

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Cross country skiing is a way to keep moving and maintain physical and mental health during the winter months.

Skiing for fun and health

Nordic skiers find paradise on the snow
Pages 8-9

Car dealers adapt to EV market
Pages 12-13

Balancing supply and demand is key to the delivery of electricity



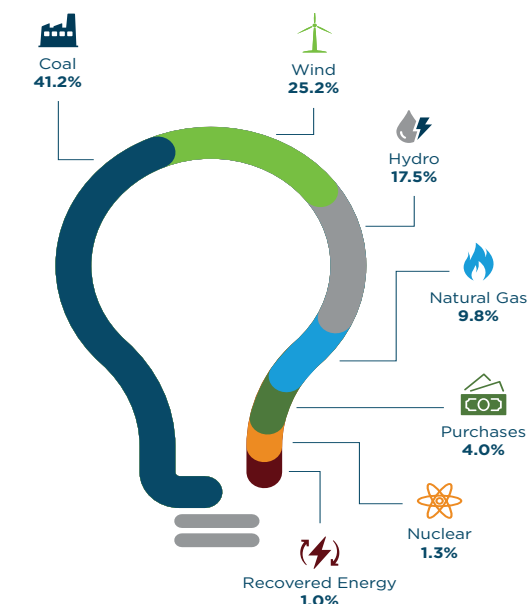
Tim McIntyre
General Manager

You expect reliable and affordable electricity from your electric cooperative, so how do we deliver on that promise? A complex network of electricity generators and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure that enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the dog days of summer.

What happens when the demand for power overwhelms the ability to provide it? That's a particularly vexing question given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across this network.

The key to meeting the energy needs so essential to your quality of life is balancing electricity supply with demand. While that may sound simple, there is a complex web of facilities and organizations that work together to make it happen each day. Regional transmission organizations coordinate, control, and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. Think of them as energy traffic managers on an interstate highway system, regulating the number of cars – in this case, electricity – and their destination.

Even with coordination, control, and close monitoring, on some days there is an imbalance in that system that leads to rolling power interruptions or blackouts. In those cases, supply simply can't keep up. We witnessed such an event last February when record low temperatures spread across the United States. These cold temperatures caused great strain on our electrical system. The unavailability of generation driven by the lack of fuel was the largest contributing factor to the severity of the event. Natural gas fuel supply issues included the combined effects of decreased natural gas production, terms and conditions of commodity and pipeline contracts, and other issues like low gas pressure. As temperatures decreased, mechanical issues increased mostly due to frozen instruments and



icing on wind turbine generator blades.

Another major factor for imbalance in the electrical system is because power plants that generate electricity are being closed faster than new producers come online. In most cases, traditional large-scale power suppliers such as coal and nuclear plants are being closed and replaced by alternatives on a much smaller scale. This gap is closing more quickly despite the development of new natural gas-fueled power plants.

As more electric utilities pursue zero, or low, carbon initiatives by 2035 and beyond, this challenge will grow more complex. So, what's the answer? Electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop renewable options and pursue new technologies. But absent new large-scale alternatives and advances in energy storage, the stalwarts of today's energy fleet, coal and nuclear energy facilities, must continue to operate in many regions. They remain the most cost-effective options for producing electricity. We need coal to continue to provide consistent, reliable energy while we work on broadening our generation mix by developing and including more renewable forms of power.

Lake Region Electric will continue working with our energy providers to keep our power reliable and affordable because we care about you, our member-owners.

Thank You & God Bless,
Timothy McIntyre

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

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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.

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: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

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

Leonard Deibert answers the call for help

Leonard Deibert is a busy man, but that doesn't stop him from giving back to his community! Leonard is a family man who loves the outdoors. When he isn't working, you might have a hard time catching up with him as he spends most of his time with his daughters



at various school events, fishing on one of our beautiful lakes or hunting. Often times Leonard's work and leisure activities are interrupted by a call over the fire radio or pager. While the rest of us continue with our day, stay snuggled in our warm beds, or yell at our dogs to stop barking at the sirens, Leonard and other members of the Webster Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are dropping everything to answer the call for help. These calls range from dangerous situations fighting fires and rescues from traffic accidents to simpler community needs like assisting the ambulance crew or an elderly or disabled citizen who has fallen and needs help getting up.



Leonard Deibert spends his time volunteering as a local firefighter as well as serving the members of LREA.

LEONARD DIEBERT

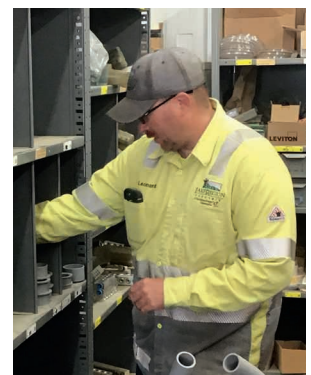
Position: Material Clerk, 12 years

Personal Life: 2 daughters, avid outdoorsmen, enjoys hunting and fishing

Volunteerism: Webster Volunteer Fire & Rescue for 11 years. Webster Fire & Rescue is a volunteer organization that provides fire & rescue services for Webster and surrounding area in Northeast South Dakota

Similar to his work at Lake Region, when Leonard is getting called out, it will be cold, windy, or terribly hot outside. On top of the in-climate weather, firefighters are throwing on an extra 40-plus pounds of gear, which can lead to exhaustion pretty quickly.

Leonard says he has always wanted to be a firefighter and that "being able to give back to the community and help someone who needs our services" is the best part of volunteering!



Crunch the numbers on New Year's savings in your home

If your New Year's resolution to spend less and save more always fizzles out by March, don't fret. With a few simple adjustments in your house, you can save money on your energy bill each month. Here's how:

- Save up to 20 percent on heating by installing a programmable thermostat and setting it to automatically lower the heat when you leave the house for more than five hours and when the family goes to bed for the night.
- Save 1–3 percent on heating costs for each degree you turn the thermostat down. For optimal savings, set the thermostat at 68 degrees while at home and 65 degrees at night and before you leave the house for an extended period.
- Save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills by sealing air leaks around doors and windows with caulk and weatherstripping. This inexpensive energy saver will pay for itself within a year.
- Save at least 25 percent on air conditioning when you replace your old, inefficient central AC with one that has a seasonal energy-efficiency ratio of 14 or higher.
- Save up to 40 percent on what you spend to run your refrigerator by replacing an old unit with a new Energy Star-certified model.
- Save more than 50 percent on energy for cooking when you use a microwave oven instead of a conventional oven to heat meals.
- Save more than 10 percent on your water heating bill by lowering the water heater temperature from 140 degrees to 120.
- Save 75 percent or more on energy for lighting by replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs. They also last about 25 times longer. Switching out CFLs for LEDs will reduce lighting costs as much as 50 percent.
- Consistently turning off lights when not in use or when natural light is sufficient can reduce lighting expenses 10–40 percent.
- Enable the power management function on computers and sleep setting on appliances.

CO-OPS IN ACTION



South Dakota's electric cooperatives deliver affordable, reliable power to our members in every corner of the state. But we do so much more!

Visit our Co-op Connections Plus YouTube channel and you'll see co-ops in action at local community events, youth leadership programs and charitable fundraising events like the annual Line Patrol Charity Ride. We've got South Dakota covered!

Simply scan the QR code to the right and be sure to subscribe!



Keep out of power boxes

Trinity Kurtenbach

Trinity knows that those green “power boxes” that are often seen near homes or along roadways contain electrical equipment that can pose a hazard. Trinity is the child of Cory Kurtenbach and Tonya Buchholz-Froehlich of Nunda and attends Sioux Valley Elementary in Volga. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

SOUPS FOR THE SOUL

SMASHED POTATO SOUP

Ingredients:

1/2 cup coarsely chopped carrot
1/2 cup coarsely chopped celery
1 pkg 14 oz refrigerated mashed potatoes
1 14.5 oz can chicken broth
1/2 cup milk
1 garlic clove pressed
1/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper
1/2 cup sour cream
2 Tbsp fresh parsley

METHOD

Place mashed potatoes in medium saucepan. Gradually add broth and milk, whisking until mixture is smooth. Stir in carrot, celery, garlic and salt and pepper. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in sour cream and parsley. Top with desired toppings. 4 servings; 5 cups. Optional toppings: sliced green onion, shredded cheddar cheese, cooked, crumbled bacon.

Becki Hausser, Tripp

CREAMY CHICKEN GNOCCHI SOUP

Ingredients:

6 Tbsp butter
2 Tbsp olive oil
2 cups onion
1 cup diced celery
4 garlic cloves (minced)
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups half and half
1 (32 oz) container chicken broth (add more for a thinner soup)
1 Tbsp thyme
2 cups carrots
2 cups spinach or kale
3 cups diced, cooked chicken
2 (16 oz) packages potato gnocchi
Salt and pepper to taste

METHOD

Add butter and olive oil to large pot over medium heat. Sauté onions, celery, and garlic until tender. Add flour to create a roux and stir for one minute. Slowly add the half and half and chicken broth. Stir until it thickens. Add the thyme, carrots, spinach, chicken and gnocchi. Cook for 5-10 minutes until gnocchi is cooked and soup thickened. If soup gets too thick just add more chicken broth. Salt and pepper to taste.

Tracey Burkett, Olivet

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

Ingredients:

1-1.5 lbs chicken thighs bone in or boneless (skinless)
3 bay leaves
5 peppercorns, whole
1 small whole onion peeled, hairy end intact
3 large garlic cloves
12 cups chicken stock low sodium
2 large carrots diced
2 cups potatoes diced
1 1/2 cups egg noodles or any short pasta
1 1/2 tbsp salt
1 tbsp olive oil
3 tbsp fresh dill, parsley or green onion finely chopped

METHOD

In a large Dutch oven or pot, add chicken thighs, bay leaves, peppercorns, onion, 2 garlic cloves and stock. On high heat, bring soup to a boil covered then move lid to the side a bit to keep soup clear. Cook for 20 minutes, removing foam as it rises to the top with a mesh strainer. Dice potatoes and carrots. Chop dill and grate garlic. Add potatoes and carrots, stir and reduce heat to medium. Cook with half lid open for 5 minutes. Add pasta, stir and cook for another 5 minutes. Discard onion, bay leaves and peppercorns with mesh strainer. Add salt, olive oil, grated garlic clove, dill and ground black pepper to taste. You can also shred chicken right in the pot. Let sit covered for 5 minutes.

ifoodreal.com

Please send your favorite soup 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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Save energy, save money

Who's in hot water for savings?

Members of Lake Region Electric are eligible for rebates when they purchase a Marathon Electric water heater and connect it to a load management device for a period of not less than 1 year. Load Control systems have become very popular and have increased reliability; they operate so efficiently that members do not generally notice the difference. This program controls the amount of electricity being used during times of peak energy demand. Manager of Member Services at Lake Region Electric, Brett Kwasniewski, explains “the main goal of load management is to reduce East River’s demand peak; that’s how we save our end-users money.” Not only will members receive a nice rebate off of their initial purchase, but they also see savings every month on their electric bill.

Water heaters are the second highest source of energy usage in the home.

Water heaters are the second highest source of energy usage in the home. Investing in an electric water heater can help reduce energy consumption as well as provide many other benefits. When purchasing a new water heater, electric water heaters are less expensive than their gas counterparts of the same size. They are also less expensive to install, as they only require adding in a specialized electric circuit rather than a large flue for ventilation. Because electric water heaters don’t require ventilation, they are more efficient than gas heaters. Gas water heaters lose a portion of the heat they produce through the vent system.

Electric water heaters are significantly safer than gas water heaters which can cause gas leaks and explosions. Gas water heaters also have a higher risk of emitting carbon dioxide into your home. Because electric water heaters don’t use pilot lights, your risk of injury from reigniting the flame is also eliminated.

HEATING & COOLING RATES & REBATES

There is a special rate available to Lake Region Electric Members for residential, farm, seasonal, small commercial, or large commercial heating and/or cooling needs. Applicable heating systems include electric resistance heat, electric forced air furnaces, electric heat pumps, electrical thermal storage or heating systems which utilize electrical energy. All kWh’s used for heating purposes must be separately metered. For all new services, a connect fee will be charged. There is a small monthly meter charge, but the energy used through the heat meter is about half the cost of kWh used through the regular meter. Air conditioning can also run through the heat meter but will be subject to load control, where heating is not.

Lake Region Electric has a rebate program for newly installed heat pumps with a HSPF rating of 8.2 or greater. This rebate can save members \$600 for a new electric air-source heat pump or a ground-source heat pump. Members installing a new electric Mini-split/ductless heat pump will qualify for a



\$300 rebate. Heat Pumps are one of the most efficient forms of electric heat. There are different types of heat pumps for home and commercial use.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Electric water heaters and heat pumps are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to energy-efficient products members can install in their homes and outbuildings. LED bulbs can reduce lighting costs by up to 75 percent. Yard lights using LED are just as bright, or in some cases brighter, than the old-fashioned high pressure sodium and mercury vapor lights, and cost very little to operate each month. Lake region Electric also has a rebate program for commercial lighting.

To learn more about rebates and the benefits of going electric or to enroll in the load management program, contact Lake Region Electric Association 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869 or email Brett at bkwasniewski@lakeregion.coop.



Alex Cruz, Cheryl and Richard Skorupski, and Biana Garcia are shown at the El Corral restaurant in Clark.

Flyover County: Rick Skorupski spins tales of life in small town America

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

A place where folks wave with all five fingers.

A community where people actually listen to your response after asking how you're doing.

A home no closer than 10 miles to the nearest stop light.

Those were the requirements Rick Skorupski established when he decided he'd had enough of his native New Jersey and went looking for a more tranquil place to spend his retirement years. After conducting some extensive research, he and his wife Cheryl landed south of Frankfort nearly 20 years ago and have enjoyed the slower pace of life on their hobby farm in rural South Dakota.

While the Skorupskis have developed a wide social network and even recruited other family members to settle in Spink County, the acculturation process didn't go very smoothly at first. Turns out some folks in the community were convinced the Skorupskis were operating in a shroud of secrecy.

"They thought we were in the witness protection program," Rick recalls with a hearty chuckle. "Some of the neighbors offered to help us move our furniture in, and we declined, just trying not to be a bother. And then we'd make trips

back to New Jersey, so people started wondering what we were hiding."

But the suspicions didn't last long and the Skorupskis have been heavily involved in the local scene, participating in charitable projects, supporting civic events and contributing to the community in positive ways.

The Skorupskis' fondness for the people and culture of South Dakota is on full display in the six novels the two have published together with Rick as the writer and Cheryl the cover artist.

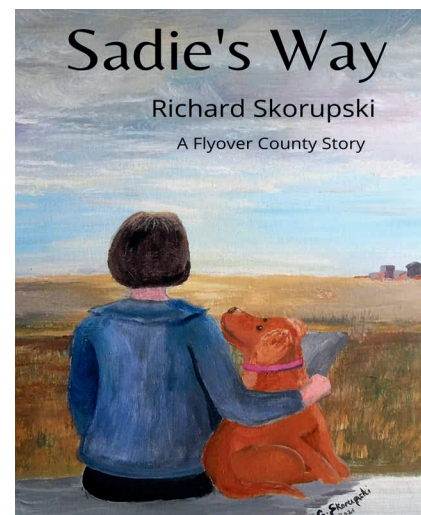
Rick, a member of Northern Electric and a U.S. Navy retiree, describes his self-published work as "nice stories about nice people." He got frustrated at all the anger, violence, sensationalism and negativity reflected in the media, so he decided to accentuate the positive aspects of life through his writing.

Inspired by those he befriended in his adopted home state, Skorupski produced a series of novels centered around an imaginary South Dakotan community called Helen (pop. 350 souls) located in fictitious Flyover County.

The plot lines involve local citizens, their shared hard-scrabble history as pioneers, settlers and sodbusters, and their interactions that take place in the tiny hamlet's schools, churches, diners, taverns and shops.

"I love my imaginary town and I feel I

know all the characters," Rick said. "I get up every morning and write what they tell me about their lives. Any time I have writer's block, it's because my imaginary friends stopped talking to me. But in the end, I hope my readers enjoy these stories as much as I enjoy writing them."



Skorupski was invited to participate in an exhibit at last year's South Dakota State Fair as part of the "Arts of the State Fair" program. During the event, he conversed with readers, discussed his characters, signed copies of his books and offered advice about his experience in self-publishing.

His books are sold through Amazon, and more information can be found by visiting www.flyovercounty.com.



FUN AND FITNESS ON THE SNOW

An estimated 5.2 million Americans participate in cross country skiing while reaping the rewards of being active during the winter months.

Nordic Ski Club promotes the benefits of cross country skiing on mind, body and soul

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Many winter sports enthusiasts are firm in their belief that snow skis are meant to travel in one direction only – downhill.

But members of the Black Hills Nordic Ski Club use their skinny skis to take them wherever the trail may lead.

The club's winter playground is located at Big Hills XC Trails seven miles southwest of Spearfish where its

members have frolicked in the snow since the 1970s. Early prospectors named the area after they encountered steep grades in their pursuit of gold and fortune, but these days people flock to Big Hill for fitness and fun.

With more than 1,200 Facebook followers, the group invites not only cross country skiers to enjoy the 13.6 miles of trails but also skate skiers, fat bikers, snow shoers and even snow man makers.

Immediate past president Josh Wangeman explains there are an

estimated 5.2 million Nordic skiing enthusiasts throughout the country who seek both physical and mental health restoration along the trails.

After spending his day teaching science to his eighth graders at Spearfish Middle School, Wangeman likes to unwind in the woods.

"I've found that it's a good way to escape the crowds and participate in the wonders of nature," he said. "It's a great sport if you're looking to find some solace, enjoy the outdoors and get a good workout at the same time."

Wangeman, who also enjoys swimming and cross country running, fell into the sport after joining the National Guard six years ago. He began training for the biathlon, a competition where skiers travel from check point to check point with a .22 caliber rifle and shoot at targets. He has represented the Guard at competitions in Minnesota, Wyoming, Vermont and Utah.

Like many outdoor activities, cross country skiing has seen a significant surge in interest in the past year. One of the top attractions of the sport is that the cost of entry is relatively small. For instance, a quality mountain bike can cost thousands of dollars and other pastimes require a substantial financial investment for equipment, gear, fees and more.

"You can find some used gear and get everything you need for around \$100, or \$300 for new equipment," he said. "Trail access is free and you'll be outdoors getting some great exercise. As far as learning the technique, it's a straightforward process that's almost as simple as walking."

Wangeman said skiing across the snowy terrain can be a cinch compared to the work that's required to keep the trails maintained. Members of the Nordic Ski Club join forces with the Grooming Alliance of



Cross country skiers receive both the mental and physical health benefits of a sport that's economical to pursue.

Spearfish and log hundreds of hours of labor and donate hundreds of dollars each season to keep the pathways well-groomed for all to share. Some trails are designated for snow shoeing and fat biking only. Volunteers have also built a warming shelter in a meadow that's situated among the five loop trails where skiers can take a break from the wind and cold.

Aside from the Big Hills XC Trails, the Black Hills National Forest area has other sites suitable for cross country skiing. The Eagle Cliff Network is located 15 miles southwest of Lead and offers 20 miles of trails that cross open meadows and meander through Ponderosa pine forests. Half the trails are rated "difficult."

Bear Mountain is situated 10 miles

southwest of Hill City and features rocky ridges, abundant wildlife and scenic overlooks along its 16-mile trail system.

Additional pathways in the area can be found at Beaver Creek, Bear Butte State Park, Custer State Park and portions of the Centennial and Mickelson Trails.

Here are a few helpful tips for those who are thinking about taking to the wintry trails:

1. Start your day right with a hot beverage.
2. Pack well, and don't forget gloves, hat and extra socks. Layer, layer, layer.
3. Choose the right place to ski with good grooming and a reasonable and amount of flat terrain.
4. Consider taking lessons to

Cross country skiing sites

These state parks offer trails for cross-country skiers to enjoy:

- Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve
- Beaver Creek Nature Area
- Big Sioux Recreation Area
- George S. Mickelson Trail
- Hartford Beach State Park
- LaFramboise Island Nature Area
- Lake Herman State Park
- Lake Poinsett Recreation Area
- Newton Hills State Park
- Oakwood Lakes State Park
- Pelican Lake Recreation Area
- Richmond Lake Recreation Area
- Sica Hollow State Park
- Walker's Point Recreation Area



Volunteers keep the trails groomed for cross country skiing at Big Hill and also constructed a warming shelter, a popular site on cold and windy winter days.

improve your form.

5. Be prepared to fall. Acquiring balance takes time.

6. Keep your energy up with a ready snack such as a granola bar or an apple.

7. Have fun. Explore a bit and lose yourself in the rhythm of the sport.

8. Don't forget to look around you, and keep an eye out for wildlife or scenic vistas.

9. Reward yourself! You worked hard and did something adventurous.

Agribusiness students visit LREA

Laura London

Lake Region Electric

Webster Area High School's Agribusiness Class visited Lake Region Electric in October. The 12 young men were attentive as Lake Region Electric Association Manager of Operations Jim Grimes began the session by explaining different aspects of Lake Region Electric. He gave a break down of the cooperative model, briefly explaining that the co-op is governed by a Board of Directors and is owned by its members.

Grimes then explained the size and range of Lake Region's service territory and the number of employees who service all the line, equipment, and members' needs. The students arrived at Lake Region shortly after 8 a.m., which is about the time the Linemen and Electricians were heading out in the trucks to begin their workday. The students were surprised by the low number of employees who work at Lake Region, especially the Operations Department of seven employees with only six linemen taking care of all the miles of line.

Student Trevor Amundson commented, "The most interesting thing I saw was how they only have around 20 people to work there, just to take care of all of Day County. I would have thought they needed more workers to keep up."

Riley Ash said he was surprised by how many people are served by so few employees: "There are only 22 people working at Lake Region Electric, of those only seven do high voltage and [they] serve about 2,400 people!"

Assisted by Kurt Hoines, Custodian at LREA, and Material Clerk Leonard



Agribusiness students from Webster Area High School visited the Lake Region Electric facilities in October and learned how electricity works and how different types of line conduct various voltage levels.

Deibert used Lake Region's Farm Town simulation display to demonstrate electrical safety concerns on the farm. The students were very attentive during this demonstration, they asked questions and seemed surprised about some of the information shared with them, especially about the importance of jumping, hopping, or shuffling, not running, away from equipment that has come into contact with a power line. Isaac Hubsch commented, "I thought that it was interesting to see the electricity jump to things like the ladder or the wires in the hole."

The Agribusiness Class is taught by Fred Zenk. "Our goal was to learn about where and how we get some of the energy needed in agriculture." Lake Region was happy to host the students and help educate them on our electric cooperative. "Education, Training and Information" and Concern for Community are two of the seven cooperative principles that help guide Lake Region Electric. We are always happy to help educate youth and adults on all aspects of electricity and the cooperative model. If your organization would like to visit with someone about a tour or demonstration, please reach out:

Phone: 605-345-3379

Email: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop.



Deibert, Grimes showed the different sizes and gauges of wire that are used to conduct electricity. The students were able to see what the wires are made of, how they are insulated and how heavy they are. Grimes demonstrated how linemen use certain tools to repair and maintain power lines. Deibert and Grimes explained that single-phase wire costs about \$2 per foot, so a mile of just wire, not calculating in the other costs, is between \$10,000 to \$11,000. This cost more than triples with 3-phase wire needed for larger farming operations and industrial use, coming in at around \$24,000 a mile. The process of transitioning lines from overhead to underground is something most students commented about. Understanding how much it costs just for some of the equipment and supplies will help students understand how the cost of their electricity can increase and why conservation is important.

Thank you volunteers of the Day County Food Pantry

One of the cooperative principles that Lake Region Electric is guided by is Concern for Community. As we look around the communities we serve, we see many organizations and people doing good things to support and enrich our communities. We want to say thank you to those who volunteer their time to help. Even if you do not personally use the services provided by these organizations, you may know someone who does and they, no doubt, enrich our lives. If you see these neighbors out in the community, be sure to give them a big THANK YOU!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS OF THE DAY COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Louise Grajczyk has volunteered at the Day County Food Pantry since it started about 10 years ago. She takes pride in making sure things run smoothly, from organizing volunteers to buying, ordering and giving out food. Helping others comes naturally to Louise. She was a Registered Nurse and has been a chaplain. She regularly helps out at church and anywhere she sees a need, in addition to her volunteer work at the food pantry and Needs Anonymous. When Louise is not volunteering, she enjoys spending time with her family of six children, 18 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

Denny Daugaard, a retired project manager, has been volunteering at the Day County Food Pantry for about two years. Denny can be seen unloading trucks and carrying groceries for people who use the services at the food pantry. Denny's favorite part of volunteering is seeing people's needs being met. He started volunteering as a way to work at living out the teaching in Matthew Chapter 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in



Pictured above are volunteers Winnie Jacobs, Susie Hanson, Carol Richardt and Louise Grajczyk.

prison and you came to me."

Rick Hanson, a retired farmer and his wife **Susie**, a retired mail carrier, both volunteer at the food pantry. Rick started serving six years ago because he enjoys helping others; **Susie** joined after her retirement three years ago as a way to help and enjoy time with the other volunteers. Rick and Susie help visitors to the food pantry by buying groceries and putting together packages for them. They also help unload the truck. Rick and Susie agreed their favorite part about volunteering is "seeing people who are grateful for the help."

Winnie Jacobs, mother and grandmother, retired from teaching seven years ago and began volunteering about two years ago when she heard assistance was needed, and that need grew when COVID started. Winnie also volunteers with Kiwanis, helping prepare meals, and with the After School Program. Winnie enjoys "being useful and seeing the smiles and appreciation on customer's faces."

Mary Wagner began volunteering at the food pantry three years ago. Mary is a retired teacher, mother of three, and grandmother to six. Mary typically stocks shelves and assists customers fill their food boxes. Mary's favorite part of volunteering is "visiting with

the people that come in and also the other volunteers." Mary keeps busy in retirement; she can also be seen volunteering at the Vinegar Museum and Community Blood Drive in Roslyn, and the church in Eden.

Carol Richardt began volunteering about 10 years ago because she has an interest in activities that help others. She also gives her time and efforts to Needs Anonymous, The Museum of Wildlife and Industry and her church. Carol assists people who come into the food pantry by unpacking items that arrive from Feeding South Dakota, restocking shelves, and helping fill boxes for customers and referring them to other resources that they may need. Another natural helper, Carol is a retired nurse. She has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Her favorite part about volunteering is meeting new people, along with helping others. She gets "much enjoyment from working with other volunteers."

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Kenneth & Karen David
Arlene Olson
Sheryl & Steve Redmond



CAR DEALERS ADAPT TO EV MARKET

Jesse Johnson of Jan Busse Ford in Highmore keeps customers informed of the latest industry news. *Photo by Billy Gibson.*

Car dealers adapt to emerging EV industry by making new investments and keeping their customers informed

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Keeping up with the emergence of the electric vehicle market is like listening to the hushed intonations of the announcer at the end of a 1960s-style soap opera.

Will a reliable charging network be constructed?

Will EVs become more affordable?

Will drivers ever overcome their range anxiety?

Will the political winds change direction?

Tune in tomorrow. Same time. Same channel.

Scott Shepherd is no fan of soap operas, but he's happy to give you his take on the topic. Shepherd is a career educator who has taken the EV leap and last June invested in Ford's debut model: the Mustang Mach-E. Shepherd recently delivered a presentation

describing his experience and insights to a group of electric cooperative representatives.

Subtitled "The Good, the Kind of Bad, and the Ugly," the presentation was intended to be an unbiased, unvarnished and apolitical analysis of the investment he made last year. Though Shepherd admits to being somewhat of an EVangelist, audience members were eager to hear Shepherd's comments to help them convey useful, accurate information to their electric cooperative consumers back in their respective service areas.

On the positive side, Shepherd said the advanced technology and the instant torque of his Mach-E deliver an exciting driving experience, and he likes doing his part to reduce emissions. His dealer, Jesse Johnson at Jan Busse Ford (Pioneer Garage, Inc.) in Highmore, was knowledgeable and ready to answer all of his questions and concerns. He noted

that factoring in a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500, he was able to save nearly \$1,000 in his first 5,000 miles of travel in the Mach-E.

"There's no gas tank to fill at over \$3 per gallon and no oil to change," he said. "A trip to Sioux Falls cost me \$6 in electricity, compared to \$49 in gas for an ICE (internal combustion engine)."

250
Approximate
number of EV
charging stations
throughout the
Upper Midwest.

On the not-so-good side, Shepherd pointed to the high front-end purchase price, reduced range during the winter months, the lack of Level 2 chargers in homes and the fact that traditional vehicles sometimes block access to public charging stations. He said in the rush to build out a reliable system of charging stations throughout the region,

standardized practices have yet to be developed.

“There can be a lot of inconsistent pricing with public charging stations,” he said. “Some require a connection fee plus a per-minute fee as high as 50 cents per kilowatt hour. The networks and the number of phone apps that are out there can be confusing, and I’ve also run across some charging stations that were malfunctioning.”

He pointed out that electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and investor-owned utilities in South Dakota and Minnesota are working together to create a charging network for public use that will reduce range anxiety for EV drivers. Presently, there are nine Tesla supercharger stations and four non-Tesla chargers in South Dakota, as well as more than 250 throughout the region and dozens more for the use of guests at hotels, campgrounds and other private properties.

Electrify America Fast recently announced the company is planning to install a bank of supercharging stations in Wall sometime in January, and state officials are looking to continue to invest money into light-duty charging stations from the second round of the Volkswagen Electric Vehicle Charging Station Program.

Johnson, Shepherd’s sales agent, said these days he’s getting lots of questions from scores of potential buyers who are ponying up the \$100 refundable



Jesse Johnson is shown adjusting the drive mode in the Ford Mustang Mach-E.

Photo by Billy Gibson.

fee at www.ford.com to get placed on a waiting list for not only the Mach-E but also the new Ford F-150 Lightning, the company’s first electric-powered pick up. In fact, he has a personal spot on the Lightning list along with more than 160,000 others across the country. Tesla, GMC, Rivian and Chevrolet are also introducing their own pick ups.

“We’re getting calls from all kinds of people - retirees, commuting moms and dads, gear heads, collectors, technology buffs, environmentalists, farmers, you name it,” said Johnson, who has already sent two early adopting customers home with the Mustang Mach-E and has a third on his lot.

Johnson said car and truck dealers will have to redouble their efforts to provide service after the sale as the EV industry continues to emerge. He keeps his customers, including the many who are on the purchaser’s waiting list, apprised of any new developments

DEALING WITH EVs

160,000
Number of
reservations made
for the new Ford
Lightning F-150 at
www.ford.com.

in the market. For example, when manufacturers began recommending that owners refrain from exceeding an 80 percent charge - unless going on an extended trip - to extend the car’s battery life, Johnson made sure his customers got the memo.

In preparing for the transportation future, car dealers are having to make significant investments in education for their sales force, training for technicians and new service and maintenance equipment to accommodate EVs.

“EVs are fun to drive with their immediate torque and safe-driving technology,” Johnson said. “These vehicles are an excellent option for those wanting to forget about the price of gas, reduce maintenance and emissions. We understand they may not fit everyone’s lifestyle, but we see a definite place for them in the future.”



Scott Shepherd is shown above talking with students at the Lake Area Technical College Automotive Technology Program about his experience as an EV owner.

Scholarships available to help LREA members

Laura London

Lake Region Electric

South Dakota is ranked below average in cost of postsecondary education, still, many youths and their families often stress about tuition, housing and other costs associated with obtaining a degree. Lake Region Electric Association offers scholarships to help ease some of that burden.

Education and Concern for Community are two of the seven Cooperative Principles that we are guided by. One way that we show this dedication and concern is by providing scholarship opportunities for those who intend to further their education by attending a vocational program or a traditional college or university. Lake Region Electric Association has two scholarship opportunities available for area students: The **Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship** and the **Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Lake Region Electric Scholarship**. Lake Region Electric Association also helps facilitate the Charles Johnson Trust Scholarship.

To apply for
scholarships, visit
www.lakeregion.coop

The Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship was created by Lake Region Electric Association's Board of Directors to honor a former employee. Duane Snaza worked at LREA for three summers.

This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one student who is the dependent child, including adopted

YOUR HARD WORK CAN HAVE A BIGGER
PAY-OFF!

*Scholarship opportunities are available
through Lake Region Electric Association*



or stepchild, of member-owners of Lake Region Electric Association. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and must be a student who is enrolled, or is planning to enroll, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

This scholarship 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.

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC)/Lake Region Scholarship is funded by LREA's energy partner, Basin Electric. This \$1,000 is awarded to the dependent children, including adopted or stepchildren, of member-owners of Lake Region Electric. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and must be a student who is enrolled, or is planning to enroll, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

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.

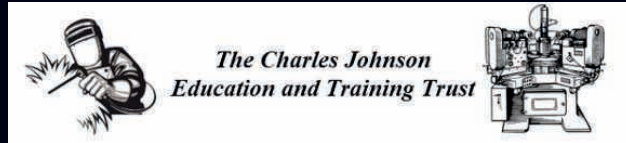
To apply for these scholarship opportunities, students must complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained from your high school counselor, by visiting our website www.lakeregion.coop, or from the Lake Region Electric Association Office. Applicants must provide all of the required information and complete the scholarship application.

Submissions MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RETURNED BY FEB. 14, 2022, to LREA, P.O. Box 341, Webster, SD 57274, in order to be considered eligible for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC)/Lake Region Scholarship or the Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship. For more information, contact Laura London at LREA by email: llondon@lakeregion.coop or by telephone: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.

Charles Johnson Scholarship supports trade students

The scholarship through the Charles Johnson Trust is awarded to those who intend to further their education in order to return to the area with the knowledge and skills necessary to flourish in the trades industries. The scholarship is focused on the Day County community but may be expanded to enhance economic development and community growth in Northeast South Dakota. This scholarship may be awarded to qualifying high school students as well as nontraditional students, someone who has finished high school for more than one year who wishes to further their education.

The Charles Johnson Trust was established to promote education, training, hiring and placement of persons to work and establish life-long careers in the manufacturing and fabrication, or trades industry in the Day County area. This scholarship is named in honor of Charles Johnson who was instrumental in the development of industry in Webster.



Lake Region Electric Association shares Charles Johnson's vision and promotion of local manufacturing and industry that support our community.

The students to be recognized with this award are to be of good character and must be planning to pursue careers in manufacturing and technology including, but not limited to: Precision Machining, Welding, Electronics, Robotics, Energy Technology, Engineering, Construction Management, etc.

Criteria for the Award:

- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- Qualifying course of study related to manufacturing or technology
- Essay of goals and future plans
- Character qualities

- Academic orientation
- Intent to return to Day County, or surrounding community in northeast South Dakota

Previous scholarship recipients have been awarded between \$1,000 and \$4,000 towards their education. Applicants for this scholarship do not need to be members of LREA. Applications should be submitted before April 15.

The Board of Trustees include Jim Block, Tim McIntyre, and Kermit Pearson. To apply for this scholarship, contact Laura at LREA or Webster Area High School Counselor Chelsea Larson. Applications are also available on the Lake Region Electric website: www.lakeregion.coop.



61st Annual Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo
January 28-February 5, 2022



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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

DECEMBER 21-25
Fort Sisseton Drive Thru Christmas Light Display
 11907 434th Avenue, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

DECEMBER 23-24
1880 Train Holiday Express
 222 Railroad Avenue, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

DECEMBER 26-31
Christmas Nights of Lights
 Storybook Island, Rapid City, SD, 1-605-342-6357

DECEMBER 26-31
Garden Glow
 McCrory Gardens, Brookings, SD, 605-688-6707

DECEMBER 31
New Year's Eve With The Davis Sisters
 Performing Arts Center of Rapid City, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-4676

JANUARY 1
Winter Wonderland Nature Hike
 Big Sioux Recreation Area, Brandon, SD, 605-594-3824

JANUARY 4-6
Dakota Farm Show
 USD DakotaDome, Vermillion, SD, more info available at dakotafarmshow.com

JANUARY 7
Neal McCoy
 The Dakota Event Center, Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2641

JANUARY 8
Eric Church
 Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

JANUARY 14-15
Deadwood Red Dirt Festival
 Deadwood Mountain Grand Event Center, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

JANUARY 15
Burning Beetle
 10th Street, Custer, SD, find out more at www.facebook.com/barkbeetleblues

JANUARY 15-16
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association Gun Show
 Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD, 605-793-2347

JANUARY 16
Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League January Trap Shoot
 5000 N Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

JANUARY 16
WWE Supershow
 Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

JANUARY 21-23
That Golden Girls Show
 Orpheum Theater Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

JANUARY 22
Reba McEntire
 Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

JANUARY 28-29
Deadwood Pro Snocross Races
 Days of '76 Rodeo Grounds, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

JANUARY 28-29
27th Annual Dinner Theater
 Reliance Legion Hall, Reliance, SD, call 605-730-0553 for more info and tickets

JANUARY 28-31
Lead Winterfest
 Various Locations, Lead, SD, call 605-584-1100

JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 6
Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo
 Central States Fairgrounds & Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

JANUARY 29-30
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association Gun Show
 National Field Archery Building, Yankton, SD, 605-731-9154

FEBRUARY 5
Lake Hendricks Improvement Association Ice Fishing Derby
 Hendricks, MN, contact Tim at 507-828-2113 for registration and more information

FEBRUARY 5
Lakota Games on Ice
 3200 Indian Village Road, Mitchell, SD, 605-996-5473

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