

Lake Region Electric

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 2020 Vol. 21 No. 1

Cooperative Connections

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Mistake:
Lessons
Learned**

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Critical Role in
COVID Fight**

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LREA and COVID-19



Tim McIntyre

General Manager
tmcintyre@lakeregion.coop

“Cooperative employees are prepared to respond to any outages, should they arise, and we need to keep them safe.”

Dear Member-Owners of Lake Region Electric Association,

The coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread throughout our country and state. This is a very fluid situation and operating procedures are subject to change at Lake Region Electric Association in order to accommodate the needs of our employees while providing reliable electric service to our member-owners.

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 have also made arrangements for some employees to work remotely, if necessary.

In order to help flatten the curve of the spread of COVID-19 and to help keep our employees healthy so that we can continue to provide you with reliable electric service, we are implementing the following:

DOORS AT LREA FACILITIES ARE LOCKED.

Current employees of LREA are the only people permitted inside until further notice.

PERSONNEL WILL RESPOND TO POWER OUTAGES.

- Members should call our office for assistance with power issues.
- We are rescheduling and postponing non-emergency visits to member’s homes.
- We are cleaning and sanitizing more frequently throughout LREA facilities.
- We are minimizing unnecessary group interaction.
- We are coordinating with interdependent utility contractors and suppliers to evaluate how operations could be impacted by potential disruptions.
- Contractors or members needing to pick up items **must call ahead to make arrangements** for pick-up or drop-off of items. They may not enter LREA offices or buildings.
- Vendors must schedule visits at a later time.
- Deliveries may be left outside or in designated areas during business hours.

Billing cycles will remain the same. Members are encouraged to pay bills using **SmartHub** or via phone. Members who do not have access to these options may mail in payment or use the marked drop box located near the southwest corner of our headquarters.

Lake Region Electric Association will continue to monitor the situation closely and we will respond according to our emergency response plans as well as recommendations of federal, state and local governments, including the CDC and WHO. If you have electrical needs, please call our office.

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



Welcome New LREA Members

- Robert Conn
- Kevin Marsh
- Sullivan Frick
- Brandon & Ashley Smith
- Cody Heitmann
- Kristy & Ryan Scepaniak



LAKE REGION
ELECTRIC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Notice:
Due to COVID-19, the Lake Region Electric Association annual meeting may be rescheduled. Members will be notified.

Lake Region Electric Ripples

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-904)

Board of Directors

Kermit Pearson, President
Rodney Tobin, Vice President
Thomas Steiner, Secretary
Roger Kulesa, Treasurer
Andrea Kilker
Amy Kuecker
Mark Wismer
Danny Smeins, LREA Attorney

General Manager: Tim McIntyre

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.

Like us on Facebook:

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.

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

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

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

LREA 2020 Annual Meeting Notice

Lake Region Electric Association will host its 79th annual meeting in Langford on June 4 at 7 p.m. with a delicious, hot meal to be served beginning at 5 p.m. Your meal will be catered by a local business and will be served by the amazing employees of LREA! Following the meal, the annual meeting will commence where member-owners will hear from Lake Region's leaders about what has been happening around the service area, discuss future planning and present awards.

The Annual Meeting Notice will be sent to member-owners as a full letter. The letter should be brought to the annual meeting as your registration and door prize entrance. Active members will receive the letter in an envelope marked Annual Meeting Notice. The letter will have pertinent information regarding your LREA capital credits, annual meeting details and a contact update form. Registration is quick and easy with the annual meeting letter notice. A simple scan automatically marks the member as present and entitles the member to vote. This process will also assist LREA in tracking attendance numbers, district representation and other valid information.



We are here to serve you! Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.

From the LREA Bylaws

Meetings of Members

Annual Meeting: Article 3, Section 1

The annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time and place within a county served by the Cooperative, as selected by the Board of Directors and which shall be designated in the notice of the meeting, for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not result in a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

Notice of Members' Meetings: Article 3, Section 3

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten days nor more than sixty days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, to each member. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be given when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his/her address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

10 Steps to Avoid Scams

There are thousands of new scams every year and you can't keep up with all of them (we know, we try!). But if you can just remember these 10 things, you can avoid most scams and help protect yourself and your family.

- 1) Never send money to someone you have never met face-to-face.** Seriously, just don't ever do it. And really, really don't do it if they ask you to use wire transfer, a prepaid debit card or a gift card (those cannot be traced and are as good as cash).
- 2) Don't click on links or open attachments in unsolicited email.** Links can download malware onto your computer and/or steal your identity. Be cautious even with email that looks familiar; it could be fake.
- 3) Don't believe everything you see.** Scammers are great at mimicking official seals, fonts and other details. Just because a website or email looks official does not mean that it is. Even Caller ID can be faked.
- 4) Don't buy online unless the transaction is secure.** Make sure the website has "https" in the URL (the extra s is for "secure") and a small lock icon on the address bar. Even then, the site could be shady. Check out the company first at BBB.org. Read reviews about the quality of the merchandise and make sure you are not buying cheap and/or counterfeit goods.
- 5) Be extremely cautious when dealing with anyone you've met online.** Scammers use dating websites, Craigslist, social media and many other sites to reach potential targets. They can quickly feel like a friend or even a romantic partner, but that is part of the con to get you to trust them.
- 6) Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, even at your front door.** This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate and Social Security/Social Insurance numbers.
- 7) Don't be pressured to act immediately.** Scammers typically try to make you think something is scarce or a limited time offer. They want to push you into action before you have time to think or to discuss it with a family member, friend or financial advisor. High-pressure sales tactics are also used by some legitimate businesses, but it's never a good idea to make an important decision quickly.
- 8) Use secure, traceable transactions when making payments for goods, services, taxes and debts.** Do not pay by wire transfer, prepaid money card, gift card or other non-traditional payment method. Say no to cash-only deals, high pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, overpayments and handshake deals without a contract.
- 9) Whenever possible, work with local businesses that have proper identification, licensing and insurance, especially contractors who will be coming into your home or anyone dealing with your money or sensitive information.** Check them out at BBB.org to see what other consumers have experienced.
- 10) Be cautious about what you share on social media and consider only connecting with people you already know.** Be sure to use privacy settings on all social media and online accounts. Imposters often get information about their targets from their online interactions and can make themselves sound like a friend or family member because they know so much about you.

Source: www.bbb.org



Utility service has never been more important.

If you're planning landscaping or any other digging projects, contact 811 first – the kids telelearning and adults telecommuting will thank you.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call811.com/811-your-state




Stay safe during social distancing by calling 811 before starting any new project, so you can stay connected to the internet and utility services you rely on.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call811.com/811-your-state



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not play around electrical boxes."

Kayla Engelbrecht, 9 years old

Kayla is the grand-daughter of Alan and JoAnn Engelbrecht, Brandon, 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.

Comforting Casseroles

Chicken-Broccoli-Rice Casserole

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 lb. chicken tenders or boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch strips | 2 tsp. onion powder |
| 1 cup long grain rice | 1-1/2 tsp. rosemary leaves, crushed |
| 1-1/2 cups Kitchen Basics® Original Chicken Stock | 1/2 tsp. pepper |
| 1 cup milk | 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 2 tsp. garlic powder | 2 cups fresh or frozen broccoli florets |
| | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slowly pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake at 400°F. for 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender. Makes 6 (1 cup) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 317, Total Fat 9g, Cholesterol 69mg, Sodium 492mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Fiber 1g, Protein 28g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Ham and Rye Casserole

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 cup chopped onion | 1 (8 oz) pkg. American cheese, cubed |
| 1/2 cup chopped celery | 2-1/2 cups milk |
| 1/4 cup butter | 3 eggs |
| 4 cups cubed rye bread | 1-1/2 tsp. prepared mustard |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. ham, cut into strips or may use cubed ham | Salt and pepper, to taste |

In a saucepan, saute onion and celery in butter until tender. In a 2-quart buttered baking dish, combine onion, celery, bread, ham and half the cheese. In a bowl, beat together milk, eggs, mustard, salt and pepper until well blended. Pour over all; top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour or until golden brown and puffed.

Martha Mehlhaff, Aberdeen, SD

Corn Casserole

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup broken spaghetti, uncooked | 1/2 cup milk |
| 1 can cream-style corn | 1 can whole kernel corn |
| 1 cup cubed processed cheese | Diced onions, optional |
| | Salt and pepper to taste |

Combine all ingredients in a 1.5-quart casserole. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour, stirring after the first 30 minutes.

Emily Luikens, Tea, SD

Cheesy Potato Beef Bake

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 2 tsp. butter |
| 2 (4 oz. each) cans mushroom stems and pieces, drained | 1 tsp. salt |
| 2 (5-1/4 oz. each) pkgs. au gratin potatoes | 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt |
| 4 cups boiling water | 1/2 tsp. pepper |
| 1-1/3 cups milk | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

In a skillet over medium heat, cook beef until no longer pink; drain. Place in a greased 9x13-inch baking pan. Top with mushrooms. Combine potatoes and contents of sauce mix packets, water, milk, butter, salt, seasoned salt and pepper. Pour over beef and mushrooms. Cover and bake at 400°F. for 30 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, for 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or vegetarian recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Election to Be Held for Two Director Seats

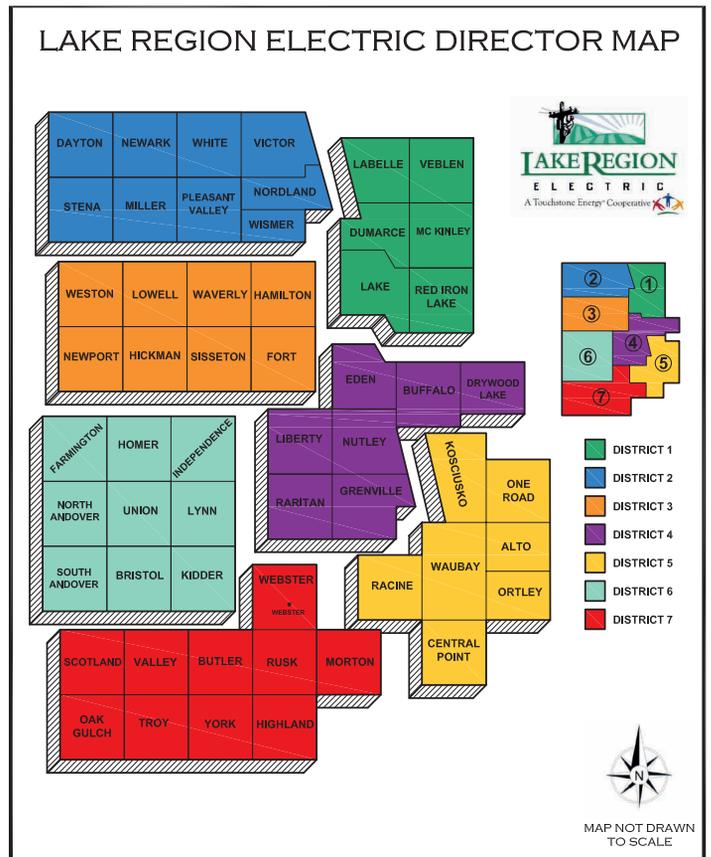
Democratic Member Control is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles guiding Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. (LREA). Cooperatives, like LREA, are democratic organizations, controlled by our members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Lake Region Electric Association is governed by a democratically elected board of directors; these elected representatives are accountable to the membership. The board of directors of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. consists of seven members. Board members are elected to three-year terms at the annual meeting.

Two director seats will be up for election at the LREA annual meeting to be held in Langford on June 4, 2020, at 7 p.m. The seats up for election are District 2 and District 4. Individuals who wish to run for the board must file a petition signed by fifteen (15) fellow members 45 days prior to the annual meeting. Potential director candidates must be an active member of LREA and agree to attend all meetings. Nominations can be accepted from the floor during the annual meeting. Candidates will be published in the “Annual Meeting Notice to Members.”

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

Our service area is divided into seven districts, as shown on the Lake Region Electric Director Map, with each district being represented by an elected official. This year, District 2 and District 4 are up for election. District 2, highlighted in blue, includes the townships of Dayton, Newark, White, Victor, Stena, Miller, Pleasant Valley, Nordland and Wismer. District 4 townships, highlighted in purple, include Eden, Liberty, Raritan, Grenville, Nutley, Buffalo and Drywood Lake.

District 2 is currently represented by Director Mark Wismer. District 4 is currently represented by Director Thomas Steiner.



Both incumbents are eligible for re-election.

Members living in these districts who are interested in serving on the Lake Region Electric Association board of directors are encouraged to call 605-345-3379, toll free: 1-800-657-5869 or stop by our office at 1212 Main Street in Webster for more information or to request a petition. Those wishing to make a nomination from the floor must call the office in advance of the annual meeting to pre-check the candidate for eligibility.

Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., Board of Directors



Andrea Kilker
District 1



Mark Wismer
District 2



Kermit Pearson
District 3



Thomas Steiner
District 4



Roger Kulesa
District 5



Rodney Tobin
District 6



Amy Kuecker
District 7

Bylaws

A full and true copy of the Bylaws of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. is available to all members in a 20-page booklet. The document can be viewed in digital format by visiting the website: Lakeregion.coop and clicking on "Cooperative Mission and Guiding Principles" from the drop-down menu of the "myCooperative tab" near the top of the home page. Any member who wishes to receive a printed copy can stop by the LREA office at 1212 Main Street, Webster or call and request that one be mailed to you 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.

Section 3. Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is a close relative (father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandchildren, first cousins or stepchild) of an incumbent director or of an employee of the Cooperative, or is not a member in good standing of the Cooperative and receiving service at his/her primary residential abode or primary business, which must be located in the directorate district that the director is to represent; PROVIDED, that the designated representative of any non-human member, such as a corporation or its designee, shall notwithstanding that he/she does not receive services from the Cooperative at his/her primary residential abode, be eligible to become a director if (1) he/she is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Cooperative, and (2) is a permanent and year-round resident within the Cooperative's service area or residing not more than fifty (50) miles from the principal location of the non-human member that is being served by the Cooperative; BUT PROVIDED FURTHER, that no more than one such person as the designated representative may serve on the Board at the same time and in the event that he/she should resign or is unwilling to so act, that directorship shall become vacant. No person may become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in the Cooperative who does not have the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract, or is in any way employed

Section 4. Nominations

Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make nominations for Board of Directors by a petition filed not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. If no nominating petitions are filed, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days before the annual meeting at which directors are elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than four (4) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from districts in which the vacancy exists so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on the committee. The committee shall prepare and file a report, at least twenty (20) days before the annual meeting, of a list of nominations for directors in such districts where no nominating petitions have been filed.

by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business providing electric services to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electric appliances, fixtures or supplies to, among others, the members of the Cooperative. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who is not at least eighteen (18) years of age. No ex-employee, either retired or terminated, will be eligible to become a director of the Cooperative for at least 5 years after their employment ends. If a nominee for director lacks eligibility under this paragraph or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, the chairperson presiding at the meeting at which such nominee would otherwise be voted upon shall disqualify such nominee.

If any person being considered for, or already holding, a directorship or other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this paragraph, the Board shall withhold such position, or cause such person to be removed therefrom, as the case may be. Nothing contained in this paragraph shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this paragraph and in which one or more of the directors have an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

The secretary shall mail, with the notice of meeting or separately but at least seven (7) days before the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of candidates.

At the annual meeting, the chairman or his/her designee shall read the statement of the secretary as to number of directors to be elected and the names of nominees.

The chairman or his/her designee shall call for additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall cease after a reasonable time. No member may nominate more than one candidate. Any member intending to nominate a candidate from the floor shall notify the Cooperative prior to the opening of the meeting, to verify qualifications and willingness to serve.



A DEADLY MISTAKE

Family Shares Grief to Teach Others

Shayla Ebsen

sebsen@eastriver.coop

June 7, 2016, is a day that will be forever imprinted in Greg McCann's mind. It began as a normal June day on his farm in southeastern South Dakota. The crops had been planted and, like every year in June, they were needing to be sprayed. Greg's 35-year-old son, Grant, helped out on the farm and planned to spray the fields that day.

"He went and got the sprayer filled and ready. After he got the sprayer ready and conditions were right, well, then, he went to spray," said Greg. "He called me to see if I could move an irrigator for him and that was the last time I talked to him. He entered the field and the driveway to the field went under a power line."

Unfortunately, Grant didn't drive far enough into the field. He stopped at an angle close to the power lines. As he began unfolding the 90-foot sprayer booms, they touched the energized power line, which instantly electrified the tractor.

"He tried to call Wayne, the young man who runs my farm, but he wasn't able to get through because there was so much static, so we don't know what happened after that," said Greg.

The sprayer was caught in a Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative distribution power line. Co-op Electrician Kevin Meyer was just a few miles away when he and his apprentice received an outage call.

"A radio call came across that another neighbor farmer was out of power as it started out as an individual outage," said Meyer. "We packed up our tools and stuff and left the yard. As we were leaving the yard, I received another call from a supervisor saying that we got a call that there's a



Thirty-five-year-old Grant McCann was involved in a fatal accident involving a sprayer and a power line in 2016.

**There's
no fix.
There's no
second
chances."**

sprayer that looks like it might have made contact with a line that's probably the first place to go and it's looking like we have more consumers out."

Meyer and his apprentice didn't know what they might discover but knew they had to move fast.

"As we're rolling up on scene, one neighbor was there sitting on the road on his four-wheeler and he just said someone is down in front of the tractor," said Meyer. "It was very tough to see other than you could see someone was there but didn't know who it was and at that particular time, I knew that it could be Greg, Grant or my cousin, Wayne. So, in all that, you're mentally preparing yourself for what you're about to discover."

What they would discover is that Grant made a mistake that would end his life. Rather than staying in the cab and waiting for help, he had stepped out of the sprayer.

"The consequences of that mistake took my only son," said Greg. "He was my friend, my partner, my confidant. Now every day I remember that terrible morning and I see Grant lying dead on the ground. There's no fix. There's no second chances."

No one can know what was going through Grant's head at the moment he left the cab. But Greg wants others to learn from that mistake, so it doesn't happen to anyone else.

"If Grant would've stayed in the tractor and not touched anything, I think he'd be here today. But he didn't," said Greg. "I don't want anyone to have to experience the sadness and the emptiness that I and Grant's family and friends are experiencing and will be experiencing for a long, long time."

The consequences of that mistake took my only son.

Do you know what to do if a vehicle you're in contacts a power line? First, stay in the vehicle and call 911 for help. If you must exit the vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump clear of any wires with your feet together, never touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Then shuffle or hop at least 40 feet away with your feet together. Stay away

from the equipment until the authorities tell you it is safe.

"People get in a hurry and they don't regard the risk as a risk and one mistake and it's too late," said Greg. "The consequences are so grim and terrible, that there's no good reason not to be really careful and be aware of where you're at and the machinery you're using and where it's located. Once it's done, there's no turning back."

With the spread of COVID-19 into our region as well as the pandemic's financial impacts, everyone has a lot on their mind this year. Letting distractions take your mind away from work in the fields significantly increases the likelihood of farming accidents. Minimize distractions and stay focused in the fields. If you notice your mind wandering at any point, bring it back to the task at hand.

As we enter this year's planting and spraying seasons, remain aware of where electrical equipment is located when you're working on the farm and remember the steps to take if your equipment contacts a power line. You could save your life, or the life of someone you love. Visit poweringyoursafety.com to learn more.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



PoweringYourSafety.com

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

STAY PUT



If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside. **DO NOT EXIT. Call 911.**

JUMP CLEAR



If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 40 feet away.

STAY AWAY



When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.

PRESENTING
SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE.
SMARTHUB.



On the go and in control. SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to do business with us like never before:

- Manage your account
- Report service issues
- Receive important notices
- View and pay your bill
- Monitor usage 24/7

...All in the palm of your hand and online.



Digging into some home improvement projects while social distancing?

811 Don't hit a buried utility line and disrupt internet or other utility services to your whole neighborhood. Call 811 or visit your states 811 website before digging. Call 811.com/811-your-state

Lake Region Electric's offices will be closed May 25 for Memorial Day.

Join the fun! #YE2020



South Dakota Rural Electric

YOUTH EXCURSION
July 27-30, 2020



The Youth Excursion Tour will be held July 27-30, 2020, and is headquartered in Bismarck, N.D.

All area high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., are eligible to apply.

Teens attending this event will:

- Have the opportunity to sightsee and to meet new friends from other participating cooperatives.
- Learn about "The Story Behind the Switch" and see where South Dakota's electricity generates.
- Tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant.
- Spend their evenings swimming, shopping and cruising on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat.

Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., will provide for transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal/shopping money.

For More Information Contact:

Laura London
london@lakeregion.coop
Lake Region Electric Association, Inc.,
PO Box 341
1212 Main St.
Webster, SD 57274
605-345-3379
lakeregion.coop
facebook.com/Lake-Region-Electric-Association-Inc

2020 Youth Excursion Application

Student's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

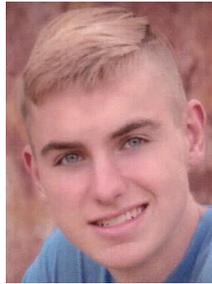
Male or Female: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Return this form by May 1 to: Lake Region Electric Association,
Attn: Laura London, PO Box 341, Webster SD 57274

Scholarships Awarded to Area Students

Basin Electric/Lake Region Scholarship

Webster Area student Brian Mork has been chosen to receive the Basin Electric/Lake Region Scholarship. This scholarship is funded by LREA's energy partner, Basin Electric. This \$1,000 is awarded annually to the dependent child of member-owners of Lake Region Electric Association. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals and an outside appraisal.



Brian Mork
Webster Area
High School

Brian is the son of LREA members Rita and Jerry Mork of rural Pierpont. He has been involved in many extra-curricular activities throughout his high school career, including class president his junior and senior years. Brian participated in several athletic activities including basketball, track and he worked hard to become captain of the Webster Area High School cross country team. Brian is highly involved in community activities such as 4-H, Sons of American Legion and Boy Scouts, where he is an Eagle Scout, just to name a few. Brian has achieved these goals, and many more, all while excelling academically. He has been on the honor roll and earned academic honors in high school, including Academic All State.

Future goals for Brian include attending the University of Nebraska. "In college, I plan on receiving my bachelor of architecture degree and then I will pursue a master's degree in both architecture and business." We look forward to helping Brian achieve his goals!

Lake Region Electric Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship

Lake Region Electric Association is proud to announce Brooke Vogl as the recipient of the Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship, in memory of Duane Snaza, is awarded based on the following criteria: participation in school and community activities, grade-point average, work experience, SAT/ACT scores, statement by student explaining his/her educational and career goals, a written recommendation by a third party and presentation of the application.



Brooke Vogl
Webster Area
High School

Brooke is the daughter of LREA member-owners Dan and Rose Vogl. Brooke will be graduating from Webster Area High School, where she excelled academically while being involved in many extra-curricular activities. Brooke is an honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. She participated in FCCLA, robotics, band, track and basketball. Some of Brooke's community activities are Key Club and youth group. Lake Region Electric members have likely seen Brooke at Pereboom's Café, where she has been serving customers for almost four years. She has also been a member of swim team and has served as a lifeguard.

Brooke plans to attend Iowa State University to earn a degree as an aerospace engineer. "I would love to be a part of a team and work with others and apply my problem-solving skills to design great things that will help innovate the world."

Lake Region to Apply Credits for Capital Credit Refunds Early this Year

As a not-for-profit electric co-op, LREA allocates any excess margins to its consumers after paying all the bills and reinvesting what it needs to keep electric costs as low as possible. Lake Region tracks the allocations and eventually refunds the money. As cash positions allow, LREA returns a portion of these dividends or capital credits back to the co-op's member-owners. The refund depends on the electricity purchased during the years for which capital credits are being paid.

Capital credits are usually issued in June. This year, however, the LREA board of directors has decided to disperse capital credits to members of LREA with active accounts earlier than normal. Capital credits will be applied to active member's April bill, which will be received around May 1.

This bill will clearly show the capital credit deductions and should be kept for tax purposes.

Members with inactive accounts will receive their checks around June 10.





3M ABERDEEN PLAYING CRITICAL ROLE IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

Plant Is Producing Millions of N95 Respirators

Ben Dunsmoor

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Standing outside the 430,000-square-foot 3M plant in Aberdeen, S.D., you can hear the whirl of productivity. The Aberdeen plant makes N95 masks which have been one of the most crucial pieces of personal protective equipment for frontline personnel responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew Rehder, the manager of the 3M Aberdeen plant, told *Bloomberg Businessweek*, in a story published in March, that the Aberdeen plant has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since the end of January.

“I just think as we’ve continued to see things spread across the world, it’s put more responsibility on us to make sure that every day and every minute we’re making every mask we can,” Rehder told Bloomberg.

It has also put a responsibility on Northern Electric Cooperative to ensure the 3M plant has a consistent and reliable source of power. Northern Electric has served the plant with electricity since it was constructed in 1974.



N95 respirators are loaded onto a jet at the Aberdeen Regional Airport in April. The masks produced at the 3M Aberdeen plant are being shipped directly to areas of the country that need them the most. (Photo Courtesy: 3M Twitter account / twitter.com/3M)

“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic,” Northern Electric Cooperative CEO/General Manager Char Hager said. “Northern Electric also recognizes that our co-op plays a crucial role in supplying 3M with reliable electricity and we take that responsibility seriously.”

The masks being produced in Aberdeen are being shipped across the country just as fast as they are being manufactured. A jet has been sitting at the Aberdeen Regional Airport during April to transport N95 respirators from the Aberdeen plant directly to areas of the country that need them most.

3M CEO Mike Roman said in a blog post on the company’s website that 500,000 masks were shipped from the Aberdeen plant at the end of March to New York and Seattle. Both of those cities have recorded some of the largest number of COVID-19 cases in the country. 3M expects a total global output of 1.1 billion masks this year and they are planning investments in the next 60 to 90 days that will double that capacity to 2 billion masks globally within the next 12 months.

“We continue to act with urgency to address this crisis from every angle and do all we can to protect our heroic nurses,

doctors and first responders,” Roman said in a statement on the company’s website.

This isn’t the first time the Aberdeen plant has been called upon to increase production during an emergency. The plant has also played a critical role in making masks for the SARS, bird-flu and H1N1 outbreaks, as well as the Mount Saint Helens’ eruption, Hurricane Katrina and numerous forest fires.

“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic.”

– Char Hager, Northern Electric CEO/General Manager

Northern Electric Cooperative has been in contact with local and corporate 3M managers and executives to ensure the Aberdeen plant has the power supply it needs as the company responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have communicated our response plans to 3M officials and have assured them that our crews will be ready and

available to respond to any emergency or outage,” Hager said. “We have also been in contact with our wholesale power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative, and we have told 3M that supplying their plant in Aberdeen with reliable electricity is the top priority for our cooperatives.”

The Aberdeen 3M plant is the city’s second-largest employer with 650 employees. But, Rehder told *Bloomberg Businessweek* that the plant now has more than 700 employees who are working around the clock to make sure health care workers and first responders across the country have the masks they need to protect them from COVID-19.

“People are very proud to work in a place that is making respirators, especially with the need that is out there now,” Rehder said.

Hager said the increased production at the plant in Aberdeen and the hard work of 3M employees is a perfect example of rural America stepping up to help the country during this time of uncertainty.

“We are proud of the work they do at the plant and we are proud of our co-op employees who are dedicated to keeping the lights on for 3M and for all our co-op members,” Hager said.



Northern Electric Cooperative is the power supplier for the 3M plant in Aberdeen which has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since January in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working from Home

Laura London

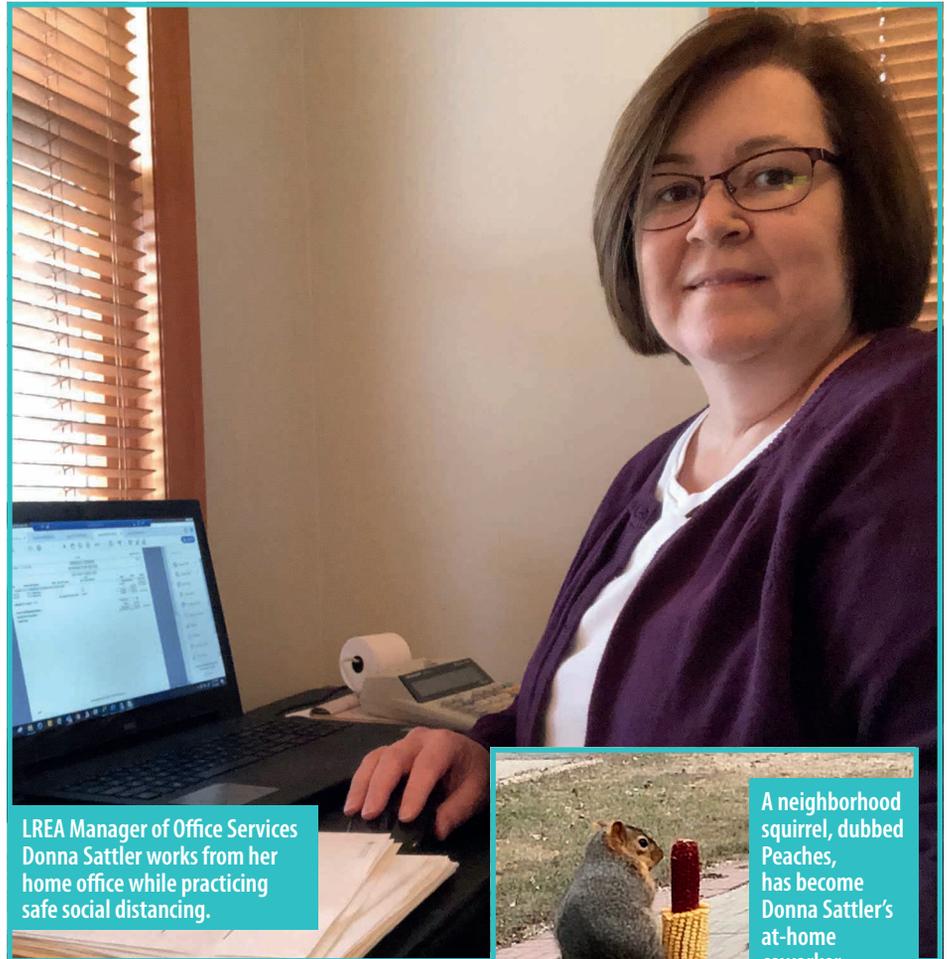
LLondon@lakeregion.coop

Sending an email or calling to discuss an item is a lot different than our usual method of just dropping by their office.

As always, the safety of LREA employees is our top priority but we are here to serve you! In order to keep our employees safe, many changes have been made here due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. One of these changes is that some employees of Lake Region Electric Association are working from home. Our doors are locked so that only current employees are allowed in the building, however, there is always someone here to take your calls during regular office hours. In order to help with social distancing and to accommodate employees who have children out of school and without childcare, the office staff is alternating days working in the office and working from home. It is quite a change. While working from home can be convenient, it presents its own set of challenges.

To effectively implement this part of the LREA emergency response to COVID-19, Tim Gaikowski, manager of technology (IT) services at LREA, went right to work setting up laptops, monitors and remote connections for office personnel so that we could best serve our members while practicing social distancing. Our IT professionals are the most essential workers at times like this, when we are relying on our computers and internet connections to get work done.

I spent two weeks in self-quarantine upon return from vacation. Arrangements were made so that I could work from home during this time. I have experienced some technical problems and had to spend some time on the phone with Tim. He is



LREA Manager of Office Services Donna Sattler works from her home office while practicing safe social distancing.



A neighborhood squirrel, dubbed Peaches, has become Donna Sattler's at-home coworker.

also able to remote in to take control of my computer so that he can make adjustments. I thought, at one time, that I was somewhat technically savvy but after the last couple of weeks, I am certain that there must be a special place in heaven for people like Tim.

I have had conference calls and more phone calls with actual co-workers but not seeing everyone on a daily basis is strange and sometimes it gets a bit lonesome. My co-workers at my home office are very needy and lazy. They are complete dogs, for real! It took the fur-babies a bit to adjust to me being home and parked in front of a computer for the entire day. Another thing that I have found to be challenging is to get other people to understand that I am working at home, just the same as if I were at the office. Some family members and close friends understand this because I have previously worked from home, so when I say that I

am working, they know not to interrupt. Other people think that I am just at home, as if it's a Saturday afternoon every day and that interruptions are ok. We are all learning how to do this the right way.

Some of our office personnel who are alternating work at home days were willing to share their experience with our members.

LREA Manager of Office Services Donna Sattler likes the "really short commute" as well as the opportunity to wear her fuzzy socks all day. She does find that communi-

cating with other employees can be challenging.

“Sending an email or calling to discuss an item is a lot different than our usual method of just dropping by their office,” said Sattler.

Staying focused can be challenging for us when we are at home, so Donna recommends that people working remotely take a moment to stretch and move around periodically.

“Stop and take a lunch break just as you would if you were in the office.” Working from home doesn’t affect much for the Sattlers, who are empty nesters, but Donna noted that it does reduce her possible exposure to illness.

Working from home has led to a discovery at the Sattler residence. Donna explained: “I have a crab apple tree that is very close to my home office area. On my first day home, I was startled by a fairly loud thump above my head. After a moment of wondering what

kind of creature had invaded our attic, I heard the pitter patter of a squirrel scampering along the roof. I’ve decided to name my “co-worker” Peaches.” Welcome to the LREA family, Peaches!

Justin McClurg is an accountant at Lake Region. He is the father of three young children so working from home presents its own unique challenges.

“Trying to make my kids understand that they only come to me with their ‘extremely urgent problems’ while I’m working is a challenge,” said McClurg.

His wife, Tara, appreciates the days that Justin works from home so that he can help calm the kids down when he takes a break from work.

He recommends stretching and taking breaks to help stay focused and productive. Another tip he has for those with little ones at home is listening to music when possible.

“I’ve also found that listening to music loud helps drown out the kids’ quarrels taking place upstairs,” said McClurg



LREA IT Manager Tim Gaikowski has been busy setting up laptops, monitors and remote connections for office personnel so that we could best serve our members while practicing social distancing.

While Justin and his wife have found many advantages to the days he is able to work from home, he sometimes worries about keeping up.

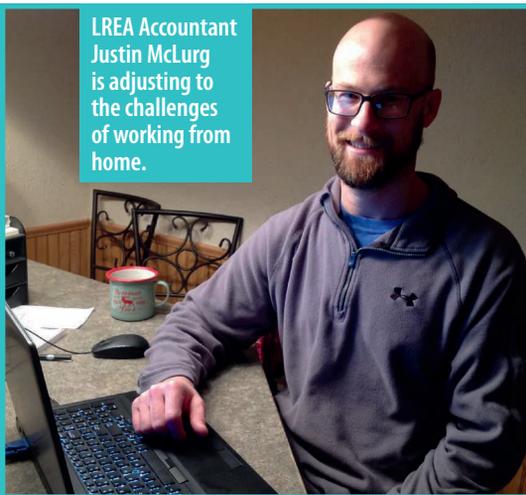
“Another challenge is not knowing what work is accumulating at the office and figuring out how to effectively handle each task that comes up while at home,” said McClurg.

Customer Accounts Representative Autumn Spiering

is working on finding balance between coming into the office, working from home and homeschooling her three children. Adding to the challenges, like many members around our service area, Autumn lives on a farm where spring is a busy time. Spring weather for the Spiering family means the children can go outside and get adventurous when their schoolwork is complete. Twin boys sometimes get a little too adventurous for mom’s taste and can make focusing on work a little tougher. Being able to look out the window of her home work-space to see what sort of mischief they may be up to helps! Autumn’s parents live in the area and are always willing to help with the children, which is a huge blessing for the Spiering family.

Changes being made at the Lake Region office in response to COVID 19 are important and necessary to keep our employees and their families safe so that we can continue to provide the best service to our members!

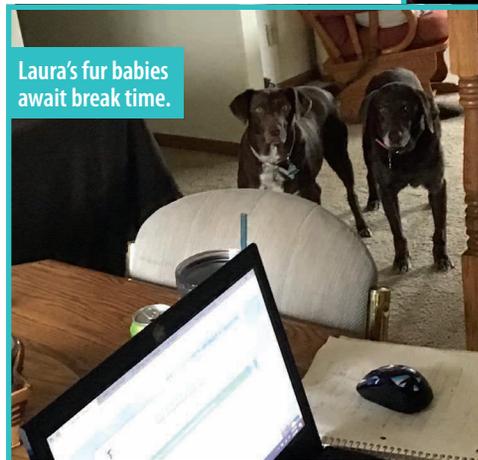
What changes are you making at home and work? We would love to hear from you! Email Laura at llondon@lakeregion.coop



LREA Accountant Justin McLurg is adjusting to the challenges of working from home.



Autumn’s son, Jaycob, has set up his office next to hers and has a feline business partner working with him.



Laura’s fur babies await break time.



Spring weather for the Spiering family means the children can go outside and get adventurous when their schoolwork is complete.

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

May 2-3

Quilt Guild Show, Brookings, SD, 605-690-3246

May 8-9

Craft Beer Fest: Hops and Hogs, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

May 9

Art Wine and Food Truck Festival, Spearfish, SD, 605-644-6585

May 15-17

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

May 15-17

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

May 23-24

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

May 29-30

South Dakota Regional Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick Brady at 605-978-6924

June 4-6

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

June 5-6

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterhaus at 605-722-1430

June 5-7

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

June 5-7

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



May 9:
Traditional Wacipi at the Dignity Statue, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-5472

June 5-7

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

June 5-7

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:
■ Rodeo Grounds, Wall, SD, 605-529-5868
■ Rodeo Grounds, Highmore, SD, 605-529-5868
■ Tipperary Arena, Buffalo, SD, 605-529-5868
■ Heartland Arena, Huron, SD, 605-529-5868

June 6-7

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 866-489-9241

June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

June 12-14

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:
■ Tripp County Fairgrounds, Winner, SD, 605-529-5868
■ Rodeo Grounds, Sturgis, SD, 605-529-5868
■ Rodeo Grounds, Dupree, SD, 605-529-5868
■ Derby Downs Arena, Watertown, SD, 605-529-5868

June 16-21

SD State High School Finals Rodeo, Stanley County Fairgrounds, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-529-5868

June 25-27

Red Power Round Up, Fairgrounds, Huron, SD, 605-460-0197
redpowerroundup2020.com

June 26-27

Senior Games, Madison, SD, Contact Bernie Schuurmans at 605-270-3327

July 14

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, www.mnsca.org

October 7-8

Energize! Explore Innovative Rural Communities Conference, Milbank, SD, <https://extension.sdstate.edu>

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.