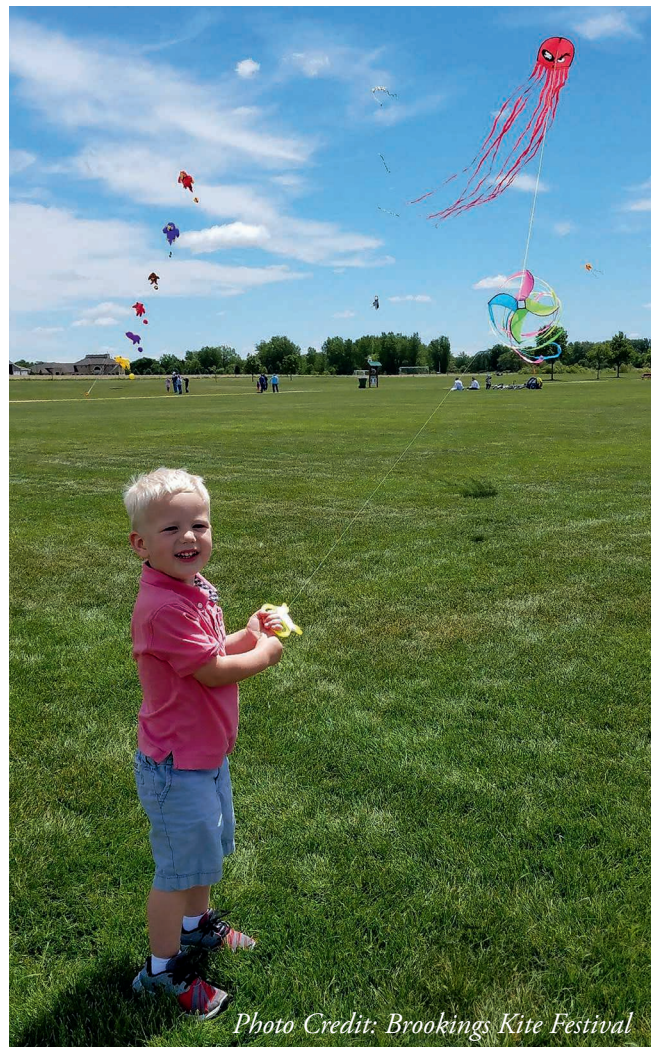


Photo Credit: Brookings Kite Festival



Photo Credit: Brookings Register

Sally Damm Norby, of the Brookings Optimists Club, said the festival got its start when Lynn Versher, former director of the South Dakota Art Museum, approached Optimist member Bill Flynn about creating a joint effort to bring big kites to Brookings.

“This volunteer organization aims to make a positive impact on the lives of youth and communities. The Brookings club’s primary focus is on advancing the opportunities and programs for youth events that are encouraging with exceptional supportive outcomes. The Brookings Optimist Kite Festival offers a comprehensive learning experience that incorporates expressions of culture, science, creativity, civic involvement, and is

environmentally friendly,” Norby said.

Youth are encouraged to come down and learn how to make a kite of their own, with professional guidance.

Gee said he encourages visitors to come up to kite fliers to ask questions or strike up a conversation.

“One thing I really like about kite flying is it seems like no matter who you talk to on the field, someone can relate to an experience of flying a kite,” Gee said. “When we start flying kites, it brings back memories of when other folks were kids flying kites. It’s kind of emotional for some people.”

This year’s event will take place on June 22-23 at the Fishback Soccer Park in Brookings.

Gee said this location is a safe spot to fly kites, and well away from any electrical line hazards.

“If you’ve flown kites long enough, you have a story about power lines. When you hit a line, you call the power company, and they advise you of what to do. The best thing to do is avoid those wires. I always think, ‘If my line breaks, which way is my kite going to go and what’s over there,’” Gee said.

Gee encourages visitors to come down to the Brookings Kite Festival with their lawn chairs and blankets and stay for more than just a half hour.

“The thing is when the wind changes direction or speed, the kites change. There’s just so much going on throughout the day. You’ve really got to sit back and pay attention,” Gee said.



Photo Credit: Visit Brookings



2024 Annual Meeting Powering Possibilities

“It’s like a wedding that happens every year!” Exclaimed Donna Sattler, Manager of Office Services at Lake Region Electric, when approached by a regular attendee of the annual meeting. A lot of planning goes into making this event successful and enjoyable for the member-owners. There are the big things like choosing a venue, the smallest details of making sure notices are printed just right, and everything in between. Months are spent planning and preparing and then it’s all over, until the next month when we start all the planning over again.

Lake Region Electric Association’s 83rd Annual Meeting of Members was held in Langford, S.D. on June 6th. There were 154 active members registered for the meeting plus 66 registered guests for a total of 220 people in attendance.

Attendees were served a variety of snacks, including fresh popcorn from the Webster Theatre. In lieu of a meal, registered members received a \$35 meal voucher to redeem at their favorite local restaurant. The meal voucher has proven to be a great way to reduce food waste while providing a meal to attendees. This also helps promote our local restaurants, who have been wonderful to work with.

President Kermit Pearson officially called the meeting to order at 7:00. The VFW and American Legion presented flags, followed by the National Anthem performed by Evie Johnson and Lillian Olson. Evie is going into 3rd grade and is the daughter of Vern and Stacie Johnson. Lillian is the daughter of Nathan and Sara Olson and will be in 7th grade. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed the performance, many commenting “what a beautiful job” the girls did.

Pastor Diane Hoines gave the invocation. Following the invocation, President Pearson welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

Tom Steiner, LREA Board Secretary, verified that 154 registered members in attendance was enough to constitute a quorum. Secretary Steiner then provided proof of mailing of the June 2024 Cooperative Connections magazine, which contained the official meeting notice as well as the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting. Additional copies of the June issue were distributed in the guest bags that were handed out at registration. There were no changes or additions to the minutes as printed. There was a motion and a second to dispense of the reading of those minutes; motion passed.

Kermit Pearson gave his annual President’s Report covering Lake Region’s statistics and financials, expressing appreciation to the staff for another positive audit. Pearson reported \$791,802.00 in patronage was returned to the membership this year, giving a ten-year total of nearly \$6 Million.

Pearson showed the increased cost of supplies over the past ten years; some of which have increased nearly 200%! He expressed that 77% of the lines and poles currently used to serve power to the members of Lake Region were installed before 1960, stating “A majority of our poles are on Social Security.” which explains the need for continued infrastructure replacement and improvements. The needs of our cooperative prompted the first rate increase in ten years. This rate increase took effect May 1st and was

reflected on the bill that the members received at the beginning of June. Though the rate increase was small enough to go unnoticed by the majority of our members, it will have a positive impact on our bottom line and will help the co-op stay in a good financial position into the future.

Pearson recognized our power provider East River Electric for all they do for the members of Lake Region Electric and introduced East River CEO Bob Sahr who attended our annual meeting. Pearson serves as Lake Region's representative on the East River Electric Board and gave an update on the state of East River and their continued investment in Lake Region Territory to help improve reliability, showing over \$33 Million invested in transmission system upgrades here in the past ten years, with another \$6 million planned over the next three years. Pearson presented several slides and information from the Corp of Engineers and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), demonstrating how the draught adder and necessary dam safety improvements will cause a rate increase for East River Electric. Considering this is where 17% of our power supply comes from, that increase will eventually affect Lake Region's power bill.

Pearson serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors at Basin Electric Power company and was able to give the members of Lake Region an update and in-depth look at Basin and some of the things affecting our power supply. Pearson expressed concern about the ability to meet increasing power demand with a strained electrical grid. In order to help meet our growing needs, Basin will be investing over \$4 billion in new generation over the next five years.

Tim McIntyre gave his last Manager's Report as he announced his retirement as the General Manager and CEO of Lake Region Electric. He expressed his gratitude to many people who were pivotal in helping him have a successful career. McIntyre talked about the mission of Lake Region Electric and our goal of providing affordable, reliable electricity to our members. McIntyre went on to share some insights from Jim Matheson, President of NRECA about how the new rules from the EPA stand to threaten our mission. He reminded our members to reach out to lawmakers about these important issues. McIntyre recognized Emma Kraft of Britton as the \$1,000 Basin Electric/Lake Region Scholarship winner. He invited Jackie Snaza up to present the Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship Award to Ella Hegg of Webster. McIntyre announced LREA Line Foreman Dan Williams' son Carter as a recipient of the \$1,000 Basin Electric Employee Dependent Scholarship.

There was a surprise presentation honoring Tim

McIntyre's years of service and retirement. A video featuring Tim's daughter Katie and all of his grandchildren was shown. Bob Sahr from East River shared a few words about his experience working with Tim McIntyre citing his integrity and passion for the members of our cooperative. Kermit Pearson thanked Tim for his service, having spent the last 20 years of his career with Lake Region Electric, 11 of those years doing an excellent job as a true leader as our General Manager. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Lake Region, Pearson presented McIntyre with a digital weather station for "Weathering 20 Years With Lake Region Electric."

Two director seats were up for election. Attorney Dan Smeins explained the bylaws for the election process. He called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor and motions were made and approved to re-elect incumbent Andrea Kilker for District 1 and Amy Kuecker for District 7.

Many members attending the meeting donated food items for the food pantry in Day County with over 320 items donated. A raffle was held for a \$50 Visa Gift Card,

The meeting concluded with drawings for a list of door prizes, Jacki Snaza was the grand Prize winner of \$500 cash. The meeting adjourned at around 8:15 when attendees were treated with ice cream as they exited.



Evie Johnson and Lillian Olson performed the National Anthem.

COOPERATIVE METERING

Roger Lawien

More than 40 cooperative linemen and metering specialists gathered in Pierre for South Dakota Rural Electric's Meter School. This two-day gathering offers the opportunity to enhance skills, build a community of professionals, and learn the nuances of metering. As our need for more energy continues to grow, so does how we properly meter consumption.

Modern electric meters do much more than keep track of the electricity we consume. Correct electric metering is also essential for grid reliability and stability. Accurate measurements aid your cooperative in identifying and addressing issues such as voltage fluctuations or load imbalances promptly.

This proactive approach enhances the resilience of the electrical grid, reducing the likelihood of outages and ensuring a continuous and reliable power supply. At its core, accurate metering ensures fair and precise billing, preventing financial disputes and establishing trust between cooperatives and members.

From an economic standpoint, correct electric metering plays a pivotal role in resource allocation allowing member owned cooperatives to better understand consumption patterns, enabling them to optimize energy distribution and invest strategically in infrastructure development. This, in turn, leads to more efficient operations, cost savings, and improved overall service quality.

Precise metering supports energy conservation.

Members can sign into their account online, view consumption. Armed with accurate usage data they are empowered to make informed decisions about their energy consumption. This encourages responsible energy usage practices, reducing waste and lowering overall demand.

Metering guru and instructor John Pollard said it best. "These training schools are important. Metering is a craft handed down from generation to generation. With the advances of solid-state metering, these students are the supreme candidates to lead us into the future."

Your electric cooperative is your partner in getting it done!



2023 SDREA Meter School Instructors Photo by Roger Lawien

What is a Smart Meter?

A smart meter is a common term for Automated Metering Infrastructure, or AMI. These are connected devices that transmit information back to the electric utility's meter data management system and the information collected is used primarily for billing and outage response purposes. Smart meters started to be installed about 25 years ago. Individual utilities have different aged systems, but all electric cooperatives in South Dakota have two-way communication with every meter in the system.

What advantages do Smart Meters bring?

Before smart meters were installed, customers were required to read their own analog meter and report their monthly usage for billing purposes, or a utility employee would physically travel to every home, farm or business in their large service territories to read usage data. Smart Meters take the burden off customers and employees, saving time and money for all consumers. In some cases, the aggregated energy usage information from their home can be visible to the customer via the Internet or a phone application.

- Smart Meters can be used to pinpoint exact locations of power outages more quickly by transmitting an “out of power” notification, meaning a faster response time to outages.
- Smart Meters allow information to be shared with individual consumers about their energy usage – allowing them to find energy efficiency opportunities or potential problems in their home.
- Smart Meters improve electric service reliability and power quality. Information obtained from the automated meters often identifies problems that can be repaired before they cause an outage.
- Information can be used by engineers to more effectively and appropriately size lines and transformers, saving the cooperative and members money.

What information does a Smart Meter record?

Automated meters record an electronic kilowatt-hour (kWh) reading, the date and time of energy usage, the overall peak demand of the electric account, if the meter has been tampered with, and the number of times the meter has experienced a loss of power.

Security of information

Electric cooperatives do not sell or share consumer data. Cooperatives abide by all laws regarding the privacy, protection and disclosure of personal information. The meters and associated communications systems are equipped with security features to prevent unauthorized access.

Are there potential health impacts from a smart meter?

Research conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) and other similar groups have shown no health impacts from automated meters. The radio frequencies emitted by digital meters are well below the maximum recommended in federal guidelines. A digital meter equipped to send and receive data has an RF density hundreds of times lower than the RF density of a cell phone, and the meters are installed on the outside of homes or buildings.

Williams Focused on Future as a Lineman

Laura London

What did you want to be growing up? It's a pretty standard question that some of us, even as adults, aren't sure we know the answer to. For Webster Area High School student, Carter Williams, the answer was clear. Carter has wanted to be a power lineman. He grew up in a family of linemen, intrigued as he listened to his grandpa and dad exchange linemen stories. "I know the sacrifices a lineman has to give up making sure the electricity stays on, and I know they are required to go out in the worst conditions possible to fix lines when the power goes out. I also know the rewards that come with the job." Carter enrolled in the Powerline Construction and Maintenance Program at Mitchell Technical College.

Carter spent some time interning at Lake Region Electric during his senior year. He interned with the Service Department in the fall where he spent roughly a week shadowing the electricians, learning about a variety of service calls.

During the spring, Carter contacted Lake Region Electric about his Senior Experience. The Senior Experience is a quarter long class designed as a capstone experience to help students graduate and become successful beyond high school. During the first few weeks of the experience, the students learn more about themselves through career assessments and personality tests. They then transition into what is called the "job process," where they learn about and discuss applying for jobs, building resumes, cover letters, and performing mock interviews. Students then conduct a career research project. With some guidance from their instructor, students are responsible for contacting their employers in a field that they are hoping to pursue after high school. Where they are required to "be in the field," for roughly 20 hours. Carter contacted LREA General Manager Tim McIntyre who welcomed the opportunity to have Carter experience Lake Region and set him up with a schedule. Carter was able to spend his hours with employees in every department at Lake Region, learning the different jobs available at the cooperative. One of the things that Carter said he was surprised



Tyler Aadland teaching Carter how to wrap wire.

by is "How everyone has their part in every single job and how all of the jobs seem to be separate but fit together including all of the office jobs." Even though Carter was aware of the rewards that come with being a lineman, he was a little surprised and excited to learn about the benefits offered through the cooperative, what total compensation means and how to apply that when he's searching for jobs when he graduates from college. "Thank you to all the employees that took time out of their busy schedules to show me the tips and tricks of the trade. I will use all the information that I have learned throughout the past weeks to help excel through school and climb my career ladder to the top," said Carter.

It's likely that you have met Carter around Webster where he has been very active in sports and other activities. He began working for Mike's Jack 'N Jill grocery store at the age of 14 and has had the opportunity to work in all departments of the store, including top-notch customer service, bagging and hauling groceries to your car, as they still do at this hometown store. Lately though, he is transitioning more towards his calling and will work the remainder of this summer assisting local electricians at Glacial Lakes Electric.

Lake Region offers a variety of job shadowing and internship programs. Students wishing to intern with Lake Region Electric Association are encouraged to visit with their high school or college advisors.

Williams Receives Basin Electric Employee Dependent Scholarship

Carter Williams was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Lake Region and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. This scholarship is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of the children of employees of Basin Electric and its subsidiaries. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

"What an honor that Carter has been chosen. He is a perfect recipient for this scholarship. We are proud of everything he has accomplished so far and are excited about his future!" Said Tim McIntyre, General manager of Lake Region Electric Association.



Chase Whitlock Summer Internship

Chase Whitlock is spending his summer interning at Lake Region Electric Association. Chase grew up in Harrisburg with two siblings. His parents are Jason and Becky Whitlock. Even though Chase hails from the Harrisburg area, he is not a stranger to Lake Region territory; nor is he a stranger to Lake Region Electric Association. Chase's grandpa, Dale Whitlock, worked as a Journeyman Lineman for Lake Region Electric for 37 years.

As do the majority of people who work for Lake Region Electric



General Manager McIntyre welcomes Chase to the crew.



Chase visiting Lake Region Electric at Dale's retirement party in 2013.

Association, Chase enjoys this area for hunting and fishing. Chase also enjoys coming to the area to spend time with his grandparents Dale and Cherrie Whitlock. So when the opportunity for a summer internship here presented itself, he was eager to come work at Lake Region Electric. Chase contacted Lake Region's Manager of Operations, Jim Grimes, and went through the process of applying for the summer position. Chase's adventurous spirit and fondness for his grandpa helped him decide the power utility industry was the career path he wanted to take. He will be assisting the Operations Department and other crews at Lake Region until Mid-August when he returns to school at Mitchell Technical College. Chase is studying Powerline Construction and Maintenance, Utilities and Natural Gas Technologies.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED
THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY**

We will be open normal hours Friday

To report an outage, call: 605-345-3379

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



Aug. 24
2024 McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo
McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus
Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-1203

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.

JULY 1-4
Annual Black Hills Roundup
7 p.m.
Black Hills Roundup Grounds
Belle Fourche, SD
605-723-2010
blackhillsroundup.com

JULY 5-7, 12-14, 19-21
Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant
Prairie Girl: Laura's Dakota Stories
Gates open 6 p.m.
Performance at 8 p.m.
\$15 adults, \$10 kids 6-12
Theater on the Prairie
De Smet, SD

JULY 5-7
Badlands Astronomy Festival
10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Ben Reifel Visitor Center
Interior, SD
605-433-5243

JULY 7-12
Deadwood 3 Wheeler Rally
All day
Deadwood Event Complex
Deadwood, SD
800-274-1876 ext 1103

JULY 13
9th Annual Auto Value Car Show
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hav-A-Rest Campground
Redfield, SD

JULY 14
Lion's Club Summer Fest/ Car Show
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Groton City Park
Groton, SD

July 19
Zucchini Fest
5 p.m.
Main Street
Bristol, SD
605-590-0000

JULY 19-20
Storybook Land Festival
4-8:30 p.m. on Friday
10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday
Storybook Land in Wylie Park
Aberdeen, SD
605-626-7015

JULY 25
Groton Summer Downtown Sip & Shop
5-8 p.m.
Groton, SD

JULY 26-28
Clear Lake Days
ClearLakeDays.com
Clear Lake, SD

JULY 26-28
Bruce Honey Days
5k walk/run, parade, cookouts, craft show, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, street dance and more.
Jay Street
Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

July 27
South Dakota Chislic Festival
10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Freeman Prairie Arboretum
Freeman, SD
605-496-9946

JULY 28
Langford Car Show
Park of the Pines
Langford, SD

AUG. 6-8
IDEAg's Farmfest
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Redwood County, MN
651-316-4369

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