

Cooperative Connections

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Our Response to COVID-19



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



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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Independent Auditor's Report on Supplementary Information

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

We have audited the financial statements of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. as of and for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 and our report thereon dated April 15, 2020, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The information on pages 24 through 25 as of and for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 is presented for the purposes of additional analysis of the financial statements and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and is derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the 2019 and 2018 financial statements. The information on pages 24 through 25 has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information on pages 24 through 25 is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We have also previously audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the basic financial statements of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. as of and for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, none of which is presented herein, and we expressed unmodified opinions on those financial statements. In our opinion, the December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015 comparative statements of operations on page 25 is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements from which it has been derived. This information does not reflect the effects of events, if any, that occurred subsequent to the date of our audit reports on the related audited financial statements.

Eide Bailly LLP

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
April 15, 2020

What inspires you, inspires us. | eidebailly.com

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SHAPING A STRONGER TOMORROW

POSTPONED

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the safety of our members and employees, our 79th annual meeting has been postponed.

Watch for further details in our official publication the *Lake Region Electric Cooperative Connections* delivered to you monthly. A notice will also be mailed when a new date is announced.

Thank you for your understanding.

Stay Safe at Home

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for thousands of home fires, injuries, death and property damage. The average American home was built in 1977, and many existing homes simply can't handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices. Keep safety in mind with these helpful tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:

- Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses
- Dimming of lights when other devices are tuned on
- Buzzing sound from switches or outlets
- Discolored outlets
- Appliances that seem underpowered

How to avoid overloading circuits:

- Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home.
- Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if older than 40 years or if you've had a major appliance installed.
- Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for high energy use devices.
- Reduce your electrical load by using energy efficient appliances and lighting.

Working from home?

Follow these electrical safety tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.

- 1) Avoid overloading outlets.
- 2) Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock or fire.
- 3) Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis.
- 4) Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- 5) Never run cords under rugs, carpets, doors or windows.
- 6) Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- 7) Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least three feet away from heat sources.
- 8) Make sure you use proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- 9) Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace the unit every 10 years.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

The Secret Ingredient

Electric cooperative members know that the recipes published in their local electric cooperative magazine are time-tested by their neighbors. The recipes feature ingredients that are readily available in the region (there may be a few somewhat exotic components). For the most part, if you have a can of cream of something soup, a pound of ground beef, some flour, eggs and a little salt and pepper, you probably have the basis of many a recipe found here. We raise our mixing spoons to the hundreds of co-op members who have sent in their recipes over the years.



Dawn Trapp

And, we applaud the work of Dawn Trapp who has reviewed the recipes, compiled them for print and made sure our South Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska cooks shine for their neighbors. Trapp is retiring after a 30-plus year career with South Dakota's electric cooperatives. Since 2000, she has compiled the recipes featured in this magazine. She previously compiled recipes for the *South Dakota High Liner Magazine* and edited *Home Cooking: 50th anniversary commemorative cookbook of the South Dakota High Liner Magazine* in 1998.

For a .PDF compilation of the first 20 years of recipes found in your local *Cooperative Connections* publication, contact your local electric cooperative.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Be safe: Don't shoot near power lines."

Gwen Smith, 10 years old

Gwen is the daughter of Jared and Heidi Smith, Lake Norden, S.D. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake, 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.

Dairy Delicious

Chicken Lasagna

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 can cream of chicken soup | 1 cup Parmesan cheese |
| 1 can cream of mushroom soup | 3 cups diced chicken |
| 1/2 cup milk | 3 cups shredded Cheddar cheese |
| 1 cup sour cream | Lasagna noodles, cooked |

Mix together soups and milk. In a separate bowl, combine sour cream, Parmesan cheese, diced chicken and cheese. Spread a thin layer of the soup mixture in the bottom of a 9x13-inch glass baking dish. Make a layer of cooked lasagna noodles. Spread an even layer of the chicken mixture. Top with another layer of soup. Repeat layers until gone. Bake at 325°F. for 1 hour.

Mary Hunt, Gary, S.D.

Pineapple-Pretzel Salad

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 2 cups crushed pretzels | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened |
| 1 stick butter, melted | |
| 1 cup sugar, divided | 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained |
| 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip | |

Combine pretzels, butter and 1/2 cup sugar. Spread on a 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 400°F. for 7 minutes; cool. Break into pieces; set aside. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and remaining sugar. Add Cool Whip and pineapple. Mix well; refrigerate overnight. Just before serving, add pretzel pieces.

Linda Rauscher, Aberdeen, S.D.

Cheesy Garlic Bread

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 cup Miracle Whip | 1/4 tsp. garlic salt |
| 1/2 cup sour cream | 1 cup chopped onion |
| 1 cup shredded yellow cheese | 1 loaf French bread |

Combine salad dressing, sour cream, shredded cheese, garlic salt and onion. Cut the French bread length-wise. Cover both sides, cut-side up, with mixture. Sprinkle with parsley and paprika, if desired. Bake at 400°F. for 8 to 10 minutes. Cut diagonally for a pretty presentation.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, S.D.

S'mores Pie

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Graham Cracker Crust: | 2 tsp. ground cinnamon |
| 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs | 1 T. plus 1 tsp. vanilla extract, divided |
| 7 T. butter, melted | 1 (7 oz.) jar marshmallow creme |
| 1/3 cup sugar | 1 (4 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened |
| Filling: | 1 (8 oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed |
| 3/4 cup heavy cream | |
| 6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, chopped | |

For the crust, mix all ingredients in medium bowl. Press into bottom and up sides of 9-inch pie plate. Set aside. For the filling, bring cream just to boil in small saucepan. Pour over chocolate in medium heatproof bowl. Let stand 1 minute then stir until smooth. Stir in cinnamon and 1 tsp. of the vanilla. Pour into prepared crust. Refrigerate 30 minutes or until chocolate is firm. (Freeze 15 minutes for faster chilling.) Beat marshmallow creme, cream cheese and remaining 1 T. vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Gently stir in whipped topping until well blended. Spread evenly over chocolate layer in crust. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or until ready to serve. Garnish with chocolate curls or toasted marshmallows, if desired. Makes 8 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 600, Total Fat 36g, Cholesterol 75mg, Sodium 267mg, Carbohydrates 65g, Fiber 2g, Protein 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Taco Cheese Dip

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 1 (8 oz.) container sour cream |
| 1 pkg. taco seasoning | Shredded Cheddar cheese |

Blend cream cheese, taco seasoning and sour cream well in serving dish. Spread shredded Cheddar cheese on top. Serve with chips.

Mary Ellen Luikens, Scotland, S.D.

Please send your favorite dessert, vegetarian or garden produce 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.

Liabilities		
WHAT WE OWE	2018	2019
Current Liabilities		
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	1,059,000	1,081,000
Accounts Payable	1,287,930	1,236,625
Other Current & Accrued Liab.	209,077	190,029
Customer Deposits	40,392	40,717
Accrued Taxes	411,577	392,889
TOTAL CUR AND ACCR LIAB	3,007,976	2,941,260
Patronage Capital	12,670,214	13,375,339
Other Equity	2,202,125	2,387,751
TOTAL EQUITY	14,872,339	15,763,090
Deferred Credits	1,786,848	1,764,110
Long-term Debt, Less Current Maturities	20,496,964	22,422,359
TOTAL LIABILITIES	40,164,127	42,890,819

Assets		
WHAT WE OWN:	2018	2019
Current Assets and Deferred Charges:		
Cash and working funds	\$661,815	\$2,452,760
Accounts Receivable (less uncollectible)	1,877,509	1,861,919
Materials & Supplies	756,052	655,135
Prepayments	13,760	12,283
Deferred Debits	403,012	291,129
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,712,148	5,273,226
Electric Plant		
In Service	34,494,416	35,696,105
Under Construction	723,530	1,031,969
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-9,076,493	-9,848,355
TOTAL ELECTRIC PLANT	26,141,453	26,879,719
Other Property and Investments		
Investments — Associated Organization	8,537,784	8,965,230
Other Investments — Notes Receivable	122,742	122,644
Other Special Funds — Revenue Deferral	1,650,000	1,650,000
Total Investments	10,310,526	10,737,874
TOTAL ASSETS	40,164,127	42,890,819

Miles of Energized Line:
1,734

Overhead Miles:
1,097

Underground Miles:
637

Residential Meters:
3,275

Irrigation Meters:
32

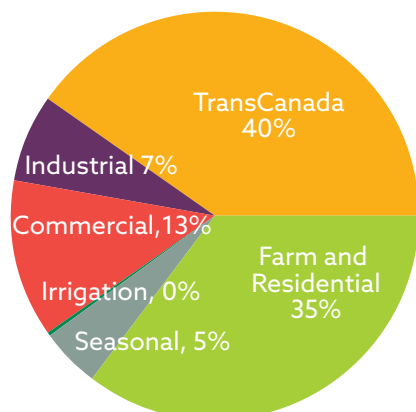
Small Commercial Meters:
156

Large Commercial Meters:
7

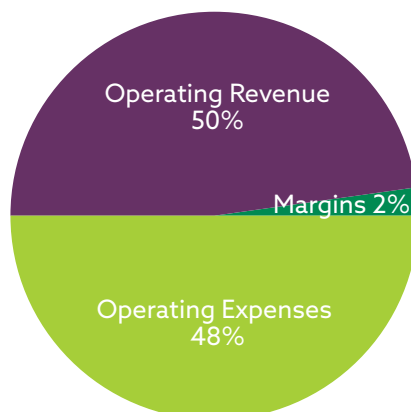
Members:
2583

Statement of Revenue and Expense		
JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019		
OPERATING REVENUE:	2018	2019
Electric and Other Revenue	\$19,034,347	\$18,345,510
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Purchased Power	\$13,766,361	\$12,982,900
Operations Expense	900,935	858,949
Maintenance Expense	502,891	532,492
Consumer Accounting & Collections	85,216	87,744
Consumer Info., Sales & Service	216,347	213,741
Administration & General Expense	1,076,249	928,692
Depreciation	1,028,071	1,074,802
Tax Expense	329,613	314,112
Interest Expense	771,811	770,924
Miscellaneous	12,563	14,838
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$18,690,057	\$17,779,194
Operating Margins	344,290	566,316
G & T Capital Credits	1,834,015	590,184
Non-Operating Margins		
Interest Income	119,034	133,283
Merchandising/Other	47,121	72,100
Net Margins	2,344,460	1,361,883
Patronage Capital (Beginning of Year)	10,970,160	12,670,214
Capital Credit Retirement	(481,225)	(490,602)
Other Equity Allocations	(163,181)	(166,156)
Patronage Capital (end of year)	12,670,214	13,375,339

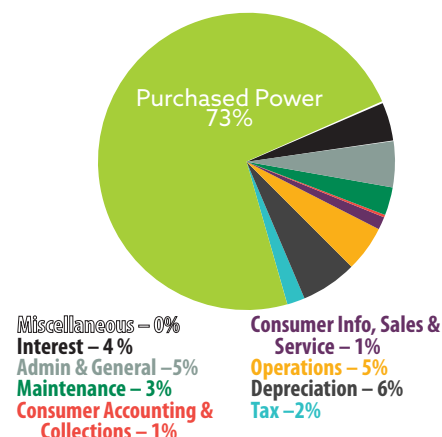
2019 Revenues



Operating Totals



2019 Expenses



Four Area Students Receive Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust Scholarships

Laura London

LLondon@lakeregion.coop

Charles Johnson is known for being instrumental in bringing Mereen Johnson Manufacturing to Webster when he started the Western Division of MJ in 1973. Johnson, known by his friends and employees as “CR”, cared about manufacturing and about the people who worked for him.

“CR was a real good guy who cared about the blue-collar workers,” said Josh Bartos of Dakota Foundry/Anderson Industries. Bartos worked with Mereen Johnson right out of high school. He said that Charles Johnson “treated us foundry guys like gold.”

Del Compaan has worked for Mereen Johnson for more than 40 years and spent a good portion of his career working directly with CR. Del said that CR was an honest person who truly loved his employees and though he cared about profits and the bottom line, he cared more about the guys who helped make the business a success. Charles Johnson took many trips in order to gather knowledge and acquire the latest technology to innovate MJ facilities. Compaan accompanied CR on many trips, recalling how CR always had great ideas. He continuously strove to improve through technology and through the workers. Charles Johnson was all about improving business, people and the community. Compaan said that the Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust aligns with the type of person that CR was.

Furthering the legacy and community support shown to Webster by Charles Johnson, a trust was established in 2017. Honoring the memory of Charles Johnson, Russell D. McBroom, past president of Mereen Johnson Machine Company, made funds available to form The Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust. The purpose of this trust is to promote education, training, hiring and placement of persons to work and potentially begin their lifelong careers in the manufacturing and fabrication industry or trades within the Day County area.

This year, the Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust board of trustees decided to award education scholarship to four students. This group of young people are all going into very different fields of study, but they have this in common: leadership, technology and innovation. Each student will receive \$1,000 to assist them with their educational expenses for the 2020-21 school year.

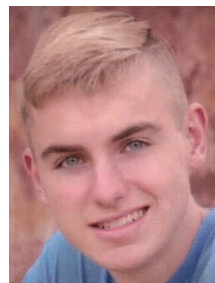
Jared Schlotte is the son of Dari and Jodi Schlotte. Jared plans to attend Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown. He has



Jared Schlotte



Brooke Vogl



Brian Mork



Tate Gaikowski

enrolled in the Aviation Professional Fixed Wing Pilot Program. According to Amy Miller of Webster High School, Jared is a strong leader, “He has what it takes to make a strong contribution to this world and is a worthy recipient” of the award.

Brooke Vogl was also selected to receive an award from the trust. Brooke is the daughter of LREA members Dan and Rose Vogl of Webster. Brooke has shown a very strong dedication to the Webster community throughout her high school career. She will be pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering at Iowa State University. Amy Miller also recommended Brooke for this award, “I have no doubt that she will be a successful college student and prosperous adult that will give back to her community.”

Brian Mork, the son of Jerry and Rita of rural Pierpont, is a proven leader and has been very active in the community and school activities while maintaining an excellent GPA. Brian plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study architecture. Webster Area High School teacher, Kaylan Pool, recommended Brian for an award from the Charles Johnson Education and Training Trust, “I strongly feel that Brian has a very bright future... I feel his inquisitive mind, professionalism while communicating and ability to think processes through will help him succeed in life.”

The final recipient of this award is **Tate Gaikowski** of Waubay. Tate’s parents are LREA member-owners Justin and Amy Gaikowski. Chelsea Larson, Dean of Students for the Waubay School District, recommended Tate for this award, stating that Tate has shown leadership skills and that “he has proven himself to be dependable, responsible and respectful.” Tate believes that technology is the future of farming. He plans to start the Precision Ag Technology program at Lake Area Technical Institute. After completing his education, Tate plans to return to the area. “I love living in northeast South Dakota and at this time would like to remain in this area to live and work after graduating from Lake Area Technical Institute.”

BIG (Little) GARDENS

Growing Vegetables in Limited Spaces

L.A. Jackson

Contributing Writer and Photographer

Spring has arrived! So, if thoughts of producing oodles of fresh, homegrown edibles have you ready to dig in the dirt, it's time to roll up those sleeves and start a vegetable garden!

While the physics of time and space dictate that big harvests naturally come from big gardens, for backyard growers who prefer to pass on the challenges of tending mega-plots through the long, hot summer or who simply don't have an abundance of planting areas, there are alternative ways to raise impressive passels of veggies – it is simply a matter of making make less do more.

Go to bed

First, for maximum production from limited growing areas, go with beds, not rows – in other words, place young plants or seeds according to their recommended spacing per plant and forget about distances between rows. Rows of plants looking like tidy lines of soldiers are better for large gardens in order to have paths to walk around, but this isn't necessary in small beds. Accessibility is, of course, still important, so, while you can stretch 'em as long as Texas, try not make beds over 4 feet wide – this shortens your reach into the plants and greatly minimizes embarrassing face-flops in the dirt.

Small wonders

Size isn't everything in gardening, especially when it comes to growing backyard edibles. There are many vegetable selections – often tagged with such labels as “Bush,” “Dwarf” or “Patio,” – that are modest in height and girth, but still quite capable of producing impressive crops.

The most common big veggie that can be found in smaller sizes is the tomato. There are a ton of cultivars available, but, for starters, give “Tiny Tim,” “Bush Beefsteak” or “Early Wonder” a look. Keep in mind, however, that a majority of these slight-in-stature tomato selections are determinate, meaning they produce all the 'maters they are going to yield in a matter of weeks. Standard vine tomatoes, if kept healthy, typically crank out fruit continually over the long growing season.

Want a wider range of veggies in your small garden? Squash, watermelons, pumpkins, cucumbers, cantaloupes and green beans – all champs at chewing up space in a planting bed – can also be found in compact forms, either as young plants or seeds, at local garden shops in the spring.

Grow up

Don't think you have to stick to Munchkin-sized plants. Typical strong growers such as tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers and squash can't be allowed to crawl across small growing spaces, but they can be trellised, staked or caged to grow up rather than out.

Even the long, rangy vines of watermelons, pumpkins and cantaloupes can be trained upwards on vertical supports, but to avoid the dreaded drop-and-splat factor, it's not a bad idea to cradle the developing fruits in supporting burlap, nylon or cloth slings.

Small watermelons such as “Sugar Baby” can be trained to grow up, not outwards, in a garden.
COVER: A (literal) bed of cabbage taking center stage in a flower garden.
OPPOSITE PAGE: Harvest eggplants when their skins are shiny, not dull.
Photos By L.A. Jackson

Suspension weight and size problems with standard pumpkins are obvious, but there are many cultivars, including “Spookie,” “Jack O’ Lantern” and “Sugar Pie,” that yield smaller, more manageable 6- to 7-pound fruits. Ditto for big ol’ watermelons, but with so-called “icebox” varieties like the popular “Sugar Baby” and its 8- to 10-pound melons available, it is possible to hang ‘em high, too.

Growing vine crops on erect supports has other advantages besides saving space, starting with making harvesting easier. Also, vertical gardening improves fruit shape and, since beneficial air circulates through the foliage easier, can promote healthier plants.

Beyond the veggie patch

Looking for even more growing ground? Limited-space gardening with edibles doesn’t need to be confined to small vegetable plots – in other words, anywhere you have dirt in your yard is a potential planting site. And many veggies can be easily inter-planted in the landscape as complements, rather than complications, to existing ornamentals.

One popular vegetable that bears the double standard of being both productive and pretty is the pepper. While blocky bell peppers might look a bit clunky in flower beds, there is a wide range of hot peppers that show off long-lasting fruits in many sizes, shapes and sizzling colors on relatively compact plants.

Like bell peppers, common pudgy eggplants probably won’t qualify as eye candy in an ornamental garden, but there are vibrantly colored fruits of cultivars such as “Fairy Tale,” “Prosperosa” and “Neon” that can also add extra visual sass to sunny flower borders.

And okra, which is closely related to the lovely hibiscus, stays true to its family ties with fancy foliage and delicate, hibiscus-like flowers. One particular standout beauty is “Red Burgundy,” an heirloom selection that has been a veggie garden favorite for many years because its gorgeous (and tasty) scarlet pods never fail to turn heads.

Other decorative edibles with strong, distinctive profiles such as curly spinach, cabbage, loose-leaf lettuce (especially red-tinted varieties like “Red Sails” and “Lolla Rossa”), kale and Swiss chard (look for “Ruby Red” or “Bright Lights”) are low-growing and, for vegetable plants, actually rather good looking. Any of these can be successfully incorporated as accent plants for perennial beds or flower gardens. In addition, root vegetables such as carrots, onions and radishes hide their crops below ground but freely flaunt flowing foliage that can be used to fill in the fronts of border plantings.

Many herbs are also great “double-duty” plants. Need examples? Rosemary’s spiky leaves and delightful (as well as edible) bluish-purple flowers make it an appealing addition to any landscape setting. Bronze fennel’s smoky look is a nice touch for container planters, while the rich, dark foliage of purple basil is a horticultural fashion statement waiting to happen. And curly parsley, with its deep emerald leaves, is an ideal alt-ornamental to line the front of a flower bed.

One word of caution about interplanting vegetables or herbs with other plants: If you spray any pesticides on neighboring ornamentals, make sure the chemicals are cleared for safe use on edible plants as well.

L.A. Jackson is the former editor of Carolina Gardener magazine.

Harvest Time Tips

When are veggies table-ready?

With proper care, spring vegetable plantings will grow up big, strong and productive to add plenty of homegrown edibles to the dinner table. But, while waiting for these crops to mature, now is not too soon to start mentally registering harvest tips to be ready when the bountiful times arrive. Such pointers can also be helpful to folks who don’t have gardens but go to pick-your-own farms. In addition, frequenters to farmers’ markets will probably find a few of these tips useful to help select produce at their freshest and tastiest.

Bell peppers. The typical bell pepper can be picked when it is either green or red. A red bell pepper is just riper than a green one and tastes slightly sweeter. If you prefer to use a size-o-meter, harvest these peppers when they are about 3 inches in diameter.

Carrots. Carrots are normally ready when their orange crowns poke out above the soil line. For better storage, cut off all but about 2 inches of the fern tops after you pull carrots from the ground.

Cucumbers. Although they come in all sizes, standard cukes will, of course, be a deep green when mature. However, if a cucumber starts to show a yellow tint, it is past ripe.

Eggplant. Common varieties, such as “Black Beauty” and “Classic,” should have a shiny, dark purple color and be about 4 inches in diameter. Any eggplant that has been on the plant too long will lose its shine – this also applies to the newer, fancy-colored varieties such as “Neon” and “Ping Tung.”



Okra. The better tasting (and least slimy) okra pods are snapped off at about 3 inches long. *Chef’s Tip: For little or no slime, when boiling okra, leave the pods whole.*

Green Beans. These beans are at their best when they are about 3 to 6 inches long. At these sizes, the seeds haven’t started to swell yet, and the pods are tender enough to snap easily.

Leaf Lettuce. Wait until the plants are about 5 inches tall and starting to fully fill out with foliage. Then, begin your picking. Use scissors and only take outer leaves so the plants will continue growing strongly in order to extend the harvest season. This method works well for romaine lettuce and spinach, too.

Summer Squash. Tasty crook, straight-neck and zucchini squash will be had when they are picked at about 6 inches long. Round patty pan varieties are in their prime around 4 to 5 inches in diameter.

Tomatoes. Come on – everybody knows what a ripe tomato looks like! Sometimes, however, ‘maters are picked with a bit of green still showing. To turn the green to red (and make fruits fully ripe) simply place them in a cozy area indoors. A sunny windowsill won’t do because the sun’s direct rays could redden the skin but not ripen the inside of the tomato. Moderate warmth, not strong light, is the key to properly maturing a tomato.

Unapproved 2019 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2019

Pursuant to notice having been duly given, the Annual Meeting of the Members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., was held at the Britton Auditorium, City of Britton, County of Marshall, and State of South Dakota on Thursday, June 6, 2019.

Registration of the members began at 5:30 p.m. Ken's Fair Food of Britton served the membership meal with 325 meals served.

Free blood pressure screenings were provided by Wheatcrest Hills Healthcare Community. An informative booth with WINCO® generators was available for members.

The business meeting was called to order by President Kermit Pearson at 7 p.m.

The Britton VFW/Legion Post presented the flags. The National Anthem was played as a video. Pastor Kevin Koop, of Cornerstone Bible Church, provided the invocation and Josh Kraft, LREA member-owner and General Manager of Scott's Lumber, welcomed the crowd.

Secretary, Thomas Steiner, reported there were 199 members present and this constituted a quorum for the meeting.

Secretary Steiner announced the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting was contained in the June issue of the *Cooperative Connections*, *Lake Region Ripples*, newsletter and proof of mailing was verified by Professional Mail Marketing of Aberdeen.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were printed in the Annual Report and reviewed by the members. A motion was made and seconded to dispense of reading the minutes and accept the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Board President, Kermit Pearson, provided the annual statistical and financial reports covering revenue, expenses and capital credits of the cooperative. Pearson reviewed the Independent Auditor's report from Eide Bailly recognizing no deficiencies identified. He updated the membership on East River Electric's financial stability and their work plan regarding aging infrastructure, significant load growth, higher reliability demands and increased technology needs. Included in the workplan is a study to address reliability concerns to the Grenville substation.

Pearson discussed Basin Electric Power Cooperative's load forecast preparation and

the Keystone XL Pipeline and its impact on the energy load. Energy needs continue to rise with an all-time high peak occurring in January 2019. The peak occurred during the Polar Vortex when conditions would not allow wind generation. He provided an update on the favorable capacity factors of the Dakota Gasification Company and the UREA Plant. Basin Electric is forecasting flat rates and strong margins. He also discussed regulatory issues with the potential to affect the electrical industry including Affordable Clean Energy (ACE), water and waste challenges and 45Q, regarding capturing carbons. He discussed the new Integrated Test Center (ITC) facility. ITC is a center to develop ways to sequester carbon oxide.

East River Electric Cooperative General Manager, Tom Boyko, reported on their \$750 million transmission replacement plan. He discussed a planned WAPA two-mile tie north of Sisseton, to enhance reliability to five substations and a 45-mile tie line from Roberts County to the Britton substation. He provided a business development overview of REED and its value to our communities.

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

Attorney Smeins conducted the election of directors. One director each would be elected for a term of three years from Districts 3, 5 and 6. Nominations for the three districts were made prior to the meeting by nominating petition, per the bylaws.

Nominations from the floor were opened for District 3 representing the following townships: Weston, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Newport, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Kermit Pearson from District 3. Motion carried.

Nominations from the floor were opened for District 5 representing the following townships: Kosciusko, One Road, Racine, Waubay, Alto, Ortley and Central Point. No additional nominations were received

from the floor and a motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Roger Kulesa from District 5. Motion carried.

Nominations from the floor were opened for District 6 representing the following townships: Farmington, Homer, Independence, North Andover, Union, Lynn, South Andover, Bristol and Kidder. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Rodney Tobin from District 6. Motion carried

General Manager, Tim McIntyre, thanked the membership for attending the meeting, Ken's Fair Food and the city of Britton. He recognized special guests, past employees and directors. He introduced the employee base and thanked them for their dedication to the cooperative. He reminded that capital credit refunds were applied to all active members electric bill. McIntyre discussed the rate adjustment that has been published in the *Cooperative Connections*. The adjustment is based on findings from the cost of service study that was conducted. He highlighted new technology solutions and invited members to 'like' and 'follow' the cooperative's Facebook page.

General Manager, Tim McIntyre recognized the 2019 scholarship winners. Kordell Feldhaus, Britton, S.D., received the Basin Electric/Lake Region Electric \$1,000 scholarship. Madisyn Nelson, Langford, S.D., received the Duane Snaza Memorial \$1,000 scholarship. Both recipients thanked the membership for their generous scholarship.

There being no old or new business presented, Pearson opened the floor to questions. There was a question regarding the location of proposed wind towers in the area. Pearson explained that there are several wind energy farms being proposed throughout the area, but the locations of all of them have not been released.

The \$500 grand prize was awarded to John Amann of Webster, S.D. Additional prizes were given away to the members present.

A video of God Bless America was played. Pearson adjourned the meeting of the membership at 7:50 p.m.

Kermit Pearson, President
Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary

LREA Annual Meeting Date

TBD

Be Watching
For A New
Date



LAKE REGION
ELECTRIC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Notice:

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the safety of our members and employees, the 79th annual meeting has been postponed.

Outdoor Fever

Celebrating South Dakota's Outdoor Spaces

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

People are really rediscovering the outdoors again.

South Dakota's state parks and wide-open spaces can be a beacon to those who have spent the winter and spring months cooped up at home.

"Parks are very good places to go outdoors and get out of the house," said Al Nedved, deputy director of parks for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

Nedved said that in April 2020, the parks had seen an increase in use over 2019, due in part to better weather than the previous year and also to the COVID-19 restrictions.

"People are really rediscovering the outdoors again," said Nedved. "Our parks are open. We are strongly advising people to follow social distancing guidelines set by CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the state department of health."

In addition to the social distancing, the parks are encouraging people to be as self-sufficient as possible by using their own facilities. State park visitors are also asked to plan ahead and use the reservation website to purchase licenses and make reservations ahead of time to limit interaction at the parks as much as possible.

And as Americans head outdoors celebrating June as both National Camping Month and Nation Great Outdoors Month, thousands of South Dakotans will



Biking in South Dakota campgrounds is a popular family activity.

Photo Credit: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

be discovering and rediscovering the Rushmore state's park system.

The state's parks, established in 1919 with the creation of Custer State Park in western South Dakota, saw considerable growth in the post World War II era. The newest park, Good Earth State Park, was established in 2013 southeast of Sioux Falls.

"It's a very unique archaeological and historical site," said Nedved, noting the area was a vast trading center for Native Americans going back several hundred years.

The South Dakota State Park system includes 13 state parks, 43 recreation areas, five nature areas, one historic prairie, 69 lakeside use areas and 10 marina/resorts. In addition, the Division of Parks and Recreation manages the



Hiking trails are offered in many South Dakota state parks.

Photo Credit: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks



Access to water-based activities, such as this one found at Farm Island in central South Dakota, is a draw for South Dakota state parks.
Photo Credit: South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

114-mile Mickelson Trail, South Dakota's Snowmobile Trail Program, and maintains 240 public water access areas.

"I always tell people the best-kept secret is the place you have not been yet. You never know where there is a site that will become a favorite spot," said Nedved. "Each park is unique; it's great to experience them all. Each is rich with natural, historical and cultural resources."

Custer State Park is the largest of the parks at 71,000 acres, while Fort Sisseton in northeastern South Dakota is one of the smallest.

Palisades State park has geological structures that are really unique," Nedved said.

"The Missouri River Parks offer incomparable opportunities for fishing and water recreation," said Nedved, noting that parks on the river extend from Pollock in the north-central part of the state to the Adams Nature Area and Preserve by North Sioux City which features a well-preserved farmstead and a trail system.

"They are a great place to make memories and be together," Nedved said.

The parks offer a variety of activities: camping and fishing are popular as well as other water-based recreation. Hiking, biking and trail-related activities are a draw

as are leisure sport activities like disc golf, volleyball and horseshoes.

"The biggest one is the ability to come out and enjoy the outdoors and have a really good experience," said Nedved. "I like to tell people to think of parks as a really great place for your emotional and physical health. There's no greater place to go and exercise than the great outdoors."

Those intending to camp should do a little research and have a basic knowledge of the outdoors. In addition to packing bug spray, appropriate clothing and sunscreen, campers in the 2020 season should also plan on bringing masks and hand sanitizer.

Also on the list should be a NOAA weather radio or other device to track severe weather.

"South Dakota weather can be unpredictable at times. You need to plan ahead and be prepared for wind, hail and lightning," said Nedved.

"We encourage everyone to enjoy the outdoors this summer and do it responsibly," Nedved said.

Before you go, be sure to check the GF&P website at gpf.sd.gov/parks for updates and current information.

They are a great place to make memories and be together.

By the Number

A look at South Dakota's state park system

- 16 Welcome Centers
- 9 Regional Offices
- 3 Fish Hatcheries
- 2 Outdoor Campuses
- 83 Dams
- 4,417 Campsites
- 223 Camping Cabins
- 2 Modern Cabins
- 7 Lodges
- 153 Picnic Shelters
- 93 Playgrounds
- 121 Comfort Stations
- 49 Fishing Docks
- 50 Fish Cleaning Stations
- 347 Boat Ramps
- 50 Beaches
- 349 Miles of Trails
- 328 Miles of Roads
- 155-Mile Canoe/Kayak Trail
- 1,518 Miles of Snowmobile Trails

2019: Year in Review

A Lot Happened Since the 2019 Annual Meeting

Laura London

LLondon@lakeregion.coop

Whether it's rain and flooding, ice, snow and thunderstorms or a worldwide pandemic, the employees and directors of Lake Region Electric are here for you, our member-owners. Here is a little look back at some of the happenings since our last annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Committed to Community

Service Award

Kermit Pearson, serving his 39th year on the LREA board of directors, was presented with a service award in recognition of the 30 years that he has served on East River Electric's board of directors.

Directors Get Certified

Lake Region Electric Association board members Andrea Kilker and Mark Wismer successfully completed all requirements to become NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Directors.



Andrea Kilker



Mark Wismer

REC Program

Lake Region Electric started the REC Program which promotes the use of renewable energy use by offering Renewable Energy Credits to our members.



LREA General Manager Tim McIntyre, left, delivered pallets of bottled water to area schools to use in fundraising activities.

LREA Employees Filled Sandbags

The rain kept coming and the water just kept rising here in northeast South Dakota. The wet spring and summer caused a multitude of problems for many members of Lake Region Electric Association. Answering a call for help, some employees of Lake Region Electric Association helped fill sandbags in Waubay on July 18.

Supporting our Community Members in Need

Donations were collected to help area students and adults in need. LREA employees generously gave to purchase



Kermit Pearson, center, was honored for 30 years of service on the East River Electric Power Cooperative board of directors.

gifts for children at Christmas. LREA members and employees donated food and meat gift certificates to fill pantry shelves and empty tummies.

Strategic Planning Session Held

The Lake Region Electric board of directors and management started the year off by participating in and completing a Strategic Planning Session. The purpose of a Strategic Planning Session is to take an overall look at where LREA is today and where we want to go in the future; all



Members participating in the Adult Basin Tour took a cruise on the Missouri River.

the while considering the future financial health of your electric cooperative.

Education

Bottled Water Donated

LREA donate bottled water to local schools, promoting school spirit and safety simultaneously.

Adult and Youth Members Took Learning Trips

Two area students joined a group totaling 48 youths and six adults on a Basin Electric tour in July. Taylor Storbakken and Dane Feldhaus were accompanied by chaperone Justin McClurg, LREA accountant.

Lake Region Electric teamed-up with FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D., once again, to take members on what has become known as the Adult Basin Tour. This year, 19 members of Lake Region Electric Association attended the tour.

Scholarships Awarded

Two area students were recipients of the 2019 Charles Johnson Trust Scholarship. Ethan Ninke and Lucas Breske each received \$2,000 to help them ease the burden of rising school costs.

Kordell Feldhaus was awarded a \$1,000 Basin Electric Lake Region Scholarship in 2019.

Madisyn Nelson received \$1,000 from Lake Region for the 2019 Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship.

Touchstone Energy® Scholar of The Week recognized Waubay Area High School student Tate Gaikowski as a leader in his school and community.



Ethan Ninke



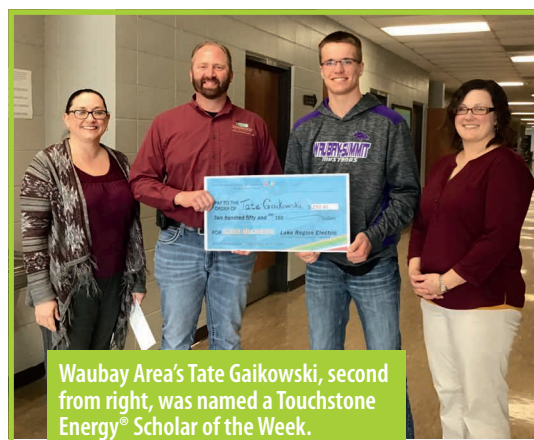
Lucas Breske



Kordell Feldhaus



Madisyn Nelson



Waubay Area's Tate Gaikowski, second from right, was named a Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Week.



New Additions to the LREA Family

Laura London

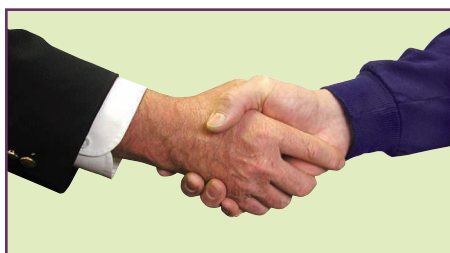
LLondon@lakeregion.coop

The past couple of months have been a little hectic and uncertain but it is time for some good news. Lake Region Electric Association has added two new guys to our family. Lineman Mathew Lynde and his wife, Megan, welcomed twin boys. Vaughn Mathew Lynde and Griffin Howard Lynde arrived April 16. Mat is a very proud dad. He said they are healthy and home; the word "perfect" has been thrown out there a couple of times as well.



Mathew Lynde

Mat has been a lineman with Lake Region Electric Association since November of 2013. If you see Mat out there working on the lines, be sure to congratulate him, at a socially safe distance, of course, because he has two more very precious reasons to get home safely!



Welcome New LREA Members

Darren and Pamela Burchill
Sylte Bros.

Tyler Sorby
Lucas Merkel

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

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 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 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 for the entire family, Main Street, Chamberlain, SD, 605-683-9051



June 16-21:

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

June 20

Divas Gone Country concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

June 20-21

Men's Club Fishing Tournament, Pollock, SD, Contact Brent Odde at 605-848-1967

June 24-27

Crystal Springs Rodeo, Extreme Bulls June 24, Rodeo June 25-27, Clear Lake, SD, 605-874-2996

June 27

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

June 28

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

July 18

Wessington Fun Day, Pancake Breakfast, Parade at 10 a.m., Car Show at noon, Dance, Wessington, SD, Contact Mary Spicer at 605-458-2359

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 24-26

Catfish Derby Days, Franklin, MN, 507-557-2259

SHAPING A STRONGER TOMORROW

POSTPONED

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the safety of our members and employees, our 79th annual meeting has been postponed.

Watch for further details in our official publication the *Lake Region Electric Cooperative Connections* delivered to you monthly. A notice will also be mailed when a new date is announced.

Thank you for your understanding.

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.