

Cooperative Connections

**A Fort Meade
History**

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A Mark of
Safety**

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Patriotism in Action



Tim McIntyre

General Manager
tmcintyre@lakeregion.coop

**Our top priority
is the safety
and health of
our employees.**

Lake Region Electric Association is taking the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously and we are making changes and decisions to continually respond to the situation while striving to provide the best service possible to our members.

I have stated this previously and I believe it is worth repeating: Our top priority is the safety and health of our employees. Cooperative employees are prepared to respond to any outages, should they arise, and we need to keep them safe. We rely on each of our employees individually and as a team to provide you, our member-owners, with reliable service. This can only be done if they remain healthy.

Some changes that we have implemented in order to facilitate the health and safety of our employees:

- Arranged for some employees to work remotely by setting office staff up with laptops and a cloud-based phone system so they can take your calls over their computer or cell phones. Someone is available during regular office hours to answer your calls. After hours, calls are answered at our call center and on-call crews are dispatched to handle outages and emergencies.
- Linemen and electricians are all assigned single vehicles in order to lessen contact. You may notice more trucks out on the roads due to this change.
- Doors remain locked at our offices and facilities. Members or contractors who need something can still call the office to make arrangements for materials.
- Meetings are held over telephone and the internet.

We are also very concerned for our members during this difficult time. We are doing what we can as a cooperative to help our members. Some things that we are doing to help our members:

- Capital credit refunds were disbursed a month early for active members. You will have seen this credit reflected on your April bill that you received in May.
- We are not currently charging late fees.
- Payment arrangements can be made for members who are unable to pay their entire bill on time.
- Referrals to resources that are set up to help people who legitimately cannot afford to pay their bill.

The latest decision is one that is not easily made. The annual meeting has been postponed until further notice. We always enjoy our annual meeting; this is a time that we meet with our member-owners. It is a time for interaction and to gather valuable input through face-to-face conversation. This is also a wonderful opportunity for our member-owners and employees to meet one another. Fellowship at the annual meeting has always been, and continues to be, important to us at Lake Region. We will keep you informed of plans for the 2020 annual meeting.

We are waiting for the time that we can open our doors and welcome members in for face-to-face conversations and even a traditional handshake. This will happen and we look forward to seeing you. Please call if you have any questions or even if you just need to talk.

Thank you and God Bless,
Tim McIntyre, CEO/General Manager



**Welcome
New LREA
Members**

Joan Kjorsvig
Greg & Amanda Stoeber
Cole Johnson
Shirley Gollnick
Cyrus Hawkins
Belinda Hanson
Sylvia Dunlap
IEA Constructors LLC

DO YOU DRIVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?

WE WOULD LIKE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!
WE ARE CONDUCTING
AN INFORMAL SURVEY
TO GATHER INFORMATION
ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLE
USE IN OUR AREA.
PLEASE CONTACT OUR
OFFICE!

Electric vehicle growth is expected to continue to rise across the U.S. There are also plans to install thousands of additional charging stations across the country. With the infrastructure in place, people will soon be able to drive electric from coast to coast with plenty of options to plug in along the way. Let's ride.

Advanced Energy

Contact Lake Region Electric Association Phone: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869

Email: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

Lake Region Electric Ripples

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-904)

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

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SHOWCASE YOUR SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Sign up for Lake Region Electric's Renewable Energy Credit (REC) program and power your home or business on renewable energy.

Lake Region Electric has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 100% renewable energy options.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Lake Region but, by participating in this program, your home or business will be supporting current and future renewable projects. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

**Contact us to learn more!
605.345.3379 OR 1.800.657.5869**

bkwasniewski@lakeregion.coop



**Lake Region
Electric Association
Offices Will be
Closed Friday, July 3rd**



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Summer Electrical Safety Tips

The summer is a season almost everyone looks forward to – after all, who doesn't love the warm temperatures that summer brings? Hanging by the pool, summer cookouts, and barbecues bring family and friends together. However, safety should still be your priority. If you don't want to ruin your summer fun due to the lack of electrical safety in your home, we've put together a list of summer electrical safety tips to follow:

- **Keep electronics away from the water** – If you've got an outdoor pool, then you might be thinking about throwing a little get together with friends and family – a pool party if you will. However, think twice about putting your new speakers or mp3 player right by the poolside. All electronics should be kept at least 10 feet away from the pool or any other water source. It doesn't matter how careful you are, accidents can and do happen.
- **Use outdoor-rated extension cords** – If you're going to set up your mp3 player or smartphone outside to play some music while you grill out, make sure that you are using the right extension cord. What is the right extension cord? One that is rated for outdoor use. There's a good chance it will be exposed to moisture outside – and an outdoor-rated extension cord will be able to handle small exposure to water.
- **Inspect your extension cords for damage** – Before using an extension cord, inspect it carefully for damage. The last thing you should do is use a damaged cord as it presents a safety risk – especially if you plan on using it outdoors. Any cracked extension cords or exposed wires should not be used outdoors.
- **Install GFCIs** – A GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) is a device that can help improve the safety of your outlets. Outlets that are near water sources, such as outdoor outlets or bathroom outlets, should have GFCIs installed. A GFCI will shut off the power to the outlet if the circuit is compromised, such as if it gets exposed to water, a spilled drink, etc. This will help to improve the security of your electrical appliances as well as the safety of those in your home.
- **Trim your tree branches** – If the branches on your property are growing a little too close to any power lines, have them trimmed to prevent any downed power lines during high winds or thunderstorms.
- **Don't fly kites or drones near power lines** – If you have power lines that are located relatively close to your home, instruct your children (if you have any) not to fly their kites or model drones in this area. These types of airborne toys should be reserved for flight in wide open spaces, like the park.
- **Know where your breaker box is** – If there's an electrical emergency in your home, then you'll need to know where the breaker box is so that you can shut off the power in a hurry.

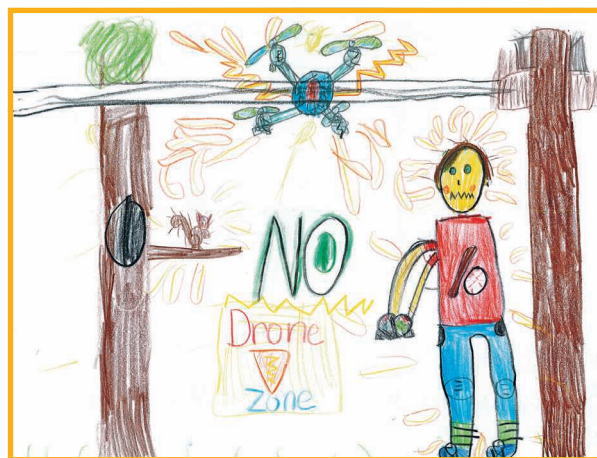
Source: www.jaffeelectric.com

Four common culprits of electrical fires

There are 24,000 electrical fires per year across the country. To reduce your risk for damage, check the following areas of your home:

- **Electrical outlets:** Faulty outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.
- **Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, contact a qualified electrician.
- **Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into extension cords, it's time to have additional outlets installed.
- **Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"No drone zone."

Alli Bares, 9 years old

Alli is the daughter of Tony and Angie Bares, Sioux Falls, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, 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 Desserts

Aloha Cake

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 pkg. (2-layer size) yellow cake mix | instant pudding mix |
| 4 tsp. McCormick® Coconut Extract with Other Natural Flavors, divided | 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained |
| 1 pkg. (4-serving size) vanilla | 1 (8 oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed |

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, stirring in 3 tsp. of the coconut flavor. Pour into greased and floured 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan. Prepare pudding mix as directed on package, stirring in remaining 1 tsp. coconut flavor. Spread pineapple and pudding over cake. Frost with whipped topping. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve. Makes 24 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 188, Total Fat 8g, Cholesterol 28mg, Sodium 221mg, Carbohydrates 27g, Fiber 0g, Protein 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Buster Bar Dessert

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream |
| 2/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips | 1-1/2 cups Spanish peanuts, optional |
| 2 cups powdered sugar | Crust: |
| 1-1/2 cups evaporated milk, divided | 1 lb. Oreo cookies |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | 1/4 cup melted butter |

Melt butter in heavy saucepan. Add chocolate chips, stirring constantly. Put powdered sugar in mixing bowl; add 1/2 cup evaporated milk, stirring well. Add remaining evaporated milk. Pour mixture into melted butter and chocolate chips, stirring constantly. Bring to a boil, turn heat to medium and boil 8 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat; add 1 vanilla. Cool completely. **For crust:** Crush Oreo cookies; add butter, mixing well. Press into a 9x13-inch pan. Put pan into freezer. When frozen, quickly spread ice cream over cookie crust. Sprinkle peanuts over crust, if desired, before adding ice cream. Freeze for at least 2 hours. When ice cream layer is completely frozen, quickly pour cooled chocolate layer on top; return to freezer. Can be prepared several days ahead of time.

Betty Leuthold, Magnolia, MN

Summer Peach Dessert

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 14 graham crackers, finely crushed | 24 large marshmallows |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1/2 cup milk |
| 1/4 cup melted butter | 2 cups whipped topping |
| | 3 cups chopped peaches |

Mix graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter until well blended; reserving a few crumbs for top. Press mixture into a 9x9-inch pan. Heat marshmallows and milk until melted; cool. Fold in whipped topping and peaches. Spread over crust, sprinkling reserved crumbs over all. Chill.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD

Raspberry Delight

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2-1/4 cups flour | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 2 T. sugar | 2 cups Cool Whip |
| 3/4 cup butter, softened | Topping: |
| Filling: | 1 (6 oz.) pkg. raspberry gelatin |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 2 cups boiling water |
| 1 cup powdered sugar | 2 (10 oz.) pkgs. sweetened, frozen raspberries |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | |

In a bowl, combine flour and sugar; blend in butter with wooden spoon until smooth. Press into an ungreased 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 300°F. for 20 to 25 minutes or until set (crust will not brown). Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread over crust. For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in raspberries. Chill for 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken. Spoon over filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares; garnish with additional Cool Whip, if desired. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Our Goal is to Make Members Happy

Laura London

LLondon@lakeregion.coop

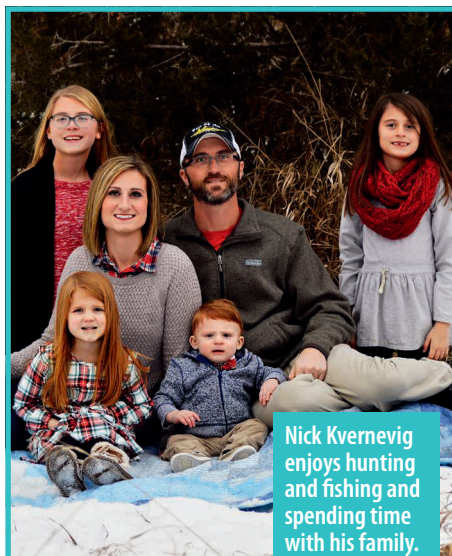
The Member Services Department at Lake Region has been busy, despite the pandemic.

While visits to members' homes had been put on hold for a while, they are resuming. Members needing work done inside their home, or inside a structure, should be prepared to answer a few questions. If at any time you or the LREA employee feels uncomfortable, the visit may be rescheduled.

When asked about how they felt about restrictions and what has been going on, the response was a resounding, "We are ready to get back to normal."

The Member Services Department is comprised of a six-man team. Manager Brett Kwasniewski, Journeyman Electricians Nick Kvernevig and Zac Bremmon, Apprentice Electrician Vinson Dargatz, Materials Clerk Leonard Deibert and Custodian Kurt Hoines.

Brett Kwasniewski began his career at Lake Region nearly 16 years ago when he was hired as summer help (1,000-hour worker), then was hired as a permanent Journeyman Electrician. He acquired his Electrical Contractor's License in 2010. He was



Nick Kvernevig enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time with his family.

started working at LREA nine years ago. He actually became a Journeyman Electrician just a couple of months after his job began at Lake Region. Nick finds his job rewarding. He loves being with the members and making them happy. The feeling Nick gets from having a satisfied customer smiling with a guarantee to call back when they need more work done is indescribable, "It just makes you feel good," he said. It can be frustrating to get called



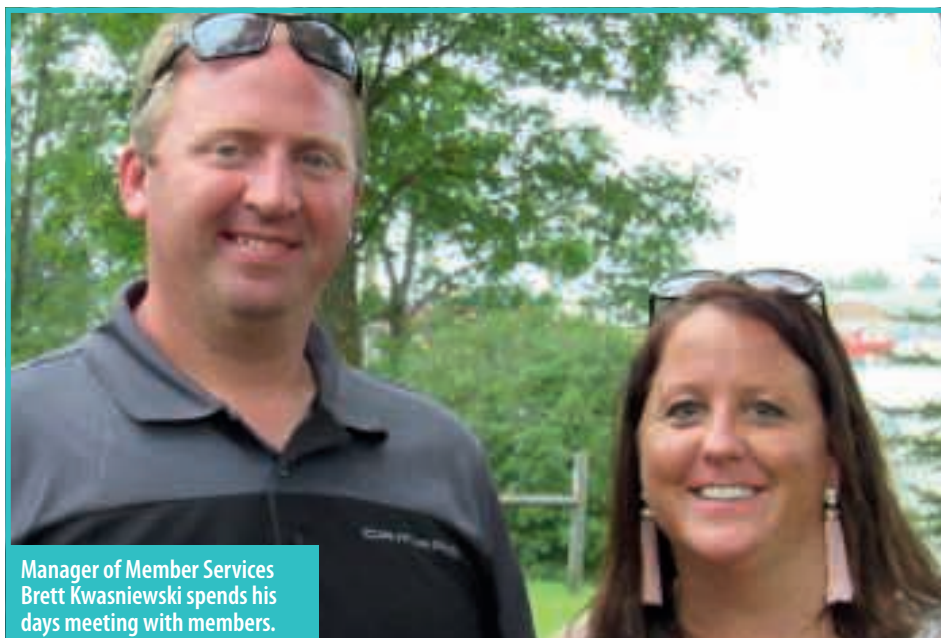
Leonard Deibert has served Lake Region members for 11 years.

away from his family for an emergency or during a storm to power up someone's generator, but the members wanting to give grateful hugs with tears in their eyes make it worth it. When Nick is not working, he loves to spend time with his family. He enjoys gardening, hunting and fishing. One of Nick's most appreciated hobbies is his skills at barbecuing on his pellet grill. In fact, Nick fired up his grill in his garage this past January to smoke some

We are ready to get back to normal.

promoted to his current position, Manager of Member Services, in 2013. Brett spends his days meeting with members, discussing, planning and scheduling work to be done. He manages other aspects of Member Services such as youth programs and scholarships, tours for adults and youth and other community activities. Assigning jobs and tasks in a prioritizing manner can sometimes be difficult, but he makes it work.

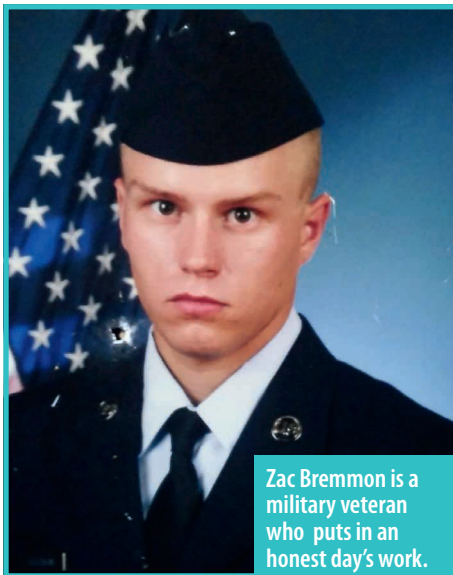
Journeyman Electrician Nick Kvernevig



Manager of Member Services Brett Kwasniewski spends his days meeting with members.

delicious prime rib for the LREA Employee Christmas Party!

Zac Bremmon's decision to become a Journeyman Electrician was based on several factors, mostly the practicality of the job led him to this career. Zac figured that there is job security in this type of work, "Everyone is going to need electricity and electricians are always going to have work." Zac is an avid outdoorsman and being able to do "an honest day's work" while spending time outside is a bonus. Though the elements are not always favorable, and the rural terrain can present challenges, Zac would still rather be out helping members than in the office doing paperwork. Zac served in the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard 114th Fighter Wing out of Sioux Falls for six years. During his service, Zac worked in aerospace propulsion, providing maintenance support for the F-15 aircraft. Member Services Manager Brett Kwasniewski proudly displays a certificate from



Zac Bremmon is a military veteran who puts in an honest day's work.

the Office of the Secretary of Defense in his office, presented to him by Zac, recognizing Brett and Lake Region Electric as a Patriotic Employer.

Vinson Dargatz is an Apprentice Electrician with Lake Region. For the past seven years, Vince has approached every job assigned to him with enthusiasm and a positive attitude that is contagious. Vinson likes working with his hands and fixing things for the members. He really enjoys learning about the job, and also about the members he is working for. His face lights up when recounting a story from a member about a



Custodian Kurt Hoines keeps the facilities in order.

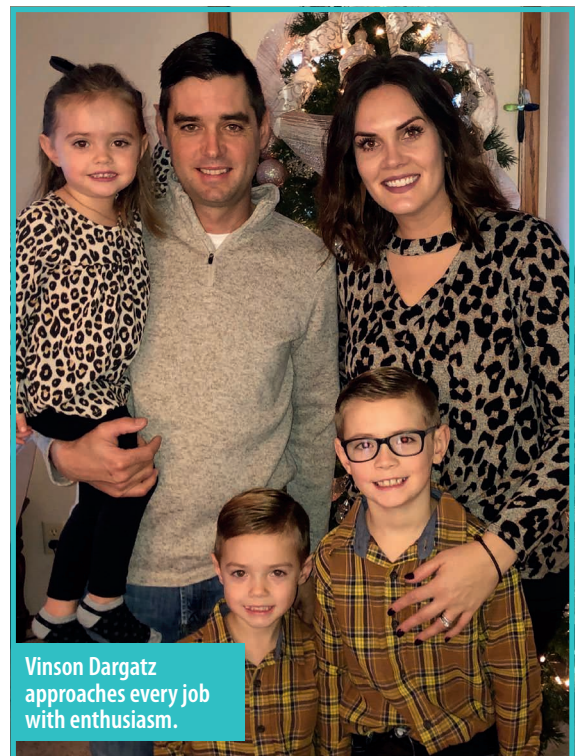
full-sized stuffed (taxidermy) bull in a man's living room. Vinson's favorite part of his job is making people happy. It is rare to see Vinson without a smile on his face. Vinson enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three children and they spend as much time as they can outdoors fishing, maybe a little dirt-bike riding and just plain having fun!

Material Clerk Leonard Deibert has been with Lake Region for 11 years. When asked what he likes most about his job, Leonard quickly replied, "Helping people!" Leonard is the guy you talk to when you need parts. He really loves to help members determine exactly what they need when they call the office or stop in, with a description of what they need. Another favorite aspect of Leonard's job is helping the linemen and electricians on jobs. Even though he didn't mention it, it is understood that one of the least enjoyed jobs is inventory. There are a lot of parts to keep track of at an electrical co-op, but Leonard manages to do it well. The biggest change that Leonard has seen in his time at Lake Region is how the product is always changing and evolving to become more energy efficient. Leonard spends a lot of time fishing and hunting, often joined by his two daughters. Leonard's oldest daughter is graduating from high school this year so there are some big changes happening at home, not

to mention the challenges they are facing trying to plan graduation ceremonies and celebrations and getting started with college during a pandemic. Leonard is a volunteer firefighter, accustomed to adverse conditions, so he will adapt and overcome these changes as well.

Kurt Hoines has the title of Custodian at Lake Region, but like many cooperative employees, he wears many hats. Kurt is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the office buildings, shops and warehouses. He is the groundskeeper and head "fix-it" go-to guy. This job is different than his previous work and he enjoys the variety: "I am learning all the time!" While his favorite thing to do is work in the shop doing maintenance, he really likes the learning aspect of the job. Kurt is frequently called upon to help out on job sites to do a variety of things. Although Kurt and his wife currently enjoy their home living the lake life, Kurt spent a good portion of his life helping on the farm. One of the things that has surprised him since he began his career at LREA is the number of poles and lines that are hit by equipment and vehicles.

The Member Services Department is here and ready to assist you; from repairing or replacing a yard light to wiring a new building, and all things in between, these guys want to help. Give Brett a call to discuss your electrical needs!



Vinson Dargatz approaches every job with enthusiasm.



The Old Fort Meade Museum details the history of Fort Meade, its residents, life as a cavalry officer and military history throughout the 66-year history of the fort.

FORT MEADE

Historic Outpost Has Varied Past

Susan Smith

Contributing Writer

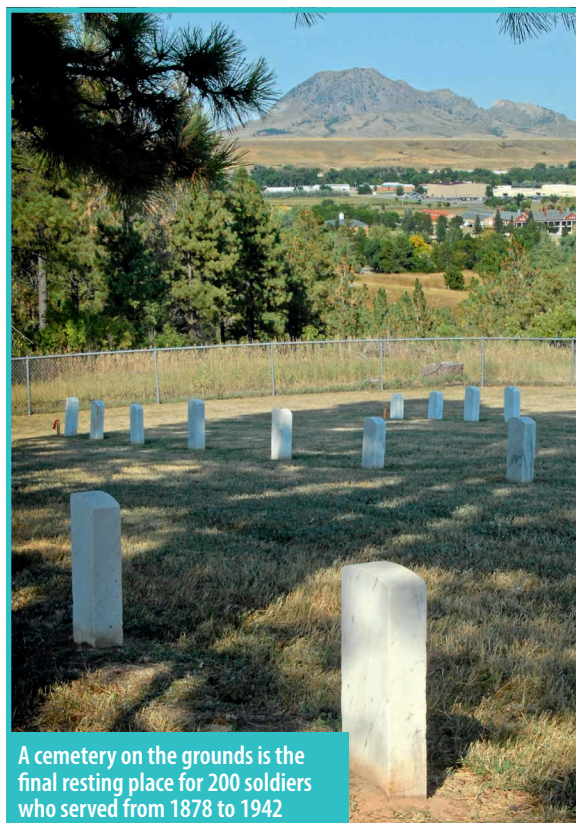
Named for Civil War Gen. George Meade, Fort Meade was built as a peacekeeping military outpost in 1878, two years after the infamous Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The fort provided an early customer base to the town of Sturgis, named for 7th Cavalry commander Col. Samuel Sturgis. According to fortmeademuseum.org, General Phil Sheridan, a Civil War Cavalry leader, selected the location after riding around the then-envisioned mile-square grounds and pointing to the location of future buildings with his saber.

“The fort was established to provide protection for the stage lines and freight routes that came in here as well as the miners and the settlers that came into the area for the many gold locations in the Black Hills and the Deadwood area,” said Robert Kusser, current president of the Fort Meade Museum Board.

Many of the buildings on the grounds of Fort Meade are from the 1900s. One building remains from 1878 and stables that were there from the beginning were rebuilt from wood to stone. Kusser said cannon wheels that are rimmed in steel but have wooden spokes were refurbished and ready for the coming tourist season. Artist Len McCann created figurines of soldiers that are on display in the museum. An exhibit of the U.S.S. Constitution is also on display. Unfortunately, COVID-19 sidelined many plans for the 2020 season, Kusser said. The museum will be opening for the summer 2020 as soon as possible.

Unlike most forts of the era, where hardly anything of significance remains, Fort Meade is still involved with military training with the South Dakota Army National Guard, which holds officer candidate training each summer. When the fort was officially deactivated in 1944, the Veterans Administration was approached to take over the post hospital, the VA Black Hills Health Care System, which cares for veterans in a 200-mile radius and also maintains the complex. A cemetery overlooking the fort is the final resting place for 200-plus



A cemetery on the grounds is the final resting place for 200 soldiers who served from 1878 to 1942

Fort Meade is still attached to the South Dakota National Guard, which holds officer candidate training at the fort each summer.

soldiers, family members and employees who served from 1878 to 1942, Kusser said. Streets that pass around the original parade field and buildings are still occupied and historically maintained.

"We're fortunate to still be able to maintain a visual presence of history," Kusser said.

The 4th Cavalry, one of the units stationed longest, and two separate times at Fort Meade, provided security when President Calvin Coolidge was at the game lodge in Custer State Park, a summer White House in the Black Hills, in 1927. The cavalry unit was deployed to the European theater in World War II.

Kusser said beginning in June 1945, 113 POWs were housed at the fort. That number grew to 600 by 1946. They worked in the



Belle Fourche region in agriculture, mainly to help with beet farming. They also did community work and helped convert the fort from an active military post to a veteran's hospital by doing stonework and creating sidewalks.

After his retirement from state government, Kusser was director of the Fort Meade Museum for several years. The three-story building he still oversees as board president houses numerous artifacts commemorating the history of the fort and recreating what life was like as a cavalry soldier.

The museum is organized around the 66-year history of the fort, with most of that information on the main floor, Kusser said. The lower level includes more military displays and the top floor features a ballroom and views of Bear Butte, the parade field and a view of the prairie. The museum also contains information about the early days of the town of Sturgis.

The Old Fort Meade Museum is located in the historic headquarters building 55, Sheridan Street on Fort Meade, one mile east of Sturgis on Hwy. 34.

Co-ops and the Old Nut Box

There are few things more satisfying for a pack rat than to find just the right thingamajig at the bottom of a growing pile of doodads.

I know a guy who has so much stuff stashed in his storeroom, it's like walking through a dense jungle forest. You never know when you might need a backup buggy whip. Or the crusty motherboard of a Commodore C64. Or a clutch release bearing for a 1956 Farmall tractor.

Every now and again, I'll put him to the test...

"I was looking for a book of Green Stamps from June of 1975. Can you sort through all that clutter and see if you can find one for me?"

Or, "Hey, I need a 26-inch inner tube for a 1962 Huffy Aerowind bicycle. Can you help me out with that?"

He hasn't managed to fulfill any of my quirky requests so far, but he'll spend all day and half the night searching.

While my own garage is only mildly untidy, I did have one of those pack rat discovery moments recently when I was working on my son's 2000 Honda 80R. Not that I'm much of a motorcycle mechanic, but I had to crack the carburetor open to clean out the pilot jet and discovered I needed a replacement bolt.

I contemplated a trip to my local Hanks Hardware, but then I remembered what my Dad used to call "the nut box." Not a very descriptive name, to be sure, but this nut box has some unique characteristics. First of all, it's not really a box. It's a round container made of heavy metal that my father had back when he was a young man and a pretty decent mechanic.

And like any good pack rat, I've been hanging onto that thing through every change in address and spring cleaning session for decades.

Another unique quality of the nut box is that over the years it has been repainted many times and many colors with the kind of paint that would trigger a code-red biohazard alert by today's standards.

But the nut box has been around so long even that super industrial strength paint is peeling off. Though I tried to mitigate the damage, a chunk of dime-thick paint flew off when I wedged open the top of the container.

Clawing through a thousand nuts, bolts, screws and some stray nails, I lucked up and grabbed just the size I was looking for. Small victories, I know.

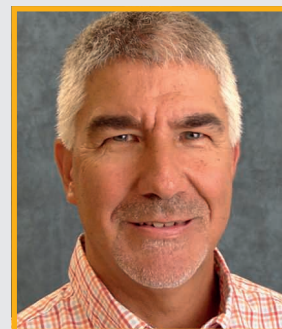
That dip into the nut box came to mind when I received a package from a faithful Cooperative Connections reader. The note inside stated: "I've enclosed an ad from a 1961 newspaper you might be interested in. My mom kept some old newspapers in her boxes and I found it there."

The focal point of this gentle reader's curiosity was a full-page spread featuring a caricature image of the sun wearing a pair of sunglasses, displaying a wide smile and sporting an incandescent light bulb for a nose.

The headline read: "Casting light on what rural electric cooperatives really mean to South Dakota." The page was filled with information about what rural electric co-ops are, what they aren't, and why they're good for the state.

When it comes to the mission of rural electric co-ops, not much has changed through the decades. Our co-ops are still firmly committed to serving our members as they were on the day they were founded.

Serving homes and businesses the safe, affordable, reliable power they need is what we've done and will continue to do. That's a responsibility and a purpose that will be around even longer than that trusty old nut box.



Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

Member Services

What Do These Guys Do?

Some of the services available:

- **Assist members with usage questions, concerns and conservation.**
- **Rebates for energy efficient commercial lighting upgrades, air to air heat pumps, energy efficient water heaters with lifetime warranty, geothermal heat pumps.**
- **Electrical wiring, just as any electrical contractor. (Trenching and aerial service available.)**
- **locating and repairing underground faults.**
- **Yard light repair and installation.**
- **Load Controlling: industrial loads, irrigation, water heaters, air conditioning, electric heat metering.**
- **Customer requested secondary locates.**
- **Other electrical services as requested.**



Contact Brett Kwasniewski: 605-345-3379
bkwasniewski@lakeregion.coop

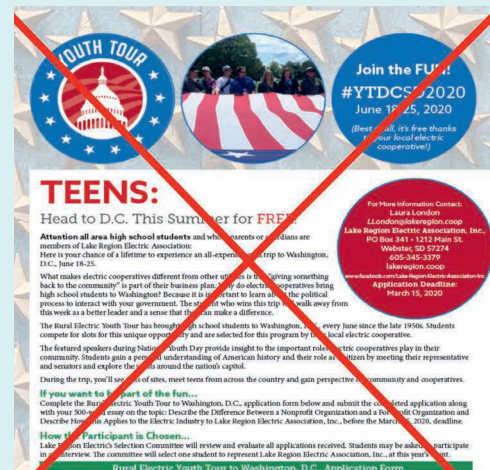



Covid-19 causes event cancellations

Our energy partners have decided, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, to cancel all tours and excursions planned for this summer. We are disappointed to share this news with our members because we look forward to these fun and educational trips with our members every year. We encourage everyone to plan on attending next year. Please call our office if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Brett Kwasniewski





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A MATTER OF TRUST AND SAFETY

The UL symbol marks safety of products for consumers across the globe

Brenda Kleinjan

Contributing Writer

Have you ever examined the hairdryer you use each morning? How about the coffee pot or the cords of your cell phone charger? Chances are they bear a circle with an “UL” inside. If not, they probably should.

That UL symbol is not a talisman but rather an indicator that the product used has been tested and is designed to operate as intended safely.

“When people see that UL mark on the product when they’re shopping – when they see that mark of safety – they know they can trust it has been certified by a third-party organization as safe,” said Jonette Herman, a Standards Engineer/Project Manager for Underwriters Laboratories Inc., based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Herman, a South Dakota native, develops safety standards. UL maintains more than 1,600 safety standard documents that define how they test and certify that a product is safe.

As an organization, Underwriters Laboratories is dedicated to fostering safe living and working conditions to people throughout the world.



“We do that through science and hazard-based safety engineering,” said Herman. Simplified, Herman says they look at an object and determine where the hazards might be.

“I grew up in Pierre. In high school, I always thought I’d be good at making sure that things work the way they should,” said Herman. That led her to the University of Minnesota where she pursued a degree in electrical engineering.

“I remember looking at my hairdryer and seeing that UL mark and wondering what it was about. After college, I moved out to North Carolina and found that UL was located there,” Herman said.

That was 27 years ago. Since then Herman has worked on making products from chainsaws to appliances to motors and batteries safer.

“Several years ago, I worked on the chainsaw standards. We were finding a lot of those injuries were due to fatigue and the operators not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). That’s when accidents were occurring,” Herman said.

UL continued to analyze the equipment.

“Instruction manuals include important information that people should read,” Herman said. But, knowing that many people don’t read the manuals, UL seeks to ensure that “safety is built into the product as much as possible.”

“That’s part of that safety-based hazard approach. We

look at the product and how it’s used,” Herman said.

Worldwide, UL has more than 14,000 employees. In the non-profit portion of UL which Herman works, there are more than 200 people dedicated to research and education.

Today, Herman’s work focuses on wire positioning devices, motors and generators and energy storage, and energy distribution, among other areas.

“We’re constantly seeing new technologies introduced. All this innovation inherently creates risk.”



Jonette Herman
Standards
Engineer/Project
Manager
Underwriters
Laboratories, Inc.



Underwriters Laboratories

More than 400 panels and committees work with UL in developing the standards for various products. The panels and committees are comprised of an array of stakeholders including producers of the products, regulators and consumers.

“It’s important for consumers to educate themselves. How do they know a new product is safe? Looking for that certification on the product is helpful to the consumers.”

UL is working to make lithium ion battery storage safer. Herman cautioned that excessive damage to a product with a lithium ion battery, such as caused by repeated dropping, could cause it to go into thermal runaway, causing it to overheat and potentially catch fire.



Construction Season 2020 is in the Works

Big plans mean big improvements ahead

Laura London

LLondon@lakeregion.coop

LREA crews have big plans for this construction season. Typically, plans target an area and try to increase the reliability of our infrastructure, as well as to our members. Construction this season will start at Andover then move north of Webster. We will also be working north of Britton and on the west side of Pickerel Lake. If things go well, some work will take place on the south side of Clear Lake.

According to Operations Manager Jim Grimes, “The high water is presenting new challenges as we begin construction season, finding cable routes and dry roads to work from.” This is something that LREA crews experienced, along with many of our members, last year as well. K&H Electric out of Linton, N.D., will be working with LREA again this summer. They are, however, at the mercy of COVID-19 guidelines and mother nature.

Utilities Specialist Nathan Baumgarn expands on the construction, “Forty miles of underground line doesn’t seem like a lot, but there is a lot of work that goes into replacing a line. Easements and meeting with members and landowners to discuss concerns, deciding on routes of the new powerline, and the biggest task, of course, is getting the project completed in a timely matter. Chipping away at the system infrastructure 30-50 miles per year really will pay dividends in the long run for LREA. Our construction season is a pretty tight window when you look at it. With wet spring conditions and potential early freeze up, it necks our construction season down to 5-6 months in most years.”

On top of the underground line construction and conversion, our crew of five linemen must attend to the needs of our members on a daily basis, as well as emergency and storm response.

New construction will result in improvements in system reliability.



Planned Construction

- Replacing 2 miles of aging 3 phase underground line going north out of the Andover substation.
- Installing roughly 7 miles of new underground line north out of the Webster IP substation.
- Installing 3 phase underground on the west side of Pickerel Lake that will tie together the west and north circuits out of the Grenville substations.
- Installing approximately 15 miles of underground line on the Britton northwest circuit, to complete this circuit to nearly 100 percent underground from the substation.



Installing or replacing underground lines presents problems not encountered with overhead construction.

LREA Welcomes Spencer Rausch to the Crew

Laura London

LLondon@lakeregion.coop

Lake Region Electric Association welcomes Spencer Rausch to the team. Spencer has been hired as a Journeyman Lineman, a permanent position in the Operations Department. He isn't exactly new to the team, as Spencer initially joined Lake Region Electric Association in May of 2016 as a temporary, 1,000-hour lineworker, assisting the operations department during the busy construction season. He returned again for the summer of 2017 to assist with the busy

construction. He then returned to Mitchell Technical Institute to complete courses in GPS GIS Mapping. After completing his degree in Utilities Technology from Mitchell Technical Institute, Spencer returned home to Webster and has worked for KMI electrical, Plumbing & HVAC. An avid outdoorsman, Spencer is "Excited to be back!" His favorite part of utility work is being outside, working with his hands, even in the adverse conditions that are often faced by the LREA crews.

The LREA Board of Directors approved hiring a full time Journeyman Lineman a couple of years ago but hiring on a new

lineman can take some time and planning. Business needs continue to grow, and it was determined that adding another lineman shouldn't be put off any longer. After posting the position, reviewing resumes, and doing some reference checks, the candidates were narrowed down. Interviews were conducted, then COVID-19 hit, so bringing in a new employee was put on hold for a short time. There were a lot of great candidates, but it was ultimately decided to offer the position to Rausch. Manager of Operations, Jim Grimes, stated, "This is the right time to bring someone on and he was the right choice."

Spencer is a Webster High School graduate and received his Lineman Degree as well as his degree in Utilities Technology from Mitchell Technical Institute.



Pictured above are General Manager Tim McIntyre, new employee Spencer Rausch and Manager of Operations Jim Grimes.

Spencer is a Webster High School graduate and received his Lineman Degree as well as his degree in Utilities Technology from Mitchell Technical Institute. Welcome Spencer, Lake Region is happy to have you on the crew!



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

August 4-6

Minnesota Farmfest
28269 Hwy 67, Edenburg, MN
800-881-1007
www.ideagroup.com/farmfest

September 3-5

South Dakota State Fair:
Perfect Vision of Fun,
1060 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD
800-529-0900
www.sdstatefair.com

July 3, 18, 25 and August 1, 22

The Murder of Miss Kitty
Comedy Mystery Dinner
Theater, Holiday Inn Express
& Suites, Deadwood, SD,
605-580-5799

June 19, 26 and July 3, 10

River City Friday Nights, 6
to 10 p.m., Live music, beer
garden, vendors, food trucks,
games and activities, Main
Street, Chamberlain, SD,
605-683-9051

June 27

Railroad Day, Prairie Village,
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

June 28

Variety Show, Prairie Village,
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

July 18-19

Charles Mix Saddle Club
Fourth Annual SDRA Rodeo,
Geddes, SD, 605-680-1580

July 18-21

Senior Games, Rapid City,
SD, Contact Eric Holmes at
605-394-4175



July 3:

Independence Day celebrations at
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
[www.nps.gov/moru/planyourvisit/
independence-day-events.htm](http://www.nps.gov/moru/planyourvisit/independence-day-events.htm)

July 21-25

98th Annual Days of '76 PRCA
Rodeo, Arena, Deadwood,
SD, 1-888-838-BULL,
www.DAYSOF76.com

July 23-24

Jr. Miss Rodeo South Dakota
Pageant, The Lodge and Days
of '76 Rodeo, Deadwood, SD,
605-641-8604,
jrmissrsd@gmail.com

July 24-25

Senior Games, Brookings,
SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at
605-692-4492

July 26

15th Annual Car Show
Langford, SD, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
605-493-6597

July 31-August 1

Senior Games, Yankton,
SD, Contact Kristi Hauer at
605-665-4685

July 31-August 1

Plein Air & Arts in the Garden,
Wessington Springs, SD,
605-354-3826

August 1

Rockin' Ribfest BBQ
Competition, Wessington
Springs, SD, 605-505-1135

August 1

Foothills Classic, Wessington
Springs, SD, 605-350-1687

August 8-9

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks,
SD, www.threshingshow.com

August 8-10

Red Power Round Up,
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,
605-460-0197

August 22

World of Outlaw Sprint Car
Races plus Wissota MWM,
Dakota State Fair Speedway,
Huron, SD, 605-352-4848

September 7

Hidewood Valley Steam
Threshing Show, 1 p.m.,
47326 183rd Ave., Clear Lake,
SD, 605-881-8405

September 12-13

Fall Harvest Festival,
Delmont, SD, 605-928-3792,
www.twinriversoldiron.org

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.