

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## **SOUTH DAKOTA STAR QUILTS**

**Honoring Cooperative  
Legacy With  
Time-honored Tradition**

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*Photo by Frank Turner*



# Summer Goals



**Jeremy Lindemann**  
CEO/GM

Hello, Lake Region Electric Members.

I would like to thank everyone that attended our cooperative's annual meeting. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet some of you and to hear the reports on the state of the cooperative. Your Cooperative is in good shape and our future looks bright! I would like to thank all the directors and the employees for making it a success!

Summer is here and I hope all of you are enjoying time with friends and family and hopefully a little fishing! I for one love being out on the boat catching some fish and soaking up the warm weather. It is a fun time of year, and I try to enjoy it as much as possible. As we all know it will not be long, and the snowflakes could start falling, so I hope everyone gets outside and has a great summer filled with fun and adventures!

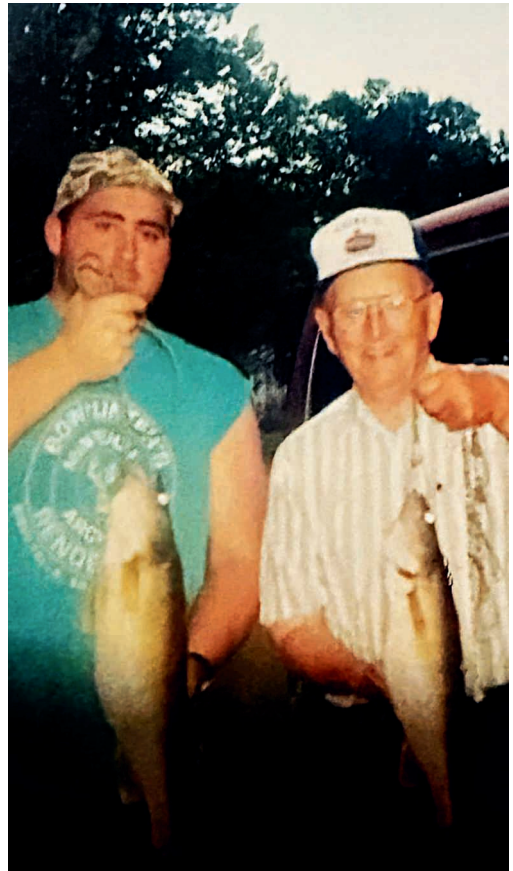
In the spirit of summer, I present my summer goals list!

1. **Plant a garden:** I have decided to make my grandma proud and plant a garden and grow vegetables to can and freeze so I can enjoy them all winter long.
2. **Summer fishing:** I plan to try to fish at least one night a week and hopefully most weekends. I do not play golf. I will golf and enjoy social golfing. I, however, prefer to fish so most of the time you will see me on the lake and not on the golf course. Now, do not get me wrong, I can hit a golf ball, and it goes a long way but sadly never consistently in the direction I want it too! This leads to way too much frustration and I find myself looking for the peace and tranquility that being out on the lake brings.
3. **Camping:** I am hoping to find more of that peace and tranquility next to a campfire and spend a few nights out under the stars. Of course there will be fishing involved.
4. **Going to visit friends and family:** Family reunions are fun part of summer. The food is usually fantastic, and it is good to see people while you still can.
5. **House projects:** You know how the saying goes "you have to make hay when the sun shines." To keep my marriage in good standing, I thought I should add this to the list and yes dear, I am going to get a lot of work done around the house this summer! Lol!
6. **See a fireworks show on the fourth of July:** One of the best firework displays I have ever seen was at the rodeo in Fort Pierre on the 4th of July, not to mention it was a great rodeo as well! As I recall, it was only 105 degrees and aside from the heat it was one heck of a show!

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe 4th of July and I hope everyone has a great summer and you accomplish all your summer goals!

Until next time we will keep the lights on for you!

Jeremy T. Lindemann,  
CEO/General Manager



## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

(USPS 018-904)

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Nick Johnson

Chris Mlejnek

Chris & Kristen Thorkelson

Makin' Memories, LLC

Don Sanderson

Ron Marlow

Tom & Deb Durland

Joseph & Betty Schmidt

Daniel & Amy Engebretson

Sara Genia

Bryan & Belinda Miller

Holly Dauwen

# Playground Safety

*Source: National Safety Council*

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency departments with injuries associated with playground equipment.

As the weather warms up and trips to the park become frequent, take a moment to familiarize yourself with the risks on playgrounds and how you can prevent injuries.

### Check for Playground Hazards

Nearly 80% of playground injuries are caused by falls. Watch out for these potential hazards when taking kids to the playground, and report any hazards observed.

**Improper ground surfaces:** Surfaces around playground equipment should have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials. Playgrounds should be free of exposed concrete footings, rocks or tree stumps.

**Overcrowded play areas:** The area under and around play equipment should be a minimum of 6 feet in all directions while swing set areas should be twice the height of the suspending bar both in back and front of the swings. Structures more than 30 inches high should be at least 9 feet apart.

**Unprotected elevated areas:** Platforms higher than 30 inches should have guardrails or barriers.

**Head entrapment spaces:** Openings between rails, bars, rungs and even ropes of cargo nets should be less than 3 1/2 inches or more than 9 inches.

**Sharp points and edges:** Playground equipment should be free of protruding bolt ends, "S" hooks, and other sharp points and edges.

Visit the American Academy of Pediatrics webpage on playground safety to learn more.

### Avoid Strangulation Hazards

The American Academy of Pediatrics cautions that children should not wear or play with anything that could get caught on equipment and become a strangulation hazard.

- Never attach or allow children to attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines or pet leashes to play equipment.
- Leave sweatshirts with drawstrings and necklaces at home.
- Remove bike helmets when playing on the playground.

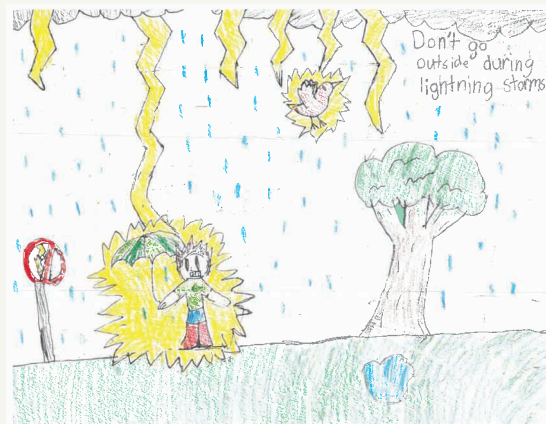
### Be Cautious of Too Much Sun Exposure

Playgrounds should have full or partial sun protection between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., peak exposure time.

- Limit playtime at peak sun exposure time and know the signs of heat illnesses.
- Avoid burns; if playground equipment is hot to the touch, it is too hot for your child's bare skin.

### Allow Only Age-Appropriate Activities

The Consumer Product Safety commission lists age-appropriate equipment in the Public Playground Safety Handbook. There is no substitute for parental supervision, especially for young children.



### "Don't go outside during lightning storms!"

#### Marah Kinnunen, Age 8

Marah warns readers about the dangers of going outside during a lightning storm. Thank you for your picture, Marah! Marah's parents are Reuben and Sarine Kinnunen from Hayti, 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.



# Delectable CHICKEN

## CHICKEN MILANESE

### Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. McCormick® Chicken Parmesan One Sheet Pan Seasoning Mix
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 lb. thin-sliced boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tbsp. oil

### Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Empty Seasoning Mix into shallow dish. Add Parmesan cheese. Brush chicken with oil. Coat evenly on both sides with Seasoning Mix. Discard any remaining Seasoning Mix.

Place chicken in single layer on foil-lined shallow baking pan sprayed with no stick cooking spray.

Bake 15 minutes or until cooked through, turn chicken halfway through cook time.

**Mccormick.com**

## SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN

### Ingredients:

- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 tbsps. fat or oil
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tbsps. cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 20 oz. can pineapple chunks (drained, reserving juice)
- 3 tbsps. soy sauce
- 3/4 cup green pepper strips
- 1/4 cup onion (thinly sliced)

### Method

Cube chicken into one inch squares; brown in fat. Add water. Cook in water until tender. In another pan combine cornstarch, salt, brown sugar, vinegar, pineapple juice and soy sauce.

Cook until slightly thick, stirring constantly. Pour sauce over hot chicken. Let stand at least 10 minutes. Add green pepper, onion, and pineapple chunks. Cook two to seven minutes until warmed through. Serve over hot rice. \*Makes 4 servings.

**Jan Grage**  
Clay-Union Electric Member

## CHICKEN POT PIE

### Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. prepared pie crust (top and bottom)
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 3/4 cup Progresso™ chicken broth (from 32 oz. carton)
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 1/2 cup chicken/turkey (shredded, cooked)
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables (thawed)

### Method

Heat oven to 425°F. Prepare pie crusts as directed on box for two-crust pie using nine inch glass pie pan. In two quart saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion; cook two minutes, stirring frequently, until tender. Stir in flour, salt and pepper until well blended.

Gradually stir in broth and milk, cooking and stirring until bubbly and thickened. Stir in chicken and mixed vegetables. Remove from heat. Spoon chicken mixture into crust-lined pan. Top with second crust; seal edge and flute. Cut slits in several places in top crust. Bake 30 to 40 minutes or until crust is golden brown. During last 15 to 20 minutes of baking, cover crust edge with strips of foil to prevent excessive browning. Let stand five minutes before serving.

**Cindy Foster**  
Codington-Clark Electric Member

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



# COOPERATIVES

## —PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

# ELECTION RESULTS

## Incumbent Directors Re-elected

Three Director seats were up for election at Lake Region Electric's 84th Annual Meeting and one petition was filed for each seat. No nominations were received from the floor so the motion for a unanimous vote for all three was passed with no objections.

Each director is elected to serve a term of three years and is accountable to the members of Lake Region Electric. This is a commitment that involves service on many aspects, representing the members of their districts as well as the

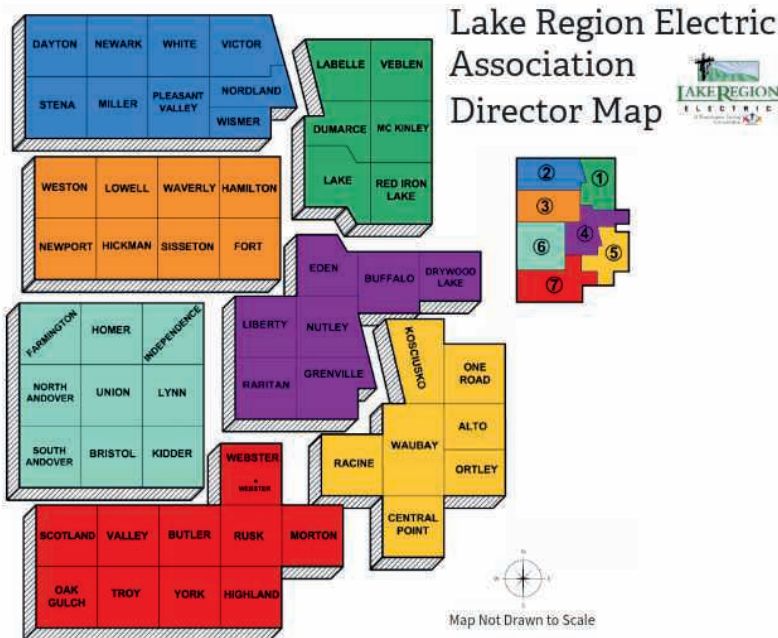
membership in its entirety.

Incumbent Kermit Pearson, District 3, will continue to serve the Lake Region Board of Directors. Pearson is currently the President of the LREA Board. He represents Lake Region at a state level by serving on the SDREA Board of Directors. Pearson serves as a Director on the Board for East River Electric. He is the Vice President of the Board of Directors for Basin Electric, our energy provider.

Incumbent Rodney Tobin, District 6, will continue to serve on the board. Tobin currently serves as the Vice President on the LREA Board. He also represents our territory on a state level by serving on the SDREA Board of Directors.

Incumbent Cody Paszek, District 5, will begin his second three-year term as a Director on the Lake Region Electric board.

LREA Attorney Dan Smeins declares election results.



**Kermit Pearson**  
**District 3**

Weston, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Newport, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort



**Cody Paszek**  
**District 5**

Kosciusko, One Road, Waubay, Alto, Ortley, Racine & Central Point



**Rodney Tobin**  
**District 6**

Farmington, Homer, Lynn, Union, North Andover, South Andover, Bristol, Independence and Kidder





# YOU GOTTA HAVE A FIDDLE IN THE BAND

## Keeping Old-Time Music Alive One Jam at a Time

**Frank Turner**

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“If you’re gonna play in Texas, you gotta have a fiddle in the band,” the classic Alabama song goes — and South Dakota is no exception. The Fiddlers of South Dakota, a group of traveling fiddle enthusiasts and musicians, carry that spirit, bringing the joys of acoustic music and an old-time charm to parades, festivals and hometown celebrations across the state through the summer months.

One of these traveling musicians, Ken Nelson of South Shore who joined the group in 2010, describes the group as a “loose-knit group of people who like to get together and jam.” In total, the group has more than 30 members from eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. And it’s not just fiddlers — the ensemble includes other acoustic instruments, including mandolin, bass, banjo and harmonica.

According to Nelson, the group’s repertoire draws from old-time traditions — breakdowns, waltzes, reels and jigs — the kind of music once played on porches, at barn dances and around campfires.

The Fiddlers of South Dakota  
playing old-time tunes at  
Newton Hills State Park.  
*Photo submitted by Ken Nelson*

“You could call it old-time music,” Nelson said. “It’s not really bluegrass or folk music. It’s hard to describe it until you hear it.”

Whether the song is an Irish jig or a Croatian polka, Nelson said the music never fails to connect with the audience.

Nelson said that connection is what drives these musicians to travel hundreds of miles to gigs across the state — from Fort Sisseton’s Historic Festival to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant in De Smet, to Prairie Village’s Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree in Madison. It’s not a living, he said, but more of a passion — a way to stay connected to music, to community, and to his fellow fiddlers.

“We play everywhere we can,” he said. “And everybody enjoys it. We usually only make enough money to pay for the gas but that’s all we really care about.”

“Once We played for Potato Days over in Clark,” Nelson laughed. “We were set up right next to the potato wrestling pit. We had to make sure we were sitting far enough back so that when mashed potato started flying, we didn’t get splashed.”

The Fiddlers of South Dakota expect to perform next at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant in De Smet in July. Nelson said the public is not only welcome to attend the show, but acoustic string players of all ages are encouraged to join the organization’s jam sessions and informal performances such as at Luce Cabin at Lake Herman State Park or after their performance in Fort Sisseton.

“We’re always trying to incorporate new players into the group,” he said. “Sometimes young students come and play with us, and they’re always welcome. It’s fun and humbling to have young players, sometimes as young as 10 or 11, join in, because, if you don’t include the young people, it’s not going to last.”





# SOUTH DAKOTA STAR QUILTS

Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative directors present retiring manager Melissa Maher (left) with a star quilt.  
*Photo by JJ Martin*

## Honoring Cooperative Legacy With Time-honored Tradition

**Frank Turner**

[frank.turner@sdfa.coop](mailto:frank.turner@sdfa.coop)

Across the prairie, few gifts carry as much meaning as a star quilt. For many, these quilts are more than just blankets – they are acts of honor. Rooted in Native American culture, particularly among Lakota, Dakota and other tribes of South Dakota, star quilts have long been used to mark some of life’s largest milestones, including graduations, marriages, memorials and moments of deep community respect.

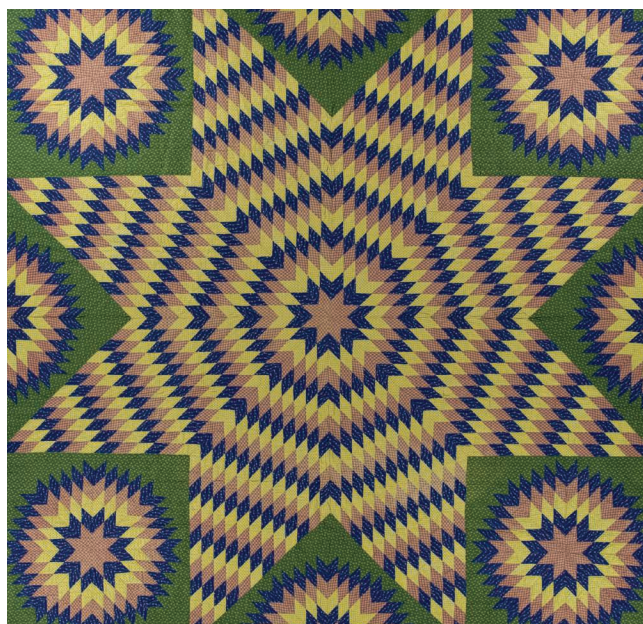
Electric cooperative leaders Donovan Young Man, a former director of Lacreek Electric who was honored shortly before his passing earlier this year, and Melissa Maher, the former manager of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, recently accepted star quilts from their cooperatives in recognition of their many years of service to their member-owners.

So what makes the star quilt such an honor? According to International Quilt Museum Collections Manager Jamie Swartz, the quilts are special because they take an incredible amount of skill and experience to assemble.

Many star quilts are block quilts, constructed from dozens or even hundreds of small fabric pieces carefully cut and stitched together. At the heart of the design is an eight-pointed star, a

shape that demands near-perfect precision.

“There are so many small pieces that make up a star quilt,” Swartz said. “When you are combining so many small pieces together to make a large, over-all design, there is more room for error. A small mismeasurement can create bumps, ripples or puckers in the patchwork.”



*Photo Courtesy of the International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1997.007.0123*



That level of precision, care and time-honored tradition a star quilt represents is a part of what makes it such a meaningful gift. In recent years, the practice of gifting star quilts has been embraced by some electric cooperatives as a way to express a deep appreciation for their employees who have dedicated a lifetime of work to their cooperatives and communities.

## Remembering Donovan Young Man

Before his passing earlier this year, Donovan Young Man was honored by his cooperative at the Lacreek Electric annual meeting with a star quilt for his 31 years of service to Lacreek Electric, serving as a director for both his cooperative and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Specifically, the cooperative honored Donovan's commitment to both his cooperative and community.

Lacreek Electric CEO Josh Fanning said Young Man was known for both his calm and steady presence, and his exceptional ability to bridge tribal relations, fostering understanding and unity within the community.

In his community, Donovan was known for his profound impact on his community's youth. For 41 years, he devoted himself to the Oglala Lakota County School District, leaving a lasting legacy of dedication, education, and empowerment for the youth. Beyond education, Donovan served his community in many other ways, including as a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council.

"Donovan had a lasting impact on our cooperative," Fanning said. "His wisdom, leadership, and steady guidance helped shape its direction and strengthen its foundation. His contributions will be remembered and felt for years to come."

"We chose a star quilt because gifting one is a deeply meaningful gesture in our area – an expression of profound respect, honor and the warmth of community," Fanning continued. "In many Indigenous cultures, the star quilt represents the highest form of recognition, symbolizing heartfelt gratitude for the recipient's enduring contributions. It also serves as a guiding light, reflecting the inspiration and direction they provide for future generations."

## Honoring Melissa Maher

Moreau-Grand Electric honored Melissa Maher with a star quilt at the co-ops annual meeting in October for her 40 years of service at the cooperative. In addition to Maher, the cooperative also presented Larry Hieb with a quilt for his 55 combined years of service as both an employee and director.

Maher joined the cooperative in 1984 as manager's secretary. Through the years, Maher remained with the cooperative, serving as the member service director and later Moreau-Grand Electric's manager, the first woman to hold this title.

"I've always loved star quilts, what they stand for – the celebration and honoring of someone with an heirloom that they can enjoy for hopefully generations to come," she said.

Maher first experienced the star quilt tradition through her



Lacreek Electric employees gift director Donovan Young Man a star quilt to celebrate his 31 years of service to the electric cooperative.

*Photos by Mandy Scherer*



mother, who taught kindergarten at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School. As a teacher in the Eagle Butte community, her mother received star quilts from several of her students' families.

Seeing the joy it brought her mother, Maher continued the star quilt tradition into her years at the cooperative, gifting quilts to retirees of the cooperative, gifting dozens of star quilts made by quilt maker Bonnie LeBeaux to employees of the co-op, honoring retirements, directors, and even key members of the construction crew that helped build the new Moreau-Grand Electric office.

"It's hard to guess how many star quilts I have gifted over the years," Maher said. "Probably dozens if I had to guess."

The tradition came full circle at her retirement party when Moreau-Grand Electric presented Mellisa a star quilt of her own.

"We wanted to honor her 40 years of service and highlight abilities as a manager," said Paul Lawrence, a director of Moreau-Grand Electric. "It's a way of conveying that she led with honor and integrity, and she did exactly that."



# COOPERATIVES

## PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

# Partners in Progress

## 2025 Annual Meeting

**Laura London**

It can be easy to become complacent when it comes to businesses that provide you with services and products, but that isn't the case when you are a part of a cooperative. Cooperatives, Partners in Progress was the theme of Lake Region Electric Association's 84th annual meeting held in Webster the evening of June 5th. The theme was reflected by the 203 active members of Lake Region, along with their guests gathered at the armory to visit with one another and learn about what has been going on in the co-op over the past year. The total number of registered people was 286, plus a few special guests of the co-op, came out to nearly 300 people at the meeting! Registration was scheduled to begin at 6:00pm, but members started rolling in as early as 5:30. After months of planning and preparation, Lake Region employees were ready to greet everyone with a smile and a gift bag including a handy bamboo cutting board. In recent years Lake Region has moved away from providing a hot meal at the meeting,

instead current members who attend the meeting received a Meal Voucher for \$40 that they can use at local participating restaurants. The meal voucher program has been a huge success with our members, as well as supporting local restaurants. Of course, it wouldn't be right to invite your closest friends and business partners to a meeting and not serve them anything, so a variety of snacks were served, including fresh, hot popcorn that was popped by members of the Key Club!

Just a few minutes before the business portion of the meeting started, Board President Kermit Pearson introduced a short video made by South Dakota Rural Electric Association, featuring SDREA General Manager Steve Barnett, who was in attendance. Pearson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Flags were presented by the local VFW & American Legion. The National Anthem was performed by Macee McGregor. Macee is the granddaughter of LREA members Gene and Marcie Beisch and the daughter of Jessica McGregor. Macee is not a stranger to performing in public, but she was

slightly hesitant about performing "such an important song" and admitted to being nervous about performing in front of such a large crowd. Her worries proved to be unfounded, as she honored the song and our flag with her beautiful performance.

Pastor Mike McCarlson gave the invocation, blessing the current members of Lake Region as well as the founders who had the foresight and ambition to bring power to our rural area. Joel Shoemaker, Vice President of Webster Scale and School Board representative, welcomed the crowd to Webster. Joel spoke of the partnership that Scale has had with LREA over the years, mentioning storm recovery jobs and other projects. Joel praised Lake Region





Electric Association and their continued commitment to safety, expressing appreciation for Lake Region partnering with Scale during their employee safety training and putting on one of their most beneficial training programs to date. Joel spoke to the crowd about Lake Region's commitment to serving their members and to the cooperative's support of the community. It was truly an honor for Lake Region to hear Joel Shoemaker speak and welcome the annual meeting crowd to Webster.

LREA Board Secretary, Tom Steiner declared that at the time the meeting was called to order, there were 196 active members registered in attendance, which constituted a quorum according to LREA bylaws. Steiner also provided proof of mailing of the official notice of the meeting and 2024 unapproved minutes. A motion was made, seconded and approved to forego the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed in the June 2025 Cooperative Connections newsletter.

President Pearson welcomed several guests in attendance including Kerry McLellan of Rushmore Electric, Steve Barnett of SDREA, Scott Shewey, CFO of East River, and others. He also gave recognition to Bob Gale the Audio visual Guru of East River for helping with sound and video needs for the meeting.

Pearson gave his annual President's Report. He covered the usual topics like the financial state of our cooperative, once again praising CFO Donna Sattler and office staff for the continued excellent oversight of the cooperative's finances and passing our yearly audit with flying colors. Pearson covered the reasoning behind LREA's recent rate increase, demonstrating the rising costs for our cooperative to operate and what the Base Charge is. He presented information on our G&T partners East River and Basin and the continued investments they are making to improve reliability in our area. Pearson completed his President's Report by covering the Executive Orders by President Trump supporting the coal industry,

protecting the American energy system from state overreach and strengthening the reliability of the U.S. Electric grid. He added that very recently there has been movement on the support for nuclear energy production, which will be a benefit to power generation.

Attorney Danny Smeins explained that there were 3 director seats open and the incumbents, Pearson, Paszek, and Tobin had all turned in petitions according to the bylaws. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion was made and seconded for the re-election of the 3 incumbent candidates.

Pearson introduced General Manager Jeremy Lindemann with a short biography and relinquished the mic for the Manager's Report. Lindemann began his report with a story about spending time growing up in South Dakota spending time with his best friend, his Grandpa Harrold. He became a little choked up as he retold one of his favorite Grandpa Harrold stories about when the REA brought power to the farm, making chores and milking cows a whole lot easier and safer. Grandpa said, "Electricity is the cheapest and the best hired-hand you can get!" If you don't believe that, try running a farm without

electricity! Lindemann explained some of the plan that is being worked on at Lake Region and a recent FEMA grant that will help complete those plans. Not only will we see our line crews out on construction projects, but members will also see a couple of guys in our homes changing out meters and load controllers. Lindemann expressed appreciation for the members of Lake Region Electric as well as the directors, G&Ts and employees. He then asked the crowd to help recognize Jim Grimes for 30 years of service to Lake Region Electric.

Lindemann invited Jackie Snaza to come present the \$1,000 Lake Region Electric Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship to Norah Zubke of Webster. Lindemann then presented the \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship to Sidney Johnson of Sisseton.

Kermit Pearson then recaptured the podium for "the real reason" everyone was there, to spin for door prizes. Wayne Anderson was the big winner of the evening, walking away with \$500 cash! Various other prizes were given away before Pearson, on behalf of the Board of Directors adjourned the meeting and invited everyone to have an ice cream treat on their way out.







Cam Wal Electric member Tami Schanzenbach with her dogs Mac, Cash and Blu. *Submitted Photo.*

# RESCUING ANIMALS

## Co-op Members Foster and Support Pets In Need

**Jacob Boyko**

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Tami Schanzenbach has always wanted to help animals.

From her earliest days in Aberdeen where she worked as a veterinary technician and helped start the Aberdeen Area Humane Society, to her later Pets N Stuff store in Mobridge, Tami's focus has always been on humans' furry companions and getting them into loving homes.

And even after a long career and a so-called retirement, she still finds ways to help. Through the Wamakaskan Onisca Humane Society, she opens her home to animals in need.

"I'm a foster failure," Tami laughed, admitting three of her own beloved pet dogs were originally supposed to be adopted out.

Served by Cam Wal Electric, Tami's home near Selby is the halfway point for countless animals on their journey from neglect, abuse and homelessness to their forever homes.

"If I have a person that calls me, if someone has found a dog, I ask initially

if they're able to help me with taking care of that dog for a little bit until we can determine whether it belongs to somebody," she explained.

The pets will go to a foster home for the time being — Tami credits volunteers like her friend Annie Walker, a member of Moreau-Grand Electric from the McIntosh area, for stepping up and opening her home to foster animals.

"One day, Tami had a picture of a litter of puppies that needed to be bottle fed," Walker said about her first fostering experience.



Annie Walker with rescue, Layla. *Submitted Photo.*

I keep taking some animals from time to time."

If the dog isn't claimed, the rehoming process begins, starting with veterinary care.

"We go through and we vaccinate and treat the animal and do what's needed to be able to make that puppy or dog available for adoption," Tami continued.

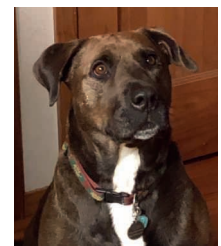
Sadly, the circumstances in which she receives them usually aren't pleasant.

The pets come from around Selby, many from the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River reservations, where they're often found abandoned. Tami recalls coming upon shocking discoveries, like "bait dogs" used to train fighting dogs in the Bismarck area.

"People will steal puppies and kitties and train their pitbulls for fights, and they have a dog that's called a bait dog," she explained. "And that you see in our area as well ... days where [multiple] people are missing their dogs. People are coming in and stealing them and using them as bait dogs."

That's what Tami suspects happened to Cash, a 7-year-old pitbull/lab cross found "in the middle of nowhere" covered in pellet shots and bite marks.

"It took a long time for him to trust and know he's going to be okay here," Tami said. "And I don't



Cash, who was used as a "bait dog," was adopted by Tami. *Submitted Photo*



blame him, because he's never been taken care of.

Tami has made it her mission to end the cycle of animal neglect and abuse where she's able by sterilizing the pets coming into her care before they're adopted out. She also sponsors sterilizations for other peoples' pets.

"We just had about 12 dogs that we sponsored to be spayed at the local vet," she said. "We had a lady that helped me with a donation and wanted it geared toward people that couldn't afford to have their animals spayed and neutered ... We have so many people that always have two litters per year."

Stopping the cycle also means barriers to adoption – if someone isn't a good fit, there's a chance that animal will be surrendered back to the rescue and the process will start from the beginning.

Tami conducts interviews with potential pet owners with hopes of finding a perfect match.

She added that she sometimes steers people with busy and demanding schedules away from getting dogs. A cat – famously independent – is often a better fit, she said.

Tami also employs sustainable adoption practices she says make for better-behaved dogs – eight weeks is generally the earliest age when she'll allow adoptions to occur.

"We have puppy socialization that occurs" when the puppies are little, she explained. "They wrestle and play with their siblings, and they create a lot of socialization that way. And there's a lot of research that has proven that if you keep them with their siblings during that period of time, they make a heck of a lot better dog going forth, because they've been through that socialization."

Jen Uecker, Board President of the Pierre/Fort Pierre Area Humane Society, also known as Paws Animal Rescue, says without volunteers like Tami and Annie, shelters like hers would be overrun and rescuing animals from abandonment wouldn't be possible.

"We rely heavily on volunteers to help ease the burden of our limited staff and resources," Uecker said. "The foster volunteers open their home to these animals not really knowing a whole lot

about them, their demeanor, where they came from, or anything, and they open their homes to help them feel comfortable and confident until they're ready for their new forever family."

Tami encourages people to volunteer, support their local rescues, adopt if they're able and above all, love their pets.

"There are a lot of dogs and cats and it's just not their fault – they get the bad end of things," Walker said. "Tami is super dedicated ... She's always willing to step in and help these animals find a better life."

For Tami, it all comes down to giving that love back.

"They provide unconditional love to humans, and sometimes we forget that," she said. "We work all day ... When you come home, you need to spend some time with your pets."

## HUMANE SOCIETY & SANCTUARY DIRECTORY

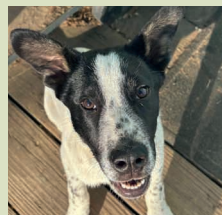
Wamakaskan Onsica (Mobridge).....	(605) 850-8430
Paws Animal Rescue (Pierre).....	(605) 223-2287
Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.....	(605) 338-4441
Humane Society of the Black Hills (Rapid City)....	(605) 394-4170
Battle Mountain Humane Society (Hot Springs)....	(605) 745-7283
Beadle County Humane Society (Huron).....	(605) 352-8955
Aberdeen Area Humane Society.....	(605) 226-1200
Glacial Lakes Humane Society (Watertown).....	(605) 882-2247
Brookings Regional Humane Society.....	(605) 697-7387
Western Hills Humane Society (Spearfish).....	(605) 642-1576
Heartland Humane Society (Yankton).....	(605) 664-4244
Siouxland Humane Society (Sioux City).....	(712) 252-2614
Mitchell Animal Rescue.....	(605) 770-2170
Oglala Pet Project (Kyle).....	(605) 455-1518
Wakpá Wašté Animal Shelter (Eagle Butte).....	(605) 964-7387
Fur and Purr Cat Shelter (Milbank).....	(605) 432-4505
Lake Traverse Animal Rescue (Sisseton).....	(605) 742-0219

Tami says her most rewarding rescue was Fez, an 8-week-old shepherd/collie cross found with mange, a skin disease caused by mites. She said she refused to give on Fez, who is now a healthy dog with a full coat of hair.  
*Submitted Photo.*

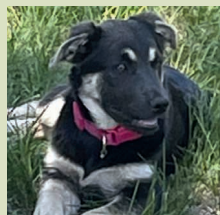


## Looking for a new home...

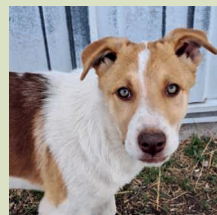
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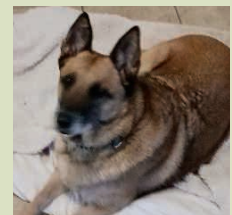
Buddy



Margot



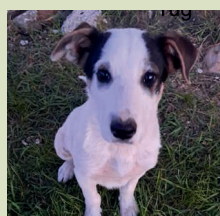
Chopper



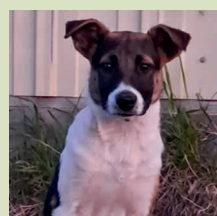
Eliza



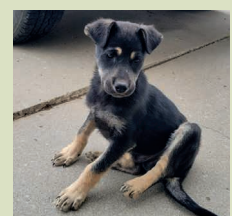
Agnes



Tug



Scooter



Leo

# Charles Johnson Board of Trustees Awards \$7,500 in Scholarships

Laura London

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Three area students were each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship 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 submitted by the applicants and a letter of recommendation. Each student has been awarded \$2,500 in scholarship to be used toward continuing their education.

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 people to work and potentially begin their lifelong careers in the manufacturing and fabrication industry or trades within the Day County area.

The recipients this year have differing goals, but each individual possesses the qualities brought forth by Charles Johnson, and thus deserve this award.

Trace Shoemaker, son of Angela and the late John Shoemaker, is known for his strong work ethic and leadership skills. Trace is a graduate of Webster Area High School where he was student body president and very involved in athletics which helped him learn how to lead with empathy and accountability while focusing on teamwork and mutual motivation to reach a common goal. Trace plans to attend Lake area Technical College to study Business Management and Marketing. Aligning with his passion



for personal growth and commitment to personal and community growth, his long term goals include returning to Webster where he would like to open his own business and make a positive impact on the community. Trace feels passionate about his future. He says, "Growing up working at our family business, Webster Scale Inc., and balancing responsibilities on our farm, I have developed discipline, time management, and perseverance needed to succeed in my endeavor."

Ethan Scholotte, son of Wayne Schlotte and Kristi Tarbox, is described as having strong character that exudes honor and integrity, tied to having a strong work ethic. Ethan grew up working on the farm where he says hard work and punctuality are instilled from a young age. Another positive quality that will help Ethan succeed is his internal drive and ability to overcome adversity. "I am driven to continually improve my quality of life. Whether it be lifting to stay in shape, working to gain experience and financial stability, or learning new things to broaden my knowledge. I try to not waste the time that I am granted in this life. My drive helps me improve what I have now, so I am prepared to enjoy life down the road." Ethan's future plans include attending South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering. After college he would like to return to the area to "help those who are just as passionate about agriculture" as he is.



Norah Zubke, daughter of Duane and Rhonda Zubke, is a born leader and positive influence on those she comes in contact with. Norah was president of Webster's FFA chapter where she developed her natural leadership skills into something that spreads to the community. One of her greatest skills is the ability to bring people together. Her genuine smile and friendly persona exemplify the type of leader it takes to succeed in a rural community like Webster. Her determination and self-motivation can be seen in all of her accomplishments, especially in her training for and completion of half marathons. Norah plans to attend Stewarts School in Sioux Falls, after which she intends to return to the Webster area. "Due to my own personal struggle with hair loss, and further being diagnosed with alopecia, I have been interested in cosmetology school so that I can help bring confidence to men and women in the Webster community," stated Norah.



Congratulations Trace, Ethan and Norah!



# Tevin Abeln Earns Journeyman Certification

Laura London

Tevin Abeln has worked hard studying as an apprentice over the past 4 years at Lake Region Electric Association to earn his Journeyman status. Tevin spent 8,000 working hours, plus many hours of study time in order to successfully complete one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program (MJTS) is administered to line personnel in 40 states throughout the United States. The academic program is administered

through computers and fax machines for immediate response including assistance through a web site. Each utility with someone enrolled in the program has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their trainees by administering "closed book" testing. Lake Region has an Apprenticeship Committee that manages their own people throughout the training process based on rules set by the MJTS and South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA).

## A Little About Abeln

Tevin's interest in line work started when he was in high school in his hometown of Groton after interviewing a lineman from Northern about his career. He earned a degree in Powerline Construction and Maintenance at Mitchell Technical Institute, then continued his education to earn a degree in Electrical Utilities and Substation Technologies. Tevin worked as an Apprentice Lineman for Kainz powerlines in Custer before moving back to his home turf in Northeast South Dakota where he started working at Lake Region Electric Association. Abeln is proud

of his accomplishment in earning his Journeyman certification. As a hands-on learner, the apprenticeship program has worked out well for Tevin, "I spent a lot of time studying for the exams. It seems like in school you learn a lot of formulas and information that you don't really think about or use daily." He enjoys the brotherhood and camaraderie that he has with his coworkers here, but more than that, he appreciates their mentorship, "They are a great group of guys! They are good at explaining things and are open to different approaches and helping me figure things out."

Being a lineman is the perfect job for Tevin, he enjoys staying busy and active. He loves to be outdoors and helping people. He says, "Being a lineman gives me the chance to help people and make a difference in more of an indirect way."

Tevin is more than happy that he made the move back home close to family. In addition to being able to purchase a home of his own, he has been able to enjoy the outdoors and his many hobbies, including a little hunting, a lot of fishing, and wrenching on cars and other vehicles. He often pulls into the Lake Region parking lot with dirt bikes in the back of a pickup that he is either working on or planning to go ride with his younger brother.

Make sure to congratulate Tevin on becoming a Journeyman when you see him around!



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



**JULY 16-20**

**Danish Days**

Dancing, food, parade, etc.  
Viborg, SD

*Photo courtesy of Travel South Dakota*

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.

**SATURDAYS UNTIL  
SEPT. 13**

**Buggy Museum**

Free Buggy Rides + More  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Stockholm, SD  
605-938-4192

**JUNE 21**

**Fireman's Triathlon**

8 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Groton, SD

**JUNE 25-28**

**Crystal Springs Rodeo**

Clear Lake, SD  
605-874-2996

**JUNE 27-28**

**Buckhorn Rodeo**

Britton, SD  
605-880-5077

**JUNE 27-29**

**Leola Rhubarb Festival**

Leola, SD

**JUNE 27-29**

**Bowdle Tower Days**

Bowdle, SD

**JULY 4**

**Firecracker Couples Tourney**

Olive Grove Golf Course  
Groton, SD

**JULY 4**

**Fireworks Show**

10 p.m.  
Lake Farley Park  
Milbank, SD

**JULY 9**

**Legion Auxillary #39**

**Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar**

11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Groton, SD

**JULY 9-12**

**Aberdeen Senior Games**

605-626-7015

**JULY 13**

**Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show**

9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Groton, SD

**JULY 17-20**

**Danish Days**

Daneville Heritage Museum  
Viborg, SD

**JULY 19**

**6th Annual Wakonda**

**American Legion Tractor Pull**

3 p.m. Start  
4 p.m. Kids Pedal Pull  
Wakonda, SD

**JULY 25-27**

**Winner Elk's 56th Annual Rodeo  
to Benefit LifeScape**

Tripp Co. Fairgrounds  
Winner, SD  
605-842-5830

**JULY 25-27**

**Clear Lake Days**

Clear Lake, SD  
ClearLakeDays.com

**JULY 26**

**Planes, Trains, & Automobiles**

Car Show, Train Rides, Flyovers  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Prairie Village  
Madison, SD

**JULY 26**

**South Dakota Chislic Festival**

Freeman, SD  
www.sdchislicfestival.com

**JULY 26**

**Richmond Lake Association's**

**Annual Pontoon Poker Run**

Aberdeen, SD  
605-225-0609

**JULY 31**

**SPURS Grand Classic Horse Show**

9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center  
1006 130th St.  
Aberdeen, SD  
605-226-1099

**Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.**