

Cooperative Connections

SDSU Extension
Master Gardener
Program

**Growing Master
Gardeners in SD**

Pages 8-9

**Rodeo School is
in Session**

Pages 12-13

Rana Hegg Chosen as Scholar of the Week

Laura London

Administrative Assistant

Webster Area High School student, Rana Hegg, was chosen as Scholar of the Week for the week of April 18, 2021. What does it take to be a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week? It's not just about grades or athletic ability. It takes a well-rounded individual that excels in the classroom and the community.

Rana has exactly what it takes to be chosen as Scholar of The Week! According to those who nominated Rana, "She gives over 100% in everything she does in and out of school. Rana is one of the kindest people. She's very involved in her school and community. One thing that stands out about Rana is that she is able to take dual credit courses, be involved in many activities, and still finds time for a job after school."

Activities she is involved with are Cross Country, of which she is the team captain and has made it to State competition 4 times. Track is another activity that she has made it to State competition 3 times. She is Student Council Vice President, Key Club President, a member of FCCLA, Robotics and National Honor Society. Rana is a member of her Church Council. She actively participates in 4-H and has won numerous ribbons.

Rana was featured on Dakota News Now during the 6:00PM news on Monday,



Pictured above are Brett Kwasniewski of Lake Region Electric, Scholar of the Week Rana Hegg and Superintendent Jim Block.

April 19 and again on the Dakota News Now morning news on Tuesday, April 20 between 6:00AM and 7:00AM. Rana received a \$250.00 award check from Lake Region Electric Association and Touchstone Energy. Traditionally, there is a banquet to honor all of the scholars chosen during the school year but that was changed last year due to Covid 19. Due to some people and organizations limiting in-person events, alternate plans have been made this year. Those plans include a gift being sent to all of the recipients and having Dakota News Now draw for the scholarships during an on-air broadcast on May 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Dakota News Now have joined together to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. "Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week" has been celebrating the achievements of high school seniors since 2002. Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and a Commitment to Community. For more information on the program please call your local Touchstone Energy cooperative, Lake Region Electric Association.

LREA Hires Apprentice Lineman

Tevin Abeln joined the Lake Region Electric Association family in mid-April as an Apprentice Lineman. This is a full-time permanent position. Tevin graduated from Groton High School before attending Mitchell Technical Institute. He earned a degree in Powerline Construction and Maintenance 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 deciding to return to the area where he grew up.

Tevin fits in well with the crew at Lake Region, as his hobbies and love of outdoors align perfectly with most everyone here. Tevin enjoys being outdoors, hunting and fishing especially. He also likes working on cars and is a bit of an adrenaline junkie when it comes to riding dirt bikes, a hobby that he is starting to share with his younger brother. Tevin is the type of guy who likes to stay busy, which should not be a problem for him around Lake Region territory.

Welcome home Tevin!



Lake Region Electric Ripples

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-904)

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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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E-mail: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

**24 hour Dispatching/Outage Line
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LREA's 80th ANNUAL MEETING



Thursday, June 3rd
6:30 PM

Parking will begin at 5:30 PM

City of Langford, SD

LREA representatives will direct you to parking.

Join us!

Drive-In Style Meeting

Join us from your car! Tune in on your car radio!

Snacks will be provided!
(There will **not** be a meal served at the meeting.)

Meal Voucher to a Participating
Restaurant of Your Choice
(One per membership. Must be present.)

• Bring canned goods for the Food Pantry •
Each Food Pantry Item Donated = Entry Drawing for a \$50 Gift Card!

Practice Social Distancing by enjoying the meeting from the comfort of your car!

Radio Frequency to be announced at the meeting.



CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

Independent Auditor's Report on Loan Fund Expenditures

The Board of Directors
Lake Region Electric Association, Inc.
Webster, South Dakota

We have audited, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, the balance sheet of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. as of December 31, 2020, and the related statements of operations, patronage capital and other equities, and cash flows for the year then ended, and have issued our report thereon dated April 1, 2021.

During the year ended December 31, 2020, Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. received no advances from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) on loans controlled by the CFC Loan Agreement and/or Mortgage or Security Agreements. In conducting our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Association was not in compliance with the intended purpose of the loan funds as contemplated in the Loan Agreement. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance.

This report is intended for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Eide Bailly LLP

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
April 1, 2021

What inspires you, inspires us. | eidebailly.com

200 E. 10th St., Ste. 500 | P.O. Box 5125 | Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5125 | T 605.339.1999 | F 605.339.1306 | EOE

Eight Tips to Help You Grow Your Garden Safely

Gardening may seem like a safe hobby - and for the most part it is. But it can potentially lead to injury. Emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, reports the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Trimming trees and tall bushes can take a deadly turn when electricity is involved. Never trim a tree that has grown into a power line. Metal and wood ladders can transmit electricity into your body if you come into contact with a live wire. Instead, ask your electric cooperative to send a professional to trim the tree.

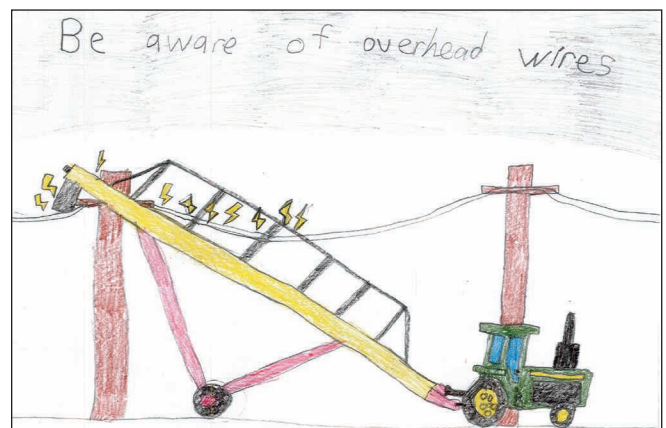
- At least three days before you begin a landscaping project that entails digging, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked.
- Never garden, trim trees or cut the lawn in bad weather. Wet and windy conditions can cause slipping and other hazards. Go inside immediately if you see lightning.
- Outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters should be used for electric tools and trimmers. Never use tools outdoors when it's wet.
- Whenever possible, work in pairs so you're not using electrical equipment when nobody else is around - in case of an accident. And hire a professional if you doubt your ability to complete the job safely.
- Always wear the proper clothing and safety equipment for the task at hand. Gloves, eye and hearing protection, and dust masks can help prevent injuries and illnesses.
- Use the right tools for the job and use them safely. If you are using electric tools, watch where the cord is and unplug tools when not in use.
- Keep garden tools and equipment in proper working order. Equipment that is not maintained properly leaves the door open for potential accidents.
- Stay hydrated, use insect repellent and sunscreen (don't forget your face, neck and ears), and take breaks as needed to rest those hard-working muscles.

Did You Know?

- All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

#StormSafety

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



Be Aware of Overhead Wires

Carter Intveld, 11 years old

Carter is the child of Glenn and Darci Intveld of Sioux Falls. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.



Dig in to These Dairy Recipes

Tuna Cheesettes

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ½ c. American cheese | 2 tbsp. chopped dill pickles |
| 2-3 hard boiled eggs, chopped | ½ c. salad dressing |
| 1 can (7 oz.) tuna | ½ tsp. salt |
| 2 tbsp. chopped onion | ¼ tsp. pepper |

Preheat oven to 350. Mix ingredients and pile on ½ of a hamburger bun to make an open-faced sandwich. Bake for 30 min. Serve warm.

Ruth Schilberg, Viborg

Crustless Cheddar Mini Quiches

- | | |
|--|--|
| Non-stick cooking spray | 1 egg |
| 1/2 teaspoon olive oil | 1/3 cup sun-dried tomatoes, plus additional tomatoes for garnish |
| 1 leek, cleaned and finely chopped (about 1 cup) | 1/2 teaspoon fresh or dried thyme |
| 1 cup reduced-fat shredded Cheddar cheese, divided | |
| 1 cup fat-free milk | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly spray a 12-cup muffin pan* with non-stick cooking spray. Heat oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Cook leeks until softened, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes. Divide leeks among muffin cups and top with 2/3 cup of Cheddar cheese. Blend milk, egg, sun-dried tomatoes and thyme in a blender or food processor for about 20 seconds or until tomato is minced. Pour milk mixture over cheese in muffin cups and top each with remaining cheese. Bake 30 minutes or until tops and edges are browned. Cool in pan for 3 minutes; serve warm or cold. Top with additional pieces of sun-dried tomato, if desired.

*May substitute with aluminum muffin cups or individual custard cups, if desired.

usdairy.com

Scalloped Eggs and Bacon

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion | 6 hard boiled eggs, sliced |
| 2 tablespoons butter | 1/4 teaspoon pepper |
| 2 tablespoons flour | 1/4 teaspoon salt |
| 1 1/2 cups milk | 1 1/2 cups crushed potato chips |
| 1 cup shredded American cheese | 12 bacon strips |
| 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard | |

Cut bacon strips into 1 inch pieces and fry until crisp. Sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour, gradually add milk and cook, stirring until thickened. Add cheese and mustard stirring until cheese melts. Place half of the egg slices in a greased 10 X 6 baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with half of the cheese sauce, potato chips and bacon. Repeat layering. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Tips: Prepare eggs and bacon the night before and put together the next morning to save time. May also use ham cubes instead of bacon. Double the recipe and use a 9 X 13 baking dish.

Mary Jo Semmier, Chancellor

Very Berry Ice Cream

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 lbs frozen berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries or blackberries) | 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk |
| 1 tablespoon honey | 1/2 teaspoon salt |

In blender, pulse berries, condensed milk, honey and salt until smooth, scraping down sides. Pour mixture into 5-by-9-inch loaf pan. Freeze uncovered 4 hours, or until set.

Culinary.net

Please send your favorite dairy 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 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Unapproved 2020 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

August 06, 2020

Pursuant to notice having been duly given, the Annual Meeting of the Members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., was held at the Fort Sisseton State Park, near Lake City, County of Marshall, and State of South Dakota on Thursday, August 06, 2020.

Registration of the members began at 3:00 p.m. Lake Region Electric Association employees served treats & water and distributed Meal Vouchers for local restaurants to attending members.

The meeting was held in drive-in fashion with a radio broadcast that was set up by East River Electric Association.

The business meeting was called to order by President Kermit Pearson at 4:08 p.m.

The Nation Anthem was played on the radio broadcast. Tim McIntyre gave the invocation.

Special Guest Steve McCleerey was recognized as being in attendance, as well as the work he has done at the state level for cooperatives.

General Manager, Tim McIntyre, thanked the membership for attending the meeting.

Secretary, Thomas Steiner, reported there were 95 members present and this constituted a quorum for the meeting.

Secretary Steiner announced the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting was contained in the May issue of the Cooperative Connections, Lake Region Ripples, newsletter and proof of mailing was verified by The Midstate Group of Aberdeen. Secretary Steiner also announced that the Annual Meeting Notice was mailed from NISC in O'Fallon Missouri on July 27, 2020.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were printed in the Annual Report and reviewed by the members. A motion was made and seconded to dispense of reading the minutes and accept the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Board President, Kermit Pearson, reviewed the financial report including the annual statistical and financial reports covering revenue, expenses and capital credits of the cooperative. Pearson reviewed the Independent Auditor's report from Eide Bailly recognizing no deficiencies identified.

Pearson explained that Capital Credits were distributed early, by board directive, due to Covid 19. He then talked about the aging

plant, aggressive work plan and high-water issues.

He further explained the territorial boundary issues taking place at the legislative level.

Pearson gave an update on East River, explaining what that they are working on. Some of their 70-75 million-dollar budget is designated for the Lake Region territory. The new line from Ortleigh to Grenville has been approved, which should lead to greater reliability in that area. The transmission lines from Britton to Langford are to be replaced in the next couple of years. He explained East River Electric's involvement in the Rural Housing Program. Pearson updated the Lake Region members on Basin Power Cooperative. He explained that Basin now falls under FERC regulations. They have lost 500 megawatts of load mainly due to the decrease of oil production out of the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota. Margins at Basin are ahead of projection and there is a projected 3% load growth expected. Pearson spoke about electric vehicles; how vehicle load and charging stations are coming and will initially be placed along the interstates. He concluded by explaining to the membership that it is important that we embrace low carbon industries.

Board President, Kermit Pearson called for a motion to approve the financials and President's Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve both reports. Motion carried.

Attorney Smeins conducted the election of directors. One director each would be elected for a term of three years from Districts 2 and 4. Nominations for the two districts were made prior to the meeting by nominating petition, per the bylaws.

Nominations from the floor were opened for District 2 representing Dayton, Newark, White, Victor, Stena, Miller, Pleasant Valley, Nordland & Wismer Townships. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot for Mark Wismer from District 2. Motion carried.

Nominations from the floor were opened for District 4 representing Eden, Liberty, Raritan, Grenville, Nutley, Buffalo & Drywood Lake Townships. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Thomas Steiner from District 4. Motion carried.

General Manager, Tim McIntyre, gave the Manager's Report to the membership in attendance. He explained the bylaws and the importance of having an annual meeting, despite the current pandemic. McIntyre offered thanks to Ali Tonsfelt and her staff at Fort Sisseton State Park for allowing Lake Region to hold the annual meeting drive-in style in their south parking area. He also thanked Bob Gale from East River Electric for setting up the short-wave radio broadcast of the annual meeting so that members could attend while sitting comfortably in their vehicles. McIntyre expressed his gratitude to the employees of Lake Region Electric for all of their hard work planning the meeting and throughout the year. He then thanked the membership for attending the meeting and their support for their local cooperative.

McIntyre shared information on the aggressive work plan including 50 miles of overhead to underground line conversion and the areas where this construction is taking place. He gave a brief update on the Grenville substation.

General Manager McIntyre explained the meal voucher that was given to members attending the meeting. In lieu of a hot meal being served, Lake Region Electric decided to support local businesses by issuing members who attended the meeting a voucher to be redeemed at their choice of participating restaurants.

Scholarship winners were announced. The \$1,000 Basin Electric Power/Lake Region Electric Scholarship was awarded to Brian Mork, Pierpont, SD, son of Jerry and Rita Mork. Brian is planning to major in architecture at the University of Nebraska. The \$1,000 Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Brooke Vogl, daughter of Dan & Rose Vogl of Webster. Brooke is planning to major in aerospace engineering at North Dakota State University.

A drawing was held for a \$50 gift card. Members who brought a food pantry donation received tickets to be entered into the drawing. The winning ticket was held by Keith Guy.

Board President Kermit Pearson called for adjournment of the meeting at 4:54 PM. A motion and second was made by honking of car horns and the meeting was adjourned.

Kermit Pearson, President
Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary

Liabilities

WHAT WE OWE	2019	2020
Current Liabilities		
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	1,081,000	1,292,155
Accounts Payable	1,236,625	1,158,526
Other Current & Accrued Liab.	190,029	216,944
Customer Deposits	40,717	43,167
Accrued Taxes	392,889	369,275
TOTAL CUR AND ACCR LIAB	2,941,260	3,080,067
Patronage Capital	13,375,339	14,028,952
Other Equity	2,387,751	2,611,926
TOTAL EQUITY	15,763,090	16,640,878
Deferred Credits	1,764,110	1,753,772
Long-term debt less Current Maturities	22,422,359	24,719,203
TOTAL LIABILITIES	42,890,819	46,193,920

Assets

WHAT WE OWN:	2019	2020
Current Assets and Deferred Charges:		
Cash and working funds	2,452,760	2,706,962
Accounts Receivable (less uncollectible)	1,861,919	1,567,855
Materials & Supplies	655,135	653,158
Prepayments	12,283	11,844
Deferred Debits	291,129	187,287
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,273,226	5,127,106
Electric Plant		
In Service	35,696,105	38,554,060
Under Construction	1,031,969	541,491
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(9,848,355)	(10,224,332)
TOTAL ELECTRIC PLANT	26,879,719	28,871,219
Other Property and Investments		
Investments-Associated Organization	8,965,230	9,438,252
Other Investments - Notes Receivable	122,644	1,107,343
Other Special Funds - Revenue Deferral	1,650,000	1,650,000
Total Investments	10,737,874	12,195,595
TOTAL ASSETS	42,890,819	46,193,920

System Stats

Miles of Energized Line: 1669

Overhead Miles: 1097

Underground Miles: 695

Residential Meters: 2850

Irrigation: 32

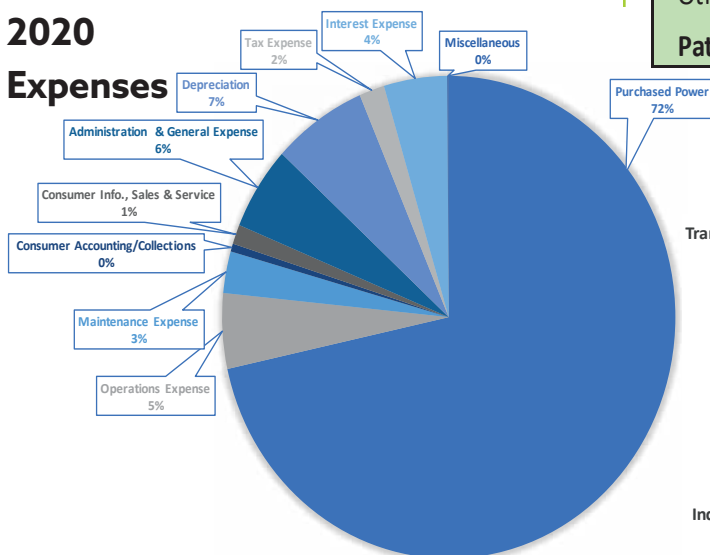
Small Commercial: 529

Large Commercial: 7

Members: 2601

2020

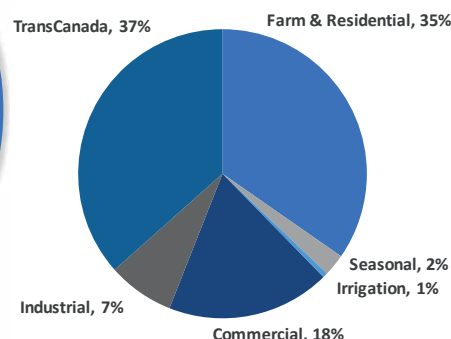
Expenses



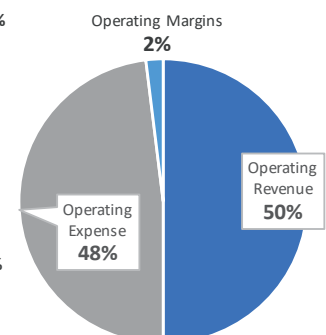
Statement of Revenue and Expenses

OPERATING REVENUE:	2019	2020
Electric and Other Revenue	18,345,510	17,068,098
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Purchased Power	12,982,900	11,742,608
Operations Expense	858,949	828,202
Maintenance Expense	532,492	458,387
Consumer Accounting & Collections	87,744	87,571
Consumer Info., Sales & Service	213,741	214,150
Administration & General Expense	928,692	919,429
Depreciation	1,074,802	1,107,570
Tax Expense	314,112	295,077
Interest Expense	770,924	740,630
Miscellaneous	14,838	17,148
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	17,779,194	16,410,772
Operating Margins	566,316	657,326
G & T Capital Credits	590,184	645,125
Non-Operating Margins		
Interest Income	133,283	54,488
Merchandising/Other	72,100	39,375
Net Margins	1,361,883	1,396,314
Patronage Capital (Beg. of Yr.)	12,670,214	13,375,339
Capital Credit Retirement	(490,602)	(538,468)
Other Equity Allocations	(166,156)	(204,233)
Patronage Capital (end of year)	13,375,339	14,028,952

2020 Revenues



Operating Totals





SDSU Extension Master Gardener Ruth Smith prepares for a local spring plant sale. Photos by Billy Gibson.

MASTER GARDENERS

Extension Program Seeks to Spread the Love of Gardening

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sorry, Walt Disney. The happiest place on earth for Ruth Smith isn't located in Florida or California. It's found in the serene confines of her garden in Pierre, S.D.

A retired educator, Smith experiences relaxation and contentment while growing herbs, vegetables and florals in her terraced backyard garden. After spending a career in public education and dedicating herself to the development and guidance of local students, Smith now finds her bliss by focusing her efforts on cultivating fresh produce and plants.

She even confesses a proud affinity for something that most people absolutely abhor – weeding.

"I actually like weeding. I like tending to the plants and bringing them up with some tender loving care," Smith said. "I always tell people this is my happy place. Some people like to take a boat out on the river or go hunting. This is what we like to do."

The "we" Smith refers to includes her husband, Mark. Both enjoy gardening and both have been through the Master Gardener program administered by South Dakota State University Extension.

As current president of the Prairie Potters Master Gardeners Club based in Pierre, Smith is an enthusiastic proponent of serving as an ambassador for horticulture education both locally and throughout the state. She and Mark completed the training

and course work required to become Master Gardeners about 10 years ago, although Mark is currently on "inactive" status.

The goal of the program is to turn gardening enthusiasts into expert volunteers who share their research-based knowledge with community members across the state.

Since the program's inception in 1985, more than 400 Master Gardeners have logged nearly 80,000 hours of volunteer service answering questions from the public and hosting community programs.

It's that public interaction that interests Smith. She enjoys attending local farmer markets, plant sales, workshops, school programs and other community events.

"The fun part is getting out among people and helping them solve



Mark Smith repairs a retaining wall in front of his home in Pierre.

Master Gardener Clubs in SD

Club Name	Area
Brookings Area Master Gardeners	Brookings
Coteau Prairie Master Gardeners	Watertown
Custer County Master Gardeners	Custer
Dakota Prairie Master Gardeners	Miller
Fall River Master Gardeners	Hot Springs
Garden Gate Master Gardeners	Winner
Harding County Master Gardeners	Buffalo
Huron Area Master Gardeners	Huron
Minnehaha Co.	Sioux Falls
Missouri Valley Master Gardeners	Yankton
Northern Hills Master Gardeners	Spearfish
Pennington County Master Gardeners	Rapid City
Perkins County Master Gardeners	Bison
Prairie Partners Master Gardeners	Aberdeen
Prairie Potters Master Gardeners	Pierre
South Central Master Gardeners	White River

any problems they're encountering and giving them suggestions on how they can get better results for their efforts," she said. "We love to have conversations with people and we're not afraid to say we don't know something. We can always find out the answers and get back with them."

So, what's the question she gets asked the most? "Hmmm. It's probably, 'Something is wrong with my tomato plants. What should I do?'"

Rhoda Burrows is a horticulture specialist with SDSU Extension and works frequently with Master Gardeners. She said interest in the program has grown since the pandemic struck in March of 2020. While participants weren't allowed to attend in-person events as representatives of the program through most of last year, online teleconferences were held with many new prospects joining in.

"It's just such a fun group to work with," she said. "They're so enthusiastic and they have a deep hunger for knowledge and a heart for helping out each other in their communities. After the pandemic when people were restricting their movements, they discovered that gardening can be a good, wholesome family activity. Gardening is a source of fresh produce and more people are appreciating the benefits of healthy eating."

More information about the Master Gardeners program can be found by visiting www.extension.sdstate.edu. Those interested in becoming part of the program can contact SDSU's Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Aimee House Ladonski at 605-782-3290.

McCrory Gardens is an Inspiration for Horticulture Hobbyists

Gardeners are typically passionate self-starters and don't require much outside motivation. But McCrory Gardens is an ideal place to go for those gardeners looking for an ounce of inspiration over the summer months.

Created in 2012 on the Brookings campus of South Dakota State University, McCrory Gardens features a 25-acre garden and 45-acre arboretum along with a 9,300-square-foot Education and Visitor Center.

While visitation was down in 2020, McCrory Gardens is expecting a busy summer and welcomes gardening enthusiasts to see the ever-changing display of flowers, vegetables, herbs and more.

New to the facility this summer is a Native American medicinal garden area, a "three-sisters" garden with beans, corn and squash, as well as a pollinator garden designed to attract bees and butterflies. Professors and instructors from the Native American studies department collaborated as consultants on the project.



McCrory Gardens is open to visitors on Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There is always something new that's growing and blooming, and we have numerous annual beds that are planted each year," said Director Lisa Marotz.

What is expected to be a spectacular summer will culminate in the annual Garden Party held each year on the first Friday in August. While plans are still being finalized, past events have included food vendors, live music, games and free admission for the day.

"Pretty much everything we have is in bloom at that time. We want to invite everyone to come out and see what we have to offer," Marotz said.

McCrory Gardens is a privately-funded \$4.2-million facility that was the vision of founder and SDSU professor S.A. McCrory.

Last August, McCrory Gardens was named as a benefactor of an endowment from the estate of Frank and Mildred Denholm. A gift of more than \$422,000 went to the gardens while an additional gift of the same amount went to The South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, which is hosting an exhibit entitled, "Electrifying Rural South Dakota," through Sept. 1.



Last year's drive-in Annual Membership Meeting was a great success.

2020 Year in Review: LREA Adjusts and Adapts with Our Community

Laura London

Administrative Assistant
llondon@lakeregion.coop

Reviewing this past year has been interesting to say the least. We all know that the pandemic, or Covid 19, caused a lot of closings and cancellations. Here at Lake Region Electric, it meant adapting and figuring out how to keep providing great service under extraordinary circumstances.

We spent more time outside!

Last year our Annual Meeting was postponed while the Board Members and Staff at Lake Region figured out a plan to host the Annual Meeting while keeping everyone safe. We did get it figured out and it was a success. This year, we are still practicing social distancing so we thought we should try the drive-in style meeting again.

We Made Adjustments

One of the first things we did was close the doors to the office and have people work remotely whenever possible, so that we could help keep our employees and members safe. Rather than congregating at LREA headquarters, the linemen and electricians went straight to work sites from their homes and had to keep the distance by driving in separate vehicles. Office staff set up workstations from their homes, with the help of the IT Manager who also incorporated a new phone system that allowed us to still serve members in an efficient manner. There were a lot of changes made but they happened quickly through the cooperation and coordination of all those who work at Lake Region



LREA completed underground construction projects, provided community grants and also welcomed members to the drive-in Annual Meeting.



Electric. Things are not entirely back to normal, but we have overcome most of the challenges presented over the last year and we are transitioning back to normal with a few changes that will remain in place to continue to keep our employees and members as safe and healthy as possible!

Member Services stayed busy and continued to provide wiring and other services to our members. Some of the biggest projects over the last year included wiring for Rose Hill Evangelical Free Church for their major renovation project. They have also been working on the cabins



and outdoor facilities at Roy Lake State Park.

The Operations Department continued working on construction and converting overhead lines to underground. Luckily, we did not have any major storms or weather events that affected construction work, so the line crews were able to finish up 2020 on track with the plan that was set prior to the pandemic hitting. Despite some of our contractors postponing due to company travel restrictions and other problems of the pandemic, crews were able to complete overhead to underground

conversion of lines near Andover, north of Webster, south side of Pickerel Lake and Clear Lake. They also added new underground line near Sunset Colony west of Britton.

Our Commitment to Community Endured!

Sharing Success - This year CoBank matched Lake Region Electric Association's charitable contributions, allowing us to give back \$20,000 to local non-profit organizations.

Scholarships Awarded to Area Students

- Each year there are scholarships available through Lake Region Electric. Students are encouraged to apply and are chosen based on how well they align with the criteria of each scholarship. Two area students were awarded scholarships in the spring



of 2020. Brooke Vogl, daughter of LREA member-owners Dan and Rose Vogl, of Webster was chosen



as the recipient of the Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship in 2020. Brian Mork received a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric & Lake Region. Brian is the son of LREA members Rita

Brian Mork and Brooke Vogl received scholarships in 2020.

& Jerry Mork of rural Pierpont.

Two Webster area students were chosen as Touchstone Energy's Scholar of The Week for the 2020/2021 school year. Webster Area High School student Ellie Mount was chosen as Scholar of The Week for Jan. 17, 2021 and Rana Hegg was chosen for the week of April 18th 2021. The Scholar of The Week program is a partnership between Dakota News Now and your local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives that honors the region's accomplished high school students. Each weekly winner receives a cash award from their local Touchstone Energy Cooperative and is featured on Dakota News Now.

Support and Donations for Area Schools and Community Programs - This year Lake Region Electric continued with our



Construction projects were designed and implemented for the purpose of improving electrical service for LREA members.

bottled water donations to area schools. The bottled water has a label picturing each school's mascot and a safety message. These bottles of water are then used by different school organizations, often sold through concessions or vending, to support programs of their choosing.

Employees of Lake Region showed their continuing support and generosity for the communities in Lake Region Territory in many ways. Employees donated time to various activities like handing out food boxes with Feeding South Dakota. Prior to the start of the school year, employees donated new backpacks and money to go to area students who may not have the necessary school supplies to start the year

out right. Employees also supported area food banks by donating gift cards to the food pantry so that people in need could purchase some of the lesser donated items like meat and dairy products. Of course, one of the favorite activities of employees is supporting the Spirit of Christmas where they donated gifts to 20 children this past year.

It's Been A Year!

Although, It's been quite a year, we made it through. We sure are looking forward to getting back to normal and seeing you all at the Lake Region Electric Association Annual Meeting!



A student at the Korkow Rodeo School learns the "lift, charge and stay back" method of saddle bronc riding under the watchful eye of former champion Chad Ferley. Photos by Billy Gibson

Class is in Session

Rodeo School Teaches Youngsters the Basics of the Sport

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Jeff Reis saw that his son was in big trouble, so he quickly hurled himself over the heavy metal railing and sprinted across the rodeo arena toward the bucking chute.

That's where Casey, a high school senior bull rider and student at the Korkow Rodeo School, was getting set for his final run of the day. But things weren't proceeding as planned. While Casey was going through his preparations, the agitated bull began climbing up the railing and turning toward the unwelcomed antagonist straddling his back.

Casey was able to get a grip on the top rail of the chute and the spotters eventually pulled him free, but not before his father had gotten halfway across the arena floor.

"Bulls have done this before, but I haven't seen one get that high or be able to turn the way this one did," Jeff recalled. "When it spun and belly rolled and started pulling Casey away from the spotters, I panicked because I thought something truly catastrophic was about to happen."

Thanks to the spotters and handlers and his own quick reflexes as a multi-sport

athlete, Casey escaped the few seconds of terror injury-free. The recalcitrant animal got everyone's attention and made a big scene, but it did nothing to diminish Casey's grit and determination. Even his father was a bit surprised at what happened next.

Casey made it clear he wasn't nearly finished with that bull.

"I couldn't believe his mentality after that," Jeff said. "He was shook up, but he went out and got a new spur strap that had broken off, fixed all of his equipment, got his rope back on and rode that same bull."

Lots of lessons were learned during that dust-up, but then that's the purpose of the Korkow Rodeo School. Having completed its 36th year in April, the school is one of the oldest and most established of several similar schools operating across the state that offer instruction to hundreds of eager young riders and future champions.

Jim Korkow, owner of the Anchor K Ranch east of Pierre, said the school tends to separate those who are genuinely interested in rodeo from those who "might want to go looking for a set of golf clubs."



Jeff Willert preps a saddle bronc student for the youngster's first ride.

Though last year's school was canceled, dozens of students of various ages and skill levels returned to the Anchor K this time around to learn the basics of saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, and also ways to stay safe.

Korkow's son T.J. runs the annual three-day school, which is led by a team of skilled riders and instructors as well as a physical trainer and other highly-experienced support staff. Each year the school attracts dozens of riders from several different states.

Instructor Chad Ferley is a two-time PRCA World Champion saddle bronc rider and five-time NFR qualifier from Oelrichs who has participated in the event

SD HS Rodeo Assn. Regional Qualifying Rodeos:

June 4-6 - Huron,
Highmore, Buffalo, Wall
June 11-13 - Watertown,
Winner, Dupree, Sturgis

State HS Finals Rodeo:

June 15-19 - Ft. Pierre, SD

National HS Finals Rodeo:

July 18-24 - Lincoln, NE

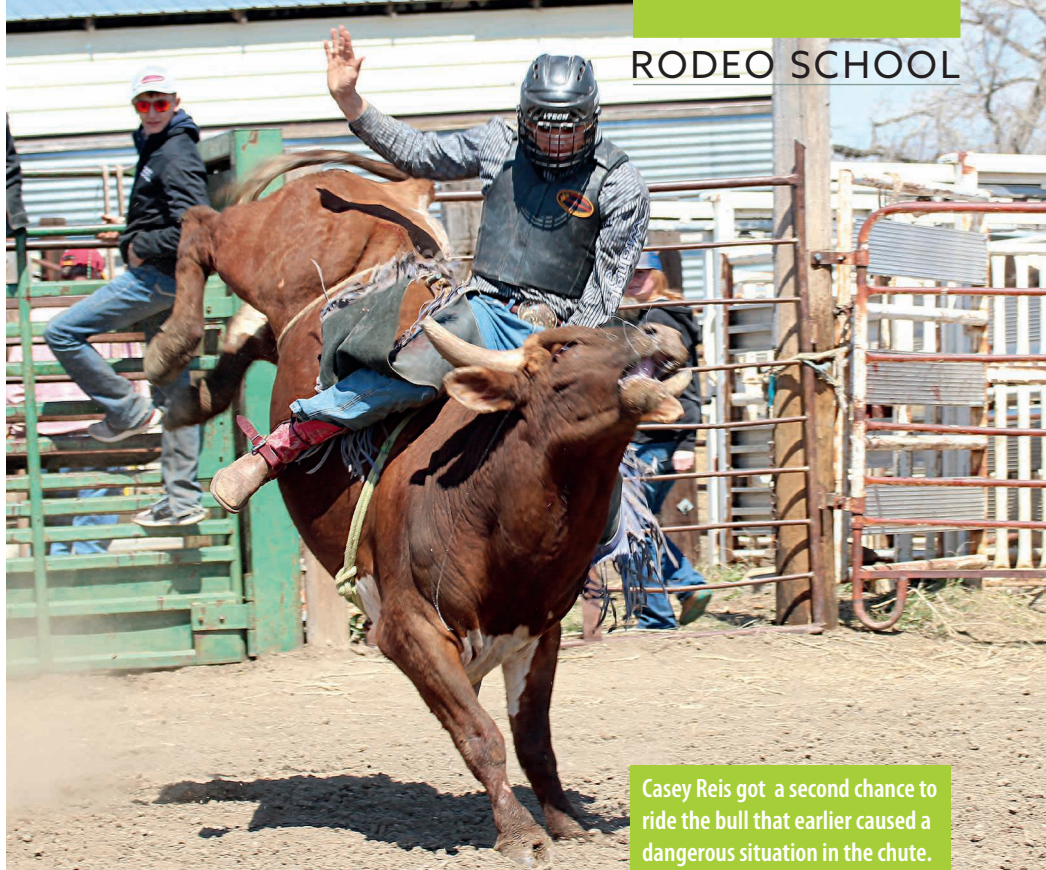
for the past 12 years. Ferley, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, said students don't leave the school ready for the pro circuit but are there to learn the basics... at least after the initial shock wears off from that maiden voyage that takes the young rider from zero to 90 in a split second.

"After their first ride, they always say it was a whole lot faster than they thought it was going to be," Ferley said. "At first, most of them just black out. We're here to give them the basics, talk to them after each ride and tell them what they did wrong and what they did right, and give them the information they can apply and practice on down the line as they ride more horses."

Fellow instructor Jeff Willert is a PRCA World Champion saddle bronc competitor, five-time NFR qualifier and member of West Central Electric Cooperative. He said he enjoys passing on to youngsters all the tips and tricks that he learned throughout his successful rodeo career.

"With bronc riding, we tell them to lift, charge and stay back," he said. "But things happen so fast, and it's hard for them to pay attention because as soon as that chute opens, they lose their train of thought. You just try to drill things into their head and they eventually get it. It's trial and error. The more you ride, the more you learn."

Ken Korkow said throughout more than three decades of operating the school, one particular student stands out among all the others. An uninitiated 42-year-old gentleman from Alaska came to the ranch



Casey Reis got a second chance to ride the bull that earlier caused a dangerous situation in the chute.

with the intention of checking off an item from his bucket list of things he'd never done before, Korkow recalled. Organizers always make a point to match the stock with the rider's level of experience, so the instructor set up the non-traditional student with a black angus pasture bull.

"He managed to stay on it for longer than I thought he would," Korkow said. "The instructor blew the horn at six seconds when he saw the guy was about to come off, but he blew it early just so he'd think he made it the whole eight seconds. But all the kids who were around got excited for him and went out there and cheered for

him and gave him high-fives. It was quite a moment I'll always remember."

While some express concern about the future of rodeo in the age of youngsters getting more involved in technology, Willert said he doesn't share that concern.

"It can be rewarding from many stand-points," he said. "There are still a lot of kids who don't spend all day playing video games. They see the value of hard work and the farming and ranching lifestyle and they respect the culture. They understand that while some things may be difficult, it's all worth it when you can walk away knowing that you've stood up to the test."



A young rider hangs on just before getting thrown to the ground.



80th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Langford, South Dakota

Registration & Parking – 5:30PM

Business Meeting – 6:30 PM



Langford, S.D., June 3, 2021

5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

6:30 PM

Registration & Parking

LREA Annual Business Meeting

■ Call to Order	Kermit Pearson, Board President
■ The National Anthem	
■ Invocation	
■ Welcome	
■ Certification and Declaration of Quorum	Attorney Danny Smeins
■ Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing	Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary
■ Minutes of 2020 Meeting	Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary
■ President's Report	Kermit Pearson
■ Election of Directors	Attorney Dan Smeins
■ Managers' Report	Manager Tim McIntyre
■ Scholarship Award Recognition	
■ Election Report	Attorney Dan Smeins
■ Other Business – Old and New	Kermit Pearson
■ Drawing For \$50 gift card for Food Pantry Donation	
■ Adjournment	Kermit Pearson

Petitions Filed for Director Positions

Two director seats will be up for election at the Lake Region Electric Association's 80th Annual Meeting scheduled to be held June 3, 2021, in Langford.

District 1 and District 7 Director Seats are up for election, with both incumbent directors filing petitions for re-election to the Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors.

District 1

Andrea Kilker, Lake City, officially filed her petition and will be the District 1 candidate on the ballot for election at

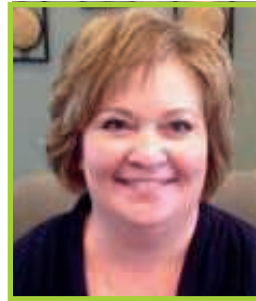
the 80th Annual Meeting.

No other petitions were filed by the respective date, 45 days prior to the annual meeting.

District 7

Amy Kuecker, Webster, will be the official District 7 candidate on the ballot for election at the 80th Annual Meeting by officially filing her petition with the cooperative.

No other petitions were filed by the respective date, 45 days prior to the annual meeting.



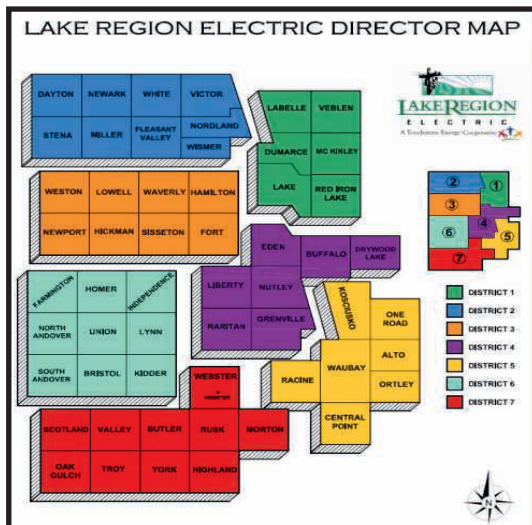
Andrea Kilker

District 1



Amy Kuecker

District 7



Sample Ballot

Based upon filed petitions.
80th Annual Meeting – June 3rd, 2021

District #1:

LaBelle, Veblen, Dumarce, McKinley, Lake and Red Iron Lake

Candidate: Andrea Kilker

Write-in Candidate: _____

District #7:

Webster, Scotland, Valley, Butler, Rusk, Morton, Oak Gulch, Troy, York and Highland

Candidate: Amy Kuecker

Write-in Candidate: _____



Welcome New LREA Members

Mary Freudenthal
Brandon & Michelle Ruff
Anthony & Tanya McCarlson
Vold/Daberkow Cabin
Jennifer Sullivan
David Carroll
Jason & Sara Ahlgren
Samuel & Rebekah Swanson
Gabrielle Farmer
Diane Falk
Keith Kindelberger
John & Jackie Luttrell
Grandview Prairie Inc

LREA's 80th ANNUAL MEETING ENERGIZED FOR THE FUTURE

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 Langford, SD on June 3, 2021, 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 _____ at the Annual Membership
(print name of organization)

meeting of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. at Langford on June 3, 2021, in any and all business, including voting that may be conducted at said meeting.

Signature of Organization President

Date

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

May 21-23

Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Downtown, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 21-23

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, All State Parks and Recreation Areas, SD
605-773-3391

May 22

Frühlingsfest and Spring Market, Main Street, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

May 22

La Framboise Island Bike Race, Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD
605-224-7054

May 31

PPQG 25th Annual Quilt Show, Harding County REC Center, Buffalo, SD
605-641-5591

June 3-5

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show and Sale, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

June 3-6

Wheel Jam, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7340

June 4-5

State BBQ Championships, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7354

June 4-6

Black Hills Blues Stomp and Swamp Romp, Rush No More RV Resort and Campground, Sturgis, SD
605-347-2916



Czech Days, June 18-19, 2021 (Photo by Travel South Dakota)

June 4-6

Lake Andes Fish Days, City-wide, Lake Andes, SD
605-487-7694

June 5-6

18th Annual Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs Rodeo Grounds, Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-5720

June 5-6

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD
866-489-9241

June 12

Yankton Ribfest, Downtown, Yankton, SD
866-260-2134

June 18-19

Czech Days, Lidice Street, Tabor, SD
605-463-2478

June 17-20

South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Prentis Park, Vermillion, SD
605-622-0423

June 18, 25

River City Friday Nights, Downtown, Chamberlain, SD
605-234-4416

June 18-19

Wild Bill Days, Main Street, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

June 19

605 Summer Classic Beer and Music Festival, Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD
605-274-1999

June 19

South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation Prime Time Gala, Denny Sanford PREMIER Center, Sioux Falls, SD
605-945-2333

June 19-20

Aberdeen Arts in the Park, Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1557

June 25-27

Annual Main Street Arts and Crafts Festival, North River Street, Hot Springs, SD
605-440-2738

June 30-July 4

Annual Black Hills Roundup, 300 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD
605-723-2010

July 2-4

Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, Various Locations, Mobridge, SD
605-845-2387

July 10-11

50th Annual Brookings Summer Arts Festival, West Highway 14 and 1st Avenue, Brookings, SD
605-692-2787

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.