

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## **Kuchen Country**

**German Delicacy  
Celebrates 25 Years as  
South Dakota's Official  
Dessert**

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**Swimming Safely**

Pages 12-13

# Summer Safety



**Jeremy Lindemann**  
CEO/GM

Hello Lake Region Electric Members,

April 23 was Administrative Professionals' Day. I want to recognize our office staff here at Lake Region Electric Association. They do a fantastic job for you, the member, and they are always here to offer friendly and knowledgeable service. They are an integral part of this cooperative and I want to thank them for their service!

Spring is here, and it is the start of the construction and planting season. I would like to wish all the area farmers a safe and successful planting season. I would like to share a few reminders to help keep you safe this planting season. Remember to watch out for power lines, and if you hit a pole, make sure to call LREA right away. If there are downed power lines, dial 911! Never get out of a vehicle if there are downed power lines, and if you do have to exit due to an emergency, make sure to hop out of the vehicle with both feet and hop away to safety! Also, always call before you dig. You never know what utilities may be in the ground. The number is 811 and is available online as well!

Please slow down when driving by our crews working alongside the roads. We want to make sure we keep everyone safe! Construction season has started and LREA crews are out in the field plowing in line. We have several projects in the workplan and will be working in the Butler, Hillhead and Grenville area. We will also be constructing new electrical services for members. If you need a new electrical service, please give us a call as soon as possible so we can get you on the schedule!

Our electricians also have a busy work schedule for the summer construction season. If you have a project that you need our electricians for, please call Brett in our Member Services Department to get your name on the list!

Lastly, I hope to see everyone at the LREA annual meeting on June 5 at 6 p.m., at the armory in Webster. It will be a great evening of reviewing the previous business year and looking forward to the future. And there will be a chance to win some great prizes!

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

Jeremy T Lindemann  
CEO/General Manager



## DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE

If you are a member corporation, cooperative, school, church, township or partnership of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. and want to be represented at the Annual Membership Meeting at Webster, SD on June 5, 2025, please complete this form and have it signed by an official of your organization. Your official representative will have to present this form at the Annual Meeting registration stop in order to take part in the business matters on behalf of the organization.

**This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is authorized to represent**  
(Print name of voting delegate)

**our organization \_\_\_\_\_**  
(Print name of voting delegate)

at the Annual Membership meeting of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. at Webster, SD on June 5, 2025, in any and all business, including voting that may be conducted at said meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of organization president)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

(USPS 018-904)

#### Board of Directors

Kermit Pearson, President  
Rodney Tobin, Vice President  
Thomas Steiner, Secretary  
Andrea Kilker, Treasurer

Amy Kuecker

Cody Paszek

Mark Wismer

Danny Smeins, LREA Attorney

#### General Manager

Jeremy Lindemann

#### Staff

Donna Sattler, Director of  
Finance/Office Services Manager

Jim Grimes,

Manager of Operations

Brett Kwasniewski,

Manager of Member Services

Tim Gaikowski,

Manager of Technology Services



Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Lake Region Electric Association Inc.

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.

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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

24 hour Dispatching/Outage Line  
1-800-657-5869



#### AGENDA

#### LREA 84th ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### 6:00 PM Registration

Snacks and Member Gift distribution

**No Meal Served:** \$40.00 Meal Voucher to a participating, local restaurant will be distributed. One per membership, member must be present at the meeting.

#### 7:00 PM Registration closes

Business meeting opens

Meeting called to order- Board Chairman ..... Kermit Pearson, President

Flag Presentation

The National Anthem

Invocation

Welcome

Certifications & Declaration of Quorum, Notice of Meeting & Proof of Mailing,

Reading and approval of Minutes of 2024 Meeting ...Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary

President's Report ..... President Pearson

Election of Directors ..... Attorney Dan Smeins

Manager's Report ..... Jeremy Lindemann, CEO/General Manager

Scholarship Award Recognition

Election Report (only if nomination made by floor and ballots are needed.) .... Attorney Dan Smeins

Other Business – Old and New ..... President Kermit Pearson

Draw for Door Prizes

Draw for \$50 Gift Card for Food Pantry Donation

Adjournment ..... President Kermit Pearson

COOPERATIVES  
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

## Official Notice of Lake Region Electric Annual Membership Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., will be held at the Webster Armory located at 120 W 11th Ave in Webster South Dakota on Thursday, June 5, 2025. The meeting's registration will begin at 6:00 PM with the business meeting to commence at 7:00 PM.

### LREA's 84<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

COOPERATIVES  
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Join Us!

Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

WEBSTER ARMORY

120 W 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Webster, SD

~Registration begins at 6 P.M.~

~Business Meeting begins at 7 P.M.~

PRIZE Giveaways

\$500 Cash Prize – Bill Credits – Gift Cards

No Meal Served!

\*Snacks will be provided\*

**\$40 Meal Voucher to a Participating  
Restaurant of Your Choice**

(One per membership. Must be present.)

Vote in the Director Election

Visit with co-op staff

**Bring canned goods for the Food Pantry!**

Each Food Pantry Item Donated =  
one entry in the drawing for a \$50 Gift Card!



# Summer Safety

## Mosquitoes and Ticks

*Source: American Red Cross*

Don't let mosquitoes and ticks ruin your carefree summer fun. As we spend more time outdoors for activities like camping, hiking, swimming, picnicking and barbecuing, there is a greater chance of getting bitten by mosquitoes and ticks. According to the American Mosquito Control Association there are 176 known species of mosquito in the U.S. – putting Americans at risk from coast to coast. And while mosquitoes may be the most obvious detractor from summer fun – ticks are silent but dangerous. Most active during warmer months (April to September), it is especially important to be vigilant of blacklegged ticks, more commonly known as deer ticks, especially if you live in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, North-central or Northwest.

Mosquitoes and ticks are more than just itchy and annoying – if infected, these pests can pose a major health risk to people by possibly transmitting diseases. Follow these tips to prevent mosquito and tick bites this summer:

- Use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) when you are outdoors. Be sure to follow the directions on the package.
- Consider staying indoors at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and tuck your pant legs into your socks or boots.



*Photo by Jimmy Chan*

- Use a rubber band or tape to hold pants against socks so that nothing can get under clothing.
- Tuck your shirt into your pants. Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to see tiny insects or ticks.
- When hiking in woods and fields, stay in the middle of trails. Avoid underbrush and tall grass.
- If you are outdoors for a long time, check yourself several times during the day. Especially check in hairy areas of the body like the back of the neck and the scalp line.
- Inspect yourself carefully for insects or ticks after being outdoors or have someone else do it.
- If you have pets that go outdoors, spray with repellent made for their breed/type. Apply the repellent according to the label and check your pet for ticks often.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying sources of standing water outside of the home, such as from flowerpots, buckets and barrels.



### **"Never Touch a Power Line!!"**

#### **Kashton Schecher, Age 7**

Kashton cautions readers not to touch power lines. Thank you for your picture, Kashton! Kashton's parents are Brad and Brooke Schecher from 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.

# SOUPS & SALADS

## GERMAN KRAUT SOUP

### Ingredients:

2 pork steaks  
Water  
1 diced onion  
3 stalks celery  
1 large carrot  
Butter  
6 diced potatoes  
1 qt. sauerkraut  
3 cups heavy cream  
Salt and pepper (to taste)

### Method

Gently simmer pork steaks in about three cups of water until done. (You can substitute other meat you have on hand – left over roasts or Polish sausage is nice). Dice meat. Sauté onion, celery and carrots in butter. In a Crock-Pot, add four cups of water, potatoes, sautéed veggies, diced meat and sauerkraut. Cook on low four to six hours until potatoes are tender. Add cream, salt and pepper. Transfer to a serving dish to share and enjoy!

**Kari Bevers**  
Codington-Clark Electric Member

## BLACK BEAN SALAD

### Ingredients:

3 tbsps. lemon juice  
1 clove garlic (minced)  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
3/4 tsp. ground cumin  
2 tbsps. olive oil  
(2)15 oz. cans black beans (drained and rinsed)  
1 pt. cherry tomatoes (halved)  
4 scallions or green onions  
1 yellow or green bell pepper (cut into thin strips)  
3 tbsps. fresh cilantro or parsley (chopped)

### Method

In a small bowl, stir together lemon juice, garlic, salt, pepper and cumin until salt is dissolved. Slowly whisk in oil until dressing mixture thickens. In a large bowl combine beans, tomatoes, scallions or onions, peppers and cilantro or parsley. Toss with dressing to coat. Let stand at least 15 minutes before serving. \*Makes 6 servings.

**Reta Eidem**  
Clay-Union Electric Member

## LASAGNA SOUP

### Ingredients:

1 lb. lean ground beef  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 can (28 oz.) petite diced tomatoes, undrained  
1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce  
2 tbsp. garlic, herb and black pepper and sea salt all purpose seasoning  
1 container (32 oz.) chicken stock, (4 cups)  
8 oz. (about 10) lasagna noodles, broken into small pieces

### Method

Brown ground beef in large saucepan on medium heat. Drain fat. Add onion; cook and stir 2 to 3 minutes or until softened.

Stir in tomatoes, tomato sauce, Seasoning and stock. Bring to boil. Add lasagna noodle pieces; cook 6 to 7 minutes or until noodles are tender.

Ladle soup into serving bowls. Serve with dollops of ricotta cheese and sprinkle with shredded mozzarella cheese, if desired.


**McCormick.com**

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.



# Election Petitions Filed For LREA Board Seats

Three petitions were filed for the election to be held at the 84th LREA Annual Meeting in Webster on June 5th. Petitions are for Director seats representing districts 3, 5 and 6. Kermit Pearson, 11306 434th Ave. Lake City, District 3; Cody Paszek, 44411 127th St. Grenville, District 5; and Rodney Tobin, 12739 422nd Ave. Pierpont, District 6, all officially filed their petition and will be on the ballot for election at the 84th LREA Annual Meeting. Petitions were completed and filed in accordance with Lake Region Electric Association Bylaws.


**DIRECTOR BALLOT    84th Annual Meeting – June 5, 2025**

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**DISTRICT #3**  
Weston, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Newport, Hickman, Sisseton, and Fort Townships  
*Mark box next to candidate's name. You may only vote for ONE per district.*

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kermit Pearson</b> Lake City	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Floor Nominee Write-in	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Floor Nominee Write-in
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**DISTRICT #5**  
Kosciusko, One Road, Racine, Waubay, Alto, Ortle, and Central Point Townships  
*Mark box next to candidate's name. You may only vote for ONE per district.*

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cody Paszek</b> Grenville	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Floor Nominee Write-in	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Floor Nominee Write-in
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**DISTRICT #6**  
Farmington, Homer, Independence, North Andover, Union, Lynn, South Andover, Bristol, and Kidder Townships  
*Mark box next to candidate's name. You may only vote for ONE per district.*

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rodney Tobin</b> Pierpont	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Floor Nominee Write-in	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Floor Nominee Write-in
--	--	--



Lake Region Electric Association  
Director Map

Map Not Drawn to Scale

 <b>TREASURER</b> <b>Andrea Kilker</b> <b>District 1</b>	 <b>Mark Wismer</b> <b>District 2</b>	 <b>PRESIDENT</b> <b>Kermit Pearson</b> <b>District 3</b>
 <b>SECRETARY</b> <b>Thomas Steiner</b> <b>District 4</b>	 <b>Cody Paszek</b> <b>District 5</b>	 <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> <b>Rodney Tobin</b> <b>District 6</b>
 <b>Amy Kuecker</b> <b>District 7</b>		

**DISTRICT 1 :** LaBelle, Dumarce, Lake, Red Iron Lake, McKinley and Veblen

**DISTRICT 2 :** White, Victor, Pleasant Valley, Nordland, Miller, Wismer, Newark, Stena and Dayton

**DISTRICT 3 :** Weston, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Newport, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort

**DISTRICT 4 :** Eden, Buffalo, Drywood Lake, Liberty, Nutley, Raritan and Grenville

**DISTRICT 5 :** Kosciusko, One Road, Waubay, Alto, Ortle, Racine & Central Point

**DISTRICT 6 :** Farmington, Homer, Lynn, Union, North Andover, South Andover, Bristol, Independence and Kidder

**DISTRICT 7 :** Webster, Scotland, Valley, Butler, Rusk, Morton, Oak Gulch, Troy, York and Highland

# 2024 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes Unapproved

Pursuant to notice having been duly given, the Annual Meeting was held June 6, 2024, at 206 Chestnut Street, Langford, County of Marshall, and State of South Dakota.

The meeting was held at the Langford High School Auditorium, registration began at 6:00 PM. Lake Region Electric employees and staff assisted members with registration, as well as distributing snacks, an annual meeting gift, and voucher for \$35.00 to be used at local, participating restaurants. East River Electric provided audio/video support.

Board President Kermit Pearson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Flags were presented by the VFW and American Legion, followed by the National Anthem performed by Evie Johnson and Lillian Olson. Pastor Diane Hoines gave the invocation. Following the invocation, President Pearson welcomed everyone to the annual meeting, recognizing special guests in attendance including past board members and employees, as well as representatives from East River Electric.

Tom Steiner, LREA Board Secretary, verified that 154 registered members in attendance was enough to constitute a quorum. There were an additional 66 guests registered for the meeting; a total of 220 attendees. Secretary Steiner then provided proof of mailing of the June 2024 Cooperative Connections magazine; verified by The Midstates Group of Aberdeen on May 28, 2024. This mailing 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 delivered the 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 demonstrated how increased costs and aging infrastructure explained the need to invest in our cooperative. The needs of the 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 2024.

Pearson 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 slides demonstrating the drought adder and safety improvements by Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) that will affect rates at East River.

Pearson gave an update on Basin Electric including an in-depth look at 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 plans to invest over \$4 billion in new power generation over the next five years.

Attorney Smeins conducted the election of directors. Districts 1 and 7 were up for election. Nominations for the two districts were made prior to the meeting by nominating petition, per the bylaws. Incumbent Andrea Kilker ran unopposed to serve the membership for District One. Nominations from the floor were opened for District 1. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot for Andrea Kilker from District 1. Motion carried. Incumbent Amy Kuecker ran unopposed for District 7. Nominations from the floor were opened for District 7. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot for Amy Kuecker from District 7. Motion carried.

Tim McIntyre delivered the Manager's Report, announcing 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.

A presentation was given honoring Tim McIntyre's years of service to the cooperative. The presentation included videos made by McIntyre's children and grandchildren, Bob Sahr from East River shared a few words about his experience working with Tim McIntyre and Kermit Pearson presented McIntyre with a gift on behalf of Lake Region electric.

All members in attendance were given an appreciation gift when they registered and were entered for door prizes that were drawn for at the end of the meeting.

A drawing was held for 20 door prizes, including a \$500 cash prize. Lake Region hosted a food drive for the local food pantry during the Annual Meeting. A total of 320 non-perishable food items were donated to the food pantry in Webster. Every non-perishable food item donated qualifies the member for a separate prize drawing. This year a \$50 Visa Gift Card was given away. Ice cream bars were distributed as the meeting adjourned.

Board President Pearson called for an adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

**Kermit Pearson, President**  
**Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary**





Pietz's Kuchen Kitchen & Specialties employees Amanda Garcia and Myra Bachman with owners Lori and Roger Pietz.  
Photo by Jacob Boyko

# SOUTH DAKOTA IS KUCHEN COUNTRY

## German Delicacy Celebrates 25 Years as State's Official Dessert

**Jacob Boyko**

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

On a brisk spring morning, balls of dough rise hours before the sun. One at a time, they're placed onto a press and flattened before being positioned into tins. Carefully, Lori Pietz ladles custard overtop, sprinkles in fruit, and passes off a tray of the desserts to her husband, Roger, for baking. As Roger pulls open the door of the stainless steel commercial oven, a wave of heat emanates across the kitchen. He slides the tray of five desserts onto a shelf in the oven, then removes another tray and sets it aside to cool before they begin packaging.

Roger and Lori will repeat this process at least 100 more times this morning to keep up with their customers' orders.

In the town of Scotland, northwest of Yankton, Pietz's Kuchen Kitchen & Specialties is one business that has turned South Dakotans' love for kuchen – a

delectable unification of cake, custard and pie – into a thriving business.

Kuchen, the German word for cake, has been a staple at European kitchen tables for centuries. The delicacy has stood the test of time, continuing to serve as a tea-time – or any-time – favorite across cultures and continents, especially right here in South Dakota.

"I think it's because of the population, because the greatest proportion of immigrants (in South Dakota) are the Germans from Russia," co-owner Lori Pietz said of kuchen's popularity. "There are German areas, there are Czech areas, there are Norwegian areas — but there are a lot of Germans from Russia."

Roger comes from one of those German-Russian families where the tradition of baking homemade kuchen has been passed down for generations.

"I watched my mother make kuchen as a little kid," Roger remembered. "I'd stand a little ways from the oven and I'd watch

her make it and I loved it."

Staying true to his German-Russian roots, Roger's love for kuchen never faded. After marrying Lori, Roger remembers telling her that if he could ever recreate his mother's kuchen recipe, he could probably market it and sell it.

Owning a kuchen shop was always a retirement dream, the couple recalled. But after going through several farm accidents, the Pietzs' decided to pivot in 2008. Trading plows for whisks, Pietz's Kuchen became a reality.

The operation quickly outgrew their make-shift basement kitchen, so Roger and Lori opened up a storefront and commercial kitchen in the nearby town of Scotland in 2011.

Today, the store ships an estimated 2,500 kuchen monthly to grocery stores, butcher shops, and restaurants across South Dakota and the Midwest.

Roger and Lori's kuchen offerings range from Americanized options – blueberry, peach, strawberry – to the more traditional blends of 18th and 19th century Europe, including rhubarb,



prune and cottage cheese.

Lori explained that historically kuchen was made using ingredients that were readily available, making it the ideal comfort-food and cultural dish for immigrants building their lives on South Dakota farms.

“There are a lot of Germans from Russia who brought rhubarb over with them, so they made a lot of rhubarb kuchen,” Lori said. “Flour and sugar were available, and they all had chickens and cows, so that’s kind of how it kept going.”

Lori didn’t grow up eating much kuchen. Her mother, who was of Czech descent, favored fluffy pastries called kolaches – filled with jam, poppy seeds or cream cheese.

But once Lori joined the Pietz family, she saw an opportunity to bridge both traditions. Drawing on the popularity of poppy seed kolaches in the Czech community, she created a Czech-inspired twist: poppy seed kuchen.

“There’s a lot of Czech people out there that like poppy seed kolaches,” Roger said. “And when they hear there’s poppy seed kuchen, they’re buying it.”

Kuchen’s footprint in South Dakota extends far beyond Scotland. Annual events like the Kuchen Festival in Delmont and Schmeckfest in Freeman invite locals and visitors alike to sample a variety of recipes and baking styles.

In McPherson County, the town of Eureka also has a reputation for being a kuchen-tasting hot spot, with several local kitchens offering their own takes on the dish.

South Dakotans’ love for kuchen runs so deep that it’s been codified into law; In 2000, State Sen. James Lawler, whose district included Eureka, helped lead the charge in Pierre to designate kuchen as the official state dessert.

Lawler, who once served as a judge for a local kuchen contest in Eureka, said the bill was part of a broader push to support local industries and breathe new life into small towns.

“The town of Eureka really got behind me and supported that bill,” Lawler recalled. “Those women up there got together and made enough kuchen for the whole legislature, and we fed them all and got the bill passed.”

A framed commemorative print of that bill hangs on the wall by the checkout counter in Roger and Lori’s shop – a tribute to all of the kuchen fans who have made their business what it is today.

“If you asked me 15 years ago what our business was going to be...I’d have said we’d sell a few,” Roger laughed. “I thought if it flopped, my friends would buy some from me and they wouldn’t let me down. Never did I anticipate this. Never. It’s just unbelievable.”

## The Germans From Russia

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Russian leaders made an appeal to German families to emigrate to Russia, promising land, religious freedom and military service exemptions.

According to the Prairie Public Broadcasting documentary, *The Germans From Russia: Children of the Steppe*, Children of the Prairie, the first wave of German immigrants arrived in 1764 during the reign of Catherine the Great. For Catherine, this was strategic; adding population to the sparser areas of her empire not only developed Russia’s agricultural economy, but also helped create a buffer against invaders from central Asia.

The settlements dotted the Volga River in Russia and the Black Sea in modern Ukraine and Crimea. The German villages closely resembled the communities they left behind as well as the ones they’d later build on the American prairie, with distinct churches and earth-brick houses.

While the Germans held onto their language, culture, and customs, Slavic influence gives the Germans from Russia a distinct identity. One notable difference is in their kuchen. While the traditional German dish resembles a yeast-based fruit cake, the eastern version is typically richer and made with custard.

Later in the 19th century, the special privileges German settlers had been granted were slowly being eroded. The Germans’ special status was lowered to that of common peasants, they could now be drafted into the Russian army, and were forced to assimilate to the Russian language and education system.

Many German settlers left their villages in Russia to start over once again in North America and South America, while those remaining in Russia would go on to suffer through civil and world wars and the man-made Holodomor famine during the 20th century.

The Germans who had settled the banks of the Volga River went on to populate large swaths of Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado, while the Germans from the Black Sea region primarily settled the Dakota Territory and Canada – bringing kuchen with them.



Fruit is sprinkled over the dough, followed by a ladle of custard. Lori Pietz uses a scale to ensure nutrition labeling is precise.

*Photo by Olivia Opland*

# Assets

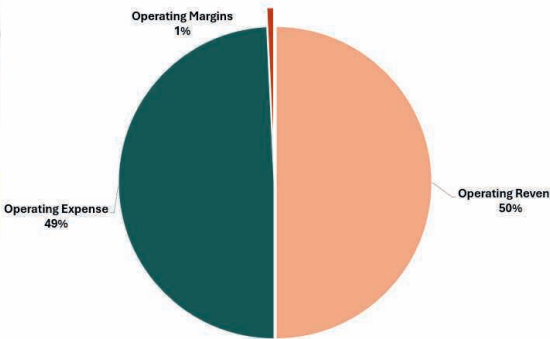
(What We Own)	2023	2024
<b>Current Assets and Deferred Charges</b>		
Cash and working funds	\$564,403	\$1,076,303
Accounts Receivable (less uncollectible)	\$1,743,139	\$1,875,385
Materials & Supplies	\$1,507,976	\$1,909,805
Prepayments	\$11,072	\$26,794
Deferred Debits	\$204,961	\$ 156,081
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,031,551</b>	<b>\$5,044,368</b>
<b>Electric Plant</b>		
In Service	\$44,218,860	\$46,241,356
Under Construction	\$108,659	\$1,055,075
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(\$12,271,256)	(\$12,926,238)
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC PLANT</b>	<b>\$32,056,263</b>	<b>\$34,370,193</b>
<b>Other Property and Investments</b>		
Investments -Associated Organization	\$11,878,761	\$12,567,710
Other Investments - Notes Receivable	\$820,130	\$ 719,140
Other Special Funds - Revenue Deferral	\$1,200,000	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$13,898,891</b>	<b>\$14,286,850</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$49,986,705</b>	<b>\$53,701,411</b>

# Liabilities

(What We Owe)	2023	2024
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	\$1,263,000	\$1,241,000
Accounts Payable	\$1,168,595	\$1,300,787
Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	\$244,852	\$ 244,691
Customer Deposits	\$36,867	\$33,617
Accrued Taxes	\$389,069	\$415,740
<b>TOTAL CURRENT &amp; ACCRUED LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$3,102,383</b>	<b>\$3,235,835</b>
Patronage Capital	\$16,405,717	\$16,787,081
Other Equity	\$3,054,963	\$3,262,831
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$19,460,680</b>	<b>\$20,049,912</b>
Deferred Credits	\$1,353,106	\$1,125,185
Long-term debt less Current Maturities	\$26,070,536	\$29,290,479
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$49,986,705</b>	<b>\$53,701,411</b>

# 2024 Operating Totals

Operating Revenue	\$20,046,806
Operating Expense	\$19,746,947
Operating Margins	\$299,859
G&T Capital Credits	\$913,284
Non-Operating Revenue	\$193,434
Net Margins	\$1,406,577



# LREA Statistics



1,654  
Miles of  
Energized  
Line

826  
Miles of Overhead  
Line

828  
Miles of Underground  
Line



3,466  
Meters

2,878  
Residential

32  
Irrigation

549  
Small Commercial

7  
Large Commercial

2,604  
Members

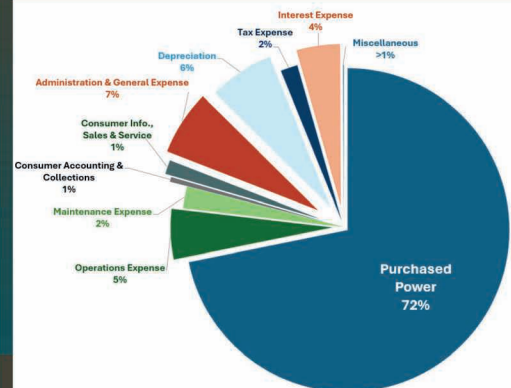


## Revenue & Expenses

OPERATING REVENUE	2023	2024
Electric and Other Revenue	\$18,652,502	\$20,046,806
OPERATING EXPENSES	2023	2024
Purchased Power	\$12,977,779	\$14,183,191
Operations Expense	\$931,169	\$992,043
Maintenance Expense	\$449,854	\$429,810
Consumer Accounting & Collections	\$96,279	\$96,565
Consumer Info., Sales & Service	\$297,392	\$278,965
Administration & General Expense	\$1,151,148	\$1,280,774
Depreciation	\$1,193,549	\$1,274,750
Tax Expense	\$319,262	\$338,880
Interest Expense	\$735,365	\$858,122
Miscellaneous	\$13,137	\$13,847
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$18,164,934</b>	<b>\$19,746,947</b>
Operating Margins	\$487,568	\$299,859
G & T Capital Credits	\$1,051,496	\$913,284
Non-Operating Margins		
Interest Income	\$111,558	\$107,941
Merchandising/Other	\$62,677	\$85,493
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b>\$1,713,299</b>	<b>\$1,406,577</b>
Patronage Capital (Beginning of Year)	\$15,639,910	\$16,405,717
Capital Credit Retirement	(\$876,749)	(\$850,978)
Other Equity Allocations	(\$70,743)	(\$174,235)
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL (end of year)</b>	<b>\$16,405,717</b>	<b>\$16,787,081</b>

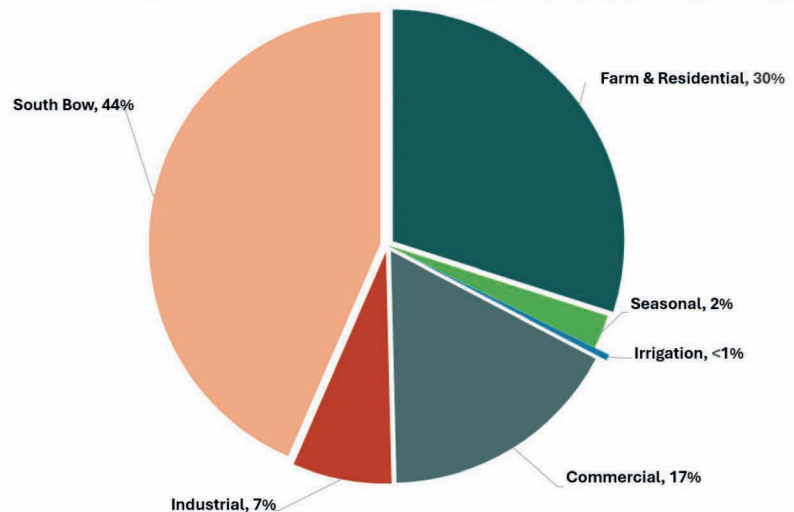
## 2024 Expenses

Purchased Power	\$14,183,191
Operations Expense	\$ 992,043
Maintenance Expense	\$ 429,810
Consumer Accounting & Collections	\$ 96,565
Consumer Info., Sales & Service	\$ 278,965
Administration & General Expense	\$ 1,280,774
Depreciation	\$1,274,750
Tax Expense	\$ 338,880
Interest Expense	\$ 858,122
Miscellaneous	\$ 13,847
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$19,746,947</b>



## 2024 Revenues

South Bow	\$8,584,664
Farm & Residential	\$5,913,595
Commercial	\$3,336,920
Industrial	\$1,366,731
Seasonal	\$ 462,284
Irrigation	\$ 83,559
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$19,747,753</b>



# SWIMMING SAFELY

## Tips to Ensure Your Family Swims Safe This Summer

**Jacob Boyko**

[jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop](mailto:jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop)

The leading cause of death for American children under the age of five: drowning.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 4,000 fatal drownings occur each year in the U.S., with the number of deaths sharply increasing in May and reaching a peak in July.

And according to Consumer Affairs, that number has been on the rise since 2020, especially among young children.

Whether at a waterpark, lake, backyard pool, or even a hot tub, being safety-aware and educating others can prevent drownings and other pool accidents and save lives.

According to Holly Hardy, aquatics director for the Oahe Family YMCA in Pierre, safety begins with supervision.

“Somebody should always be observing the water when there are kids in a pool,”

Hardy said. “It doesn’t matter if it’s our (YMCA) pool, a backyard pool, or the river. There needs to be a person there that’s responsible for watching the kids.”

At the YMCA’s pool, lifeguards who aren’t sure about a child’s swimming skills can have them do a swim test, where the child has to either show they can swim the length of the pool or remain in the shallow end.

“At our (YMCA) pool, we have those big slides and kids want to go down them because their buddies are going down them, and they want to go down but they can’t swim,” Hardy explained. “That’s where we pull the most people out of the water – the slide or the diving board.”

The YMCA lifeguards also have a rule against seeing how long you can hold your breath – children can hyperventilate before submerging and faint, which is called a

hypoxic blackout. Hardy also stresses the importance of swimming lessons, since understanding basics like how to float, swim, exit water and feeling oriented and calm are critical for water safety. She recommends to begin swimming lessons as soon as possible – The YMCA offers swimming lessons for children as young as six months old.

But swimming lessons are not a substitute for properly securing a pool.

According to Consumer Affairs, 87% of fatal drownings for the 0-5 age range occur in backyard pools.

That’s why a sturdy fence and self-latching gate around the pool area are still essential for preventing accidents. Even temporary mesh fence options can work in some instances.

Additionally, submersion alarms and door alarms can audibly alert you when someone enters the pool or pool area.

By communicating the pool safety rules to children and guests, as well as taking preventive measures to prevent accidents in the first place, you may be saving lives.



# Pool Safety Checklist

## Is there supervision?

- All children should be under responsible adult supervision.
- Designate “water watchers” and minimize distractions.
- Keep a phone close by for calling 911.
- Always swim with a buddy – Never alone.
- Keep throwing equipment or reaching equipment nearby.
- Consider CPR training – it could save a life.

## Can everybody in the pool swim?

- Ensure everyone in the pool can at least swim from one end of the pool and back.
- Weak or new swimmers should keep to shallow water and use flotation aids.
- Parents should stay close – preferably within arm’s reach – to weak or new swimmers.
- Sign up for swimming lessons – it’s a lifesaving skill.

## Are there safety barriers?

- Install and maintain a proper fence and self-latching gate around the pool.
- Consider a door alarm and pool alarm for an audible alert when someone enters the pool or pool area.
- Hot tubs should have properly-latched covers.

## Recognize hazards.

- Stay away from drains and water intake pipes, as body parts, hair, jewelry, and loose clothing can get pulled in. Drains should have anti-entanglement drain covers, and pumps should have accessible shut-offs.
- Ensure tiles, handrails, anti-slip pads, and ladders are properly installed and maintained.

- Electrical work should be done by a qualified electrician. Chargers, extension cords and other electronics should be kept away from the pool area.
- Check your pool water regularly to avoid illness from contaminants and chemical burns.
- Avoid slips and falls by picking up pool toys and other hazards. Do not run or roughhouse near the pool.
- If you’re not sober, don’t swim.
- Diving can result in serious injury. Make sure others know when a pool is not safe for diving.
- Store pool chemicals and additives somewhere inaccessible to children.
- Ensure proper lighting is installed around the pool area and never swim in the dark.
- Consider an animal escape ramp for pets and wild animals.

## Remind your children and guests...

Establish pool-safe rules for your children and any guests at your home. Remind your children to...

- Never swim without permission and supervision. Other children are not supervisors.
- Don’t enter a pool area or go near water alone.
- Never roughhouse or run in the pool area.
- Never dive in shallow water.
- Stay away from chemicals and additives.
- Keep the pool area tidy and hazard-free.
- Keep electrical devices and cords away from the pool area.
- Never hyperventilate or try and see how long you can hold your breath underwater. Hyperventilating can induce fainting, called hypoxic blackouts and lead to drowning.



## What's been happening Since our last Annual Meeting?



**Jeremy Lindemann** hired as the CEO/General Manager



**LREA Converted 43 miles of line to Underground**



**Tevin Abeln** earned his Journeyman Lineman Certificate



**July 2024 Wind storm** with gusts up to 55mph caused hundreds of outages.



**Rates Increased**



**Continued our focus on safety** by working with First Responders in our communities.



**Norah Zubke** Awarded \$1,000 Duane Snaza Scholarship



**Sidney Johnson** Awarded \$1,000 LREA / Basin Scholarship



## Capital Credits

2025 Refunds

### 2025 Capital Credit Retirement Breakdown

East River	2005*	100%	\$ 95,041.69
Basin	2008*	71.5%	\$168,199.00
Lake Region	2009*	100%	\$ 16,242.00
Lake Region	2010*	100%	\$ 67,329.00
Lake Region	2011*	100%	\$168,537.00
Lake Region	2024	25%	\$ 74,964.50
<b>Total Refunded</b>			<b>\$590,313.19</b>

\*Percentage of the remaining unretired patronage for years 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011





## Member Services



Jeremy  
Lindemann  
*CEO/General  
Manager*

## Technology Services



Brett Kwasniewski



Kurt Hoines



Leonard Deibert



Zac Bremmon



Nick Kvernevig



Vinson Dargatz



Tim Gaikowski



Nate Baumgarn



Lukas Pearson

## Office Services



Donna Sattler



Autumn Spiering



Laura London



Justin McClurg

## Operations



Jim Grimes



Dan Williams



Shawn Schmidt



Tyler Aadland



Bryce Jorgenson



Jesse Pesall



Mat Lynde



Tevin Abeln



**JUNE 19-21**  
**Czech Days**  
 Music, Dancing, Foods & Parades  
 Tabor, 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.

**MAY 24-SEPT. 13**  
**Buggy Museum**  
 Free Buggy Rides + More  
 Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Stockholm, SD  
 605-938-4192

**JUNE 5**  
**Danish Constitution Day Celebration**  
 6:15 p.m.-9 p.m.  
 Danish Folk Dancing & Music  
 Viborg, SD  
 danevilleheritage.com

**JUNE 5, 7**  
**Wheel Jam**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota State Fair Speedway  
 Huron, SD

**JUNE 6**  
**Northern Bull Riding Tour**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Madison, SD  
 www.prairievillage.org

**JUNE 6**  
**Joy Fest**  
 John Mogen Piano Performance  
 7 p.m. CDT  
 Okaton, SD  
 cristenjoyphotography.com

**JUNE 6-8**  
**SDHSRA Regional Rodeos**  
 Buffalo, Huron, Wall, Kadoka, SD  
 www.sdhsra.com

**JUNE 7**  
**Car Show & Kids Carnival**  
 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 202 2nd St. SE  
 Watertown, SD

**JUNE 7**  
**Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation Day of Play**  
 Groton, SD

**JUNE 7**  
**Prairie Village Tractor Pull**  
 3 p.m.  
 Madison, SD  
 www.prairievillage.org

**JUNE 12-14**  
**Gumbo Ridge Wagon Train**  
 Murdo, SD  
 605-530-3638

**JUNE 13-15**  
**SDHSRA Regional Rodeos**  
 Dupree, Watertown,  
 New Underwood, Winner, SD

**JUNE 13-15**  
**Ipswich Trail Days**  
 Ipswich, SD  
 ipswichtraildays.com  
 ipswichtraildays@gmail.com

**JUNE 14**  
**Roslyn Vinegar Festival**  
 Roslyn, SD  
 320-808-8873

**JUNE 15, 29**  
**1880 Train Old West Shootout**  
 5 p.m.  
 Hill City, SD

**JUNE 17-21**  
**SDHSRA State Finals Rodeo**  
 Fort Pierre, SD

**JUNE 19**  
**Prairie Partners Master Gardeners Plant Sale**  
 9 a.m.  
 Brown County Fairgrounds  
 Aberdeen, SD

**JUNE 20-22**  
**Farley Fest**  
 Milbank, SD  
 605-432-6656  
 www.farleyfest.com

**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

**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.**