

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Forecasting the Future

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for Reliable Energy**
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Proposed Changes to Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws



DeeAnne Norris
CEO
320-826-2593 or
800-826-2593

As mentioned in last month's article by your Board Chair, Roger Manthei, updating the address for our new facility provided an opportunity for the board and leadership team to propose broader changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

These recommendations align with Minnesota Statute 308, which governs cooperative operations. A full marked-up version of the proposed changes is available on our website at www.rscpa.coop/articles-incorporation-and-bylaws. These changes will also be discussed at the 2025 Member Informational Meetings during the first week of March and presented alongside ballots for director elections.

The Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Board of Directors and leadership team support these proposed revisions. Additional changes suggested by the Cooperative Attorney or leadership team will be considered at the December 19, 2024, board meeting.

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact me directly. You are welcome to visit the office, call us at (800-826-2593), or email dnorris@rscpa.coop.

Summary of Proposed Changes as of November 2024:

Address and Language Updates

- Update the Cooperative's address to reflect the new facility location.
- Revise language for gender inclusivity, clarity, spelling, and consistency without altering the original intent of the Articles or Bylaws.

Directors and Officers

- Allow the Board of Directors to remove a board member or officer for cause, with due process.
- Permit exceptions to meeting attendance rules by majority board vote.

- Increase educational requirements for serving as an officer on the board.

Annual Meeting Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

- Notify members promptly.
- The Board will decide at the next monthly meeting whether to reschedule within the year or combine business with the following year's meeting.
- Voting for directors and other matters will proceed via mail or electronic means, with a minimum 10-day extension for submitting votes.
- Results will be published via the Association website, newsletter, special mailings, or other electronic means.

Bad Debt Recovery from Capital Credits

- Permit the use of unretired capital credit allocations to address bad debts.
- Apply the same discounted rate used for Estate Retirements when making adjustments.
- Include a "capital credit write-off" policy in Board Policy to ensure alignment with financial practices and accounting standards.

Arbitration

- Disputes unrelated to payment for electricity or services must be resolved through binding arbitration.
- For disputes over \$100,000, there will be three arbitrators; for disputes under \$100,000, one arbitrator will suffice.
- Arbitration will occur near Danube, Minnesota, per Minnesota's Uniform Arbitration Act (Chapter 572B).
- Costs of arbitration will be shared equally.
- All disputes must be arbitrated individually, not as part of a class action.
- Members agree to these arbitration terms by virtue of their membership, and this agreement survives membership withdrawal or termination.

Stay tuned to upcoming newsletters for more information about the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the member informational meetings, and the annual meeting.

Thank you for your continued engagement in our cooperative!

Member Informational Meetings

Renville-Sibley will be hosting our annual member informational meetings throughout the service area March 1, March 3, March 4, and March 6, 2025. More information about the meetings will be in the February issue of Cooperative Connections.

ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 27, 2025

Renville-Sibley's 87th Annual Meeting will be held on March 27, 2025 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. More annual meeting information will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

THE RENVILLE-SIBLEY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 25 & 26

NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1 & 2

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

Roger Manthei - Chair
Whitey Hinderman - Vice Chair
Wayland Zaske - Secretary/Treasurer
Jeff Boersma
Gary Eekhoff
Vicky Firl
Alan Neyers
Gary Peterson
Helen Ruebel

Renville-Sibley Employees

Gene Alex - Line Superintendent
Brian Athmann - Journeyman Lineman
Shawn Beckler - Crew Chief
Mike Benson - Journeyman Lineman
Brad Braulick - Crew Chief
Nick Bruns - Technology Manager
Anthony Carruth - Journeyman Lineman
Amy Ervin - Executive Admin and HR
Brayden Fischer - Journeyman Lineman
Carren Frank - Cooperative Support Specialist
DeeAnne Norris - CEO
Clint Olson - Journeyman Lineman
Marc Snyder - Cooperative Analyst
Jill Woods - Member Services Professional

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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

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Snow Safety

There is no end to the terms for “really big snowstorm,” and those terms come in handy, particularly in America’s snowiest cities. Just check out these average annual snowfall totals in towns of at least 10,000 residents, according to the Farmer’s Almanac:

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan – 119.3 inches
Syracuse, New York – 114.3 inches
Juneau, Alaska – 93.6 inches
Flagstaff, Arizona – 87.6 inches
Duluth, Minnesota – 83.5 inches
Erie, Pennsylvania – 80.9 inches
Burlington, Vermont – 80.2 inches
Muskegon, Michigan – 79.3 inches
Casper, Wyoming – 77 inches
Portland, Maine – 70 inches

But with really big snow storms – and even everyday, run-of-the-mill snowfalls – comes a risk of death by shoveling. Nationwide, snow shoveling is responsible for thousands of injuries and as many as 100 deaths each year.

So, why so many deaths? Shoveling snow is just another household chore, right?

Not really, says the American Heart Association. While most people won’t have a problem, shoveling snow can put some people at risk of heart attack. Sudden exertion, like moving hundreds of pounds of snow after being sedentary for several months, can put a big strain on the heart. Pushing a heavy snow blower also can cause injury.

And, there’s the cold factor. Cold weather can increase heart rate and blood pressure. It can make blood clot more easily and constrict arteries, which decreases blood supply. This is true even in healthy people. Individuals over the age of 40 or who are relatively inactive should be particularly careful.

National Safety Council recommends the following tips to shovel safely:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it’s lighter.
- Push the snow rather than lifting it.
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.

- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- Know the signs of a heart attack, stop immediately and call 911 if you’re experiencing any of them; every minute counts.

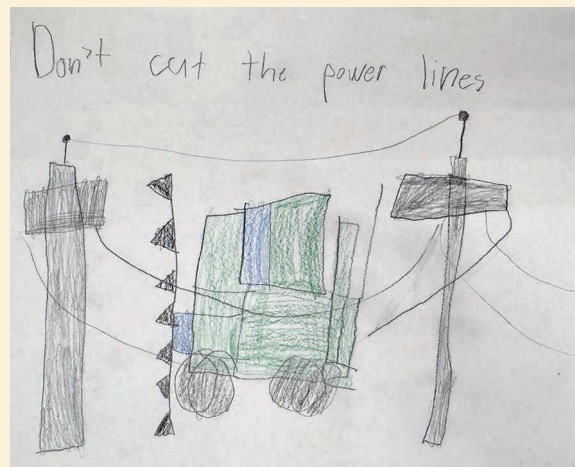
Don’t pick up that shovel without a doctor’s permission if you have a history of heart disease. A clear driveway is not worth your life.

Snow Blower Safety

In addition to possible heart strain from pushing a heavy snow blower, stay safe with these tips:

- If the blower jams, turn it off.
- Keep your hands away from the moving parts.
- Be aware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space.
- Add fuel outdoors, before starting, and never add fuel when it is running.
- Never leave it unattended when it is running.

Source: National Safety Council



“Don’t Cut the Power Lines!”

David Raak, Age 7 ½

David Raak cautions readers to be careful when working around power lines. Thank you for your picture, David! David’s parents are Nathaniel and Katie Raak, members of Central Electric.

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.

Crockpot GREATNESS

CROCKPOT CORN

Ingredients:

3 16-oz. packages frozen corn
8 oz. cream cheese
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
2 tbsps. sugar
2 tbsps. water

Method

Place corn in crockpot. Cut cream cheese and butter into small cubes. Add cream cheese, butter, sugar and water to corn. Stir. Cook on high for 45 minutes. Stir. Turn to low and cook for three more hours, stirring occasionally.

Elaine Rieck
Harrisburg, S.D.

CROCKPOT BAKED BEANS

Ingredients:

2 cans black beans
2 cans red beans (drained)
2 cans great northern
1 can baked beans with brown sugar
1 lb. diced ham
1 heaping tsp. mustard (regular)
2 full tbsps. ketchup
Garlic powder (optional)
1 small onion (chopped)

Method

Mix all ingredients in crockpot except ham. Cook 2 hours on high. Mix in ham and cook another hour on high. Enjoy!

Rose Tucker
Hot Springs, S.D.

CHICKEN FIESTA SLOW COOKER RECIPE

Ingredients:

2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 package slow cooker fiesta chicken seasoning mix
2 cans (14 1/2 oz. each) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 can (15 3/4 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
1 can (15 oz.) black beans, drained and rinsed

Method

Place chicken in slow cooker. Mix seasoning, tomatoes, corn and beans until blended. Pour over chicken. Cover. Cook eight hours on LOW or four hours on HIGH. Remove chicken from slow cooker. Shred chicken, using two forks. Return chicken to slow cooker; mix well. Serve over cooked rice with assorted toppings, if desired.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite 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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

New Year's Resolution: Be Energy Efficient Year-Round

Seal in comfort and savings

As energy consumers, we can all play a part in conserving resources and reducing our bills. Here are some practical tips to boost your home's energy efficiency throughout the year:

Know your energy consumption

Start by reviewing your energy bills for the past 12–24 months. Calculate your average monthly usage to establish a baseline for measuring your energy-saving efforts.

Adopt no-cost ways to save energy

Small changes can lead to significant savings:

- Turn off lights and unplug electronics such as chargers when not in use.
- Close or lower window coverings to regulate the temperature indoors.
- Change your air filters regularly as recommended.
- Use ceiling fans strategically: counterclockwise in summer and clockwise in winter to force warm air down.
- Grill outdoors in summer to keep the heat out of the kitchen.

Insulate your home

Weatherproofing is key to maintaining comfort and reducing energy use:

- Check for air leaks around windows and doors using the wet finger or tissue test.

- Apply caulk or weather stripping to prevent drafts.
- Remember to keep doors closed to maintain indoor temperature.

Get smart with your thermostat

Optimize your heating and cooling by using your programmable thermostat's features — many homeowners never use them — and allow it to adjust the temperature when you're asleep or away.

- Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat for automatic adjustments.
- In general, adjust the thermostat a few degrees up or down for energy savings.
- Explore renewable energy.
- Consider harnessing the power of natural energy sources.
- Look into installing solar energy panels for your home.
- Research local community solar programs that may be available.

Consult your electricity provider early in the process. They can provide valuable information about:

- Grid connection requirements.
- Cost considerations.
- Potential rebates available for renewable energy installations.

By implementing these tips, you'll not only save on energy costs but also contribute to a more sustainable community. For more tips on building a resilient and efficient home, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Scholarships to be Awarded

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will be offering \$6,000 in scholarship money to students in this region. The scholarships are for the 2025 – 2026 school year.

Renville-Sibley is allocated a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric to be awarded at the discretion of the cooperative. Another \$1,000 scholarship is from Renville-Sibley.

A committee of Renville-Sibley Board members, as well as an employee of the cooperative, will select the recipients of the \$1,000 Basin Scholarship and the \$1,000 Renville-Sibley Scholarship. These scholarships will be awarded based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, the personal statement of career goals, and the written recommendation by a third party. Additional consideration will be given to applicants interested in a position related to the electric

industry for the Renville-Sibley scholarship.

The remaining four \$1,000 scholarships are distributed from uncashed capital credit checks and are awarded by a **random drawing** at the annual meeting from the remaining completed applications.

All scholarship applicants must be U.S. citizens and a dependent of a member of Renville-Sibley Cooperative. They must be a high school senior who plans to enroll as a full-time student in an undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school. Applications will be accepted until February 13, 2025. Winners will be announced to the public at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting on March 27, 2025.

Renville-Sibley participates with other Minnesota electric cooperatives in sponsoring the continuation of the Jay York Scholarship. Mr. York was a Lake Wilson farmer who dedicated his life to the rural electric program

and to education in rural Minnesota. He was the first Minnesotan to serve as president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Scholarships are available each year from this program and are selected by random drawing. Each participating cooperative may submit one candidate's name for the drawing. The amount of this scholarship is determined based on the number of cooperatives that participate in the program. Over the past 20 years, Renville-Sibley has awarded 13 Jay York scholarships.

Only one completed application is required for an applicant to be considered a candidate for any of the available scholarships. Incomplete applications will be excluded. For more information and a scholarship application form, contact Renville-Sibley at 1-800-826-2593 or 826-2593. Application forms are also available at our website www.rscpa.coop. 992400

Renville-Sibley Board of Directors Approve Capital Credit Retirement



Amy Ervin
Executive Admin
and HR

Capital credits can be confusing to new members and sometimes even the more seasoned members could use a refresher, from time to time. So let me explain how capital credits work.

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is a member-owned company, referred to as a Cooperative. As

a cooperative, our main goal is to provide at-cost electric service. Anyone who uses or purchases electric energy is a member. As a member, you invest in the efficient operation of your co-op through your electric rates. Unlike an investor-owned utility, we don't pay dividends or other amounts to shareholders who don't purchase electricity from us.

Generally, co-ops operate at cost, meaning they collect enough revenue to run and expand the business without over-charging members. At the end of each year, any excess revenue is allocated back to the membership in the form of capital credits. The allocation is based on the amount of electricity each member consumed during the year. Please see the article published in the September 2024 Cooperative Connections newsletter for more details on the 2023 margin that was allocated to the members.

When our board of directors determines it is financially feasible and prudent, and when we meet the financial requirements stated in our loan documents, we retire capital credits. At the October board meeting, the board of directors of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association approved the disbursement of a \$200,000 retirement to be applied on the December statement. Checks will be issued to inactive members who have a capital credit balance in the years being retired.

This retirement reflects the remaining 2003 allocation from East River Electric, and slightly more than 27% of the 2004 allocation from Basin Electric. East River and Basin Electric are our Generation and Transmission Cooperatives (G&Ts). Renville-Sibley will retire approximately 6.75% of the 2023 allocation. Please note that the value of your retirement from RSCPA is based on 6.75% of the 2023 allocation, but the dollars will be retired from each member's oldest unretired allocation year(s).

Below are some common capital credit questions. If you have any further questions regarding capital credits, please contact the office.

Common Capital Credits Questions:

What are capital credits?

An electric cooperative operates on an at-cost basis by annually "allocating" to each member, based upon the member's purchase of electricity, operating revenue remaining at the end of the year. Later, as financial conditions permit, these allocated amounts—capital credits—are retired. Capital credits represent the most significant source of equity for Renville-Sibley. Since a cooperative's members are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member's ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative. This differs from dividends investor-owned utilities pay shareholders, who may or may not be customers of the utility.

Where does the money come from?

Member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans, and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, we subtract operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating "margin."

How are margins allocated?

Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on their purchases from the cooperative—how much power the member used. Member purchases may also be called patronage.

Do investor-owned or municipal utilities retire capital credits?

No. Within the electric industry, capital credits only exist at not-for-profit electric cooperatives owned by their members.

Are capital credits retired every year?

Each year, the Board of Directors decides whether to retire capital credits based on the financial health of the cooperative. During some years, the co-op may experience high growth in the number of new accounts requiring capital investments, or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity, causing the board to not retire capital credits. For this reason, Renville-Sibley's ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative's strength and financial stability.

Do I lose my capital credits in the years the co-op decides not to make retirements?

No. All capital credits allocated for every year members have been served are maintained until such time as the board retires them.

What years will be retired this December?

Renville-Sibley will retire the remaining 2003 allocation from East River Electric, and slightly more than 27% of the 2004 allocation from Basin Electric.

East River and Basin Electric are our Generation and Transmission Cooperatives (G&Ts). Renville-Sibley will retire approximately 6.75% of the 2023 allocation. Please note that the value of your retirement from RSCPA is based on 6.75% of the 2023 allocation, but the dollars will be retired from each member's oldest unretired allocation year(s).

How much will be retired in total in 2024?

Approximately \$200,000 will be retired in December.

I did not get electric service from Renville-Sibley 2003, will I get any retirement?

Maybe. Although you will not receive a retirement from 2003, you may receive a retirement if you purchased electric service in 2004 or 2023. This credit will be applied to the December electric statement.

How much has Renville-Sibley paid in total capital credits retirements since it began in 1938?

Renville-Sibley will have paid approx. \$15.24 million in capital credits retirements to current and former members by the end of this year.

How often do members receive capital credit retirements?

The Board of Directors decides each year by November whether or not to retire capital credits. When the cooperative is strong enough financially and member equity levels high enough, the board directs staff to retire some portion of past years' capital credits.

How will the retirement work?

Active members will receive a credit on their December electric statement. Inactive members will be mailed a check provided the amount is over \$5. Due to the expense involved in printing checks, the minimum retirement check that will be written will be \$5.

What if I have moved?

If you move or no longer have electric service with Renville-Sibley, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address, so that future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you will receive a capital credit retirement, even if you move out of our service area. If we have your current address, we will send your retirement check by mail.

How many people will get retirements?

Roughly 1,503 active members will have a credit applied to their account and about 490 inactive members will receive a check.

Can I donate my retirement back to the cooperative?

Yes. If you would like to donate your retirement back to the cooperative, please call our office at 800-826-2593 or email renville-sibley@rscpa.coop for instructions. All donated capital credit retirements will be designated to our scholarship fund. Scholarships are awarded each year at our annual meeting to students in our local communities.

PLANNING AHEAD



An aerial view of the Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV near Williston, N.D. Photo submitted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

FORECASTING THE FUTURE

Basin Electric's Vision for Reliable Energy

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Keeping the lights on in a dynamic world isn't as simple as flipping a switch. It requires a forward-thinking approach, almost like gazing into a crystal ball, to anticipate future energy demand. Energy infrastructure projects begin long before the first shovel breaks ground, and it's a challenge that Basin Electric Power Cooperative confronts every day to ensure consistent and

reliable power amid an ever-changing landscape of new technologies and growing membership.

A new plant or transmission line can take years of planning and coordination by Basin Electric and its member cooperatives. The process is similar to predicting the weather; it all begins with a forecast to determine what energy demand is brewing on the horizon.

Basin Electric works with the members and other stakeholders to

develop highly accurate load forecasts. Those load forecasts are then compared against our existing resource portfolio. If any gaps are identified, resource alternatives are identified and reviewed against each other to arrive at the best resource portfolio outcome.

"Once a need for a new generation project or transmission project has been identified, Basin Electric assembles a project team," explained Matt Ehrman, vice president of engineering and construction at Basin Electric.

"Developing and defining project scope is vital to project success as it's really the foundation for the project," Ehrman continued. "Good upfront planning minimizes project execution

risks later, so Basin places a lot of emphasis on the development work that happens before any detailed engineering design can begin.”

Basin Electric is currently undertaking one of its largest single-site electric generation projects in the last 40 years near Williston, North Dakota, known as Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. Once completed, this project will add 580 megawatts of natural gas generation capacity to Basin Electric’s energy portfolio. Although the project broke ground in March 2023, planning for the project began in 2021, standing as a testament to the cooperative’s long-term mindset and commitment to meeting its load forecast.

So what goes into the planning of such a major project? Ehrman says everything from identifying project objectives to permitting and contracting strategies to engineering studies all take place within the years leading up to new infrastructure.

“In the case of a generation project, the project site, fuel, water, and transmission sources are identified during the project development phase,” Ehrman said. “After the development phase is complete, the more detailed engineering design work can begin. This is when the engineers really begin to dig into the details of how to arrange and interconnect all of the many different types of equipment



The first gas turbine delivery for Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. Photo submitted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

required for a given project. Eventually, those design details are used to develop construction specifications, contractors are selected and construction begins.”

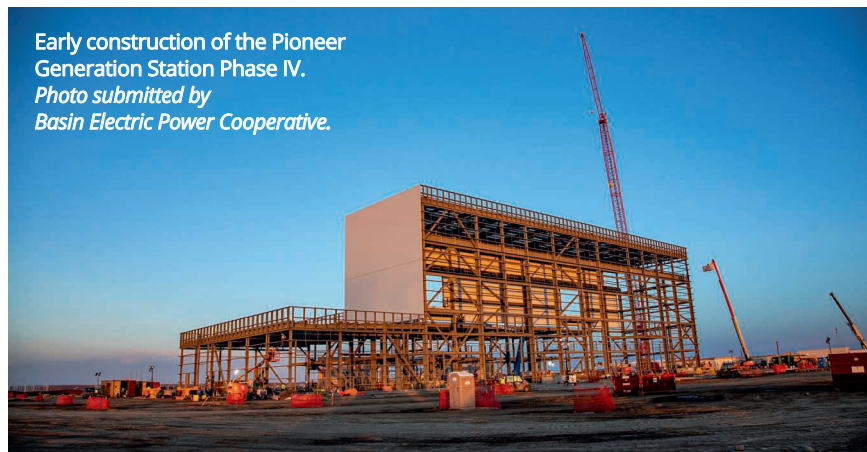
Beyond the demanding complexity of the project itself, Basin Electric’s project team must also navigate regulatory matters and policy. While many projects share similarities, no two are identical when navigating federal, state, and local permitting requirements.

“Large generation and transmission projects can take years to permit, and the permitting duration depends on the project,” Ehrman said. “Basin’s

teams have successfully permitted and executed many projects over the years and as a result have learned a lot about those processes in our service territory.”

Slated to be operational in 2025, Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV will come on board during a time when electricity demand is increasing significantly. The completion of the project will expand Basin Electric’s resource portfolio, which uses a vast diversity of generation resources to serve its member cooperatives. Even still, Ehrman said it still takes a massive effort to stay prepared for what the future may bring.

“Planning and building energy infrastructure is a massive team effort that involves teams from Basin and its membership,” he said. “These are complex projects, and there are challenges involved in all phases of the projects. Basin has extremely talented, dedicated and hard-working teams developing these projects that really enjoy working out all the technical and non-technical details while mitigating risks to achieve success and deliver the best possible outcome for the membership.”



Early construction of the Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. Photo submitted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Are You Interested in a New Adventure?

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is beginning to plan for the 87th Annual meeting of the membership that will be held on March 27, 2025 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Three (3) directors will be elected during that time, each for a 3-year term.

The First District, consisting of the townships of Cornish, Severance and Moltke in Sibley County; the townships of Ridgely and West Newton in Nicollet County; and the townships of Cairo, Wellington, Martinsburg, Camp, Bandon and Palmyra in Renville County is represented by Alan Neyers, Whitey Hinderman and Vicky Firl. Whitey Hinderman's term will expire in 2025.

The Second District, consisting of the townships of Honner and Delhi in Redwood County; and the townships of Beaver Falls, Flora, Henryville, Birch Cooley, Norfolk, Melville, Bird Island and Kingman in Renville County is represented by Helen Ruebel, Wayland Zasko and Jeff Boersma. Wayland Zasko's term will expire in 2025.

The Third District, consisting of the townships of Roseland and Holland in Kandiyohi County; Rheiderland in Chippewa County the townships of Troy, Winfield, Emmet, Crooks, Sacred Heart, Hawk Creek, Ericson and Wang in Renville County is represented by Gary Eekhoff, Gary Peterson and Roger Manthei. Gary Eekhoff's term will expire in 2025.

As stated in the Renville-Sibley by-laws, the following is the Qualifications and Tenure for the position of Director:

Each director shall be a member

of the Cooperative and shall be elected by the members within their respective district at the annual meeting of the members for a term of three years. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident in the area served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or space heating/cooling appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members. When a membership is held jointly by two or more persons, including husband and wife, only one of such joint tenants may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become a director, unless all shall meet the qualifications herein set forth.

Director qualifications required for service to the cooperative shall include:

- A. Must be an individual and must be at least 18 years of age.
- B. Must be competent and able to execute a contract.
- C. Must not have been convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor during the preceding 5 years prior to becoming a director for the Cooperative or during the period while serving as a director.
- D. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- E. Must make a reasonable

effort to become and remain knowledgeable about special issues regarding electric cooperatives by attending training, workshops and seminars.

- F. Must attend at least three-fourths (3/4) of all monthly scheduled board meetings during any twelve (12) month period.

Upon becoming a candidate for and/or to remain a Director, an individual must complete an annual conflict of interest disclosure form, approved by the Board of Directors. All Directors and/or Director candidates must comply with or meet the following conflict of interest qualifications:

- A. Shall not be a close relative of an existing Director, employee, agent or representative of the Cooperative other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director upon the candidate assuming office;
- B. Within 5 years immediately prior to becoming a Director, shall not have been a Cooperative Officer, employee, agent or representative of the Cooperative or any subsidiary or affiliated company;
- C. Shall not be employed by, materially affiliated with, nor share a material financial interest with any current Director;
- D. Shall not be engaged in any business, nor employed by, nor materially affiliated with, nor have a material financial interest in any individual or entity that:

1. Is regularly, directly, and substantially competing with the Cooperative or any other entity that the Cooperative controls or in which the Cooperative owns a majority interest (Cooperative Subsidiary).
2. Is regularly selling goods and services to the Cooperative or the Cooperative Subsidiary.
3. Possesses a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or the Cooperative subsidiary.

E. A former Director is ineligible for employment by the Cooperative for 5 years following the end of the tenure as a Director.

As a Director, the member agrees to:

- Abide by, promote and uphold the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, both of which can be found on our website, and Policies of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.
- Attend regular and special Board meetings of the Cooperative.
- Attend, when appointed, committee meetings of the Cooperative.

If anyone should decide to seek candidacy for the board of directors, there are many rewards to be enjoyed when elected. A director has the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership quality and increase their knowledge within the cooperative business environment and the electric industry. As a director, this person could play a significant role in the future development of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

A director also has a very important responsibility which is to uphold and abide by the bylaws of the cooperative.

Directors are to act as the trustees for the assets of the cooperative and are assigned the duties of formulating, approving and reviewing the policies that provide guidelines for the cooperative.

The board is responsible for sending representatives to the affiliated association meetings that often include voting requirements. They include East River Electric Power Cooperative, Minnesota Rural Electric Association, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, National Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, CoBank, Cooperative Network and the National Rural Electric Association.

Directors attend seminars and meetings of several organizations to learn about the industry. Directors are asked to lobby and remain informed on legislative issues that could impact this industry and/or the cooperative way of doing business. The Board meets monthly and reviews financial reports, work plans, annual audits, planning documents and evaluates the cooperative operations while approving budgets and purchases.

Most of all, a director should be available to visit with their constituents and have a genuine spirit of helping others at all times.

Board meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in December, January and February and beginning at 8:00 a.m. the rest of the year. Board meetings will be held in person or via Zoom. The estimated time needed to be committed annually is approximately 30 days which includes monthly meetings and committee assignments. Directors are compensated per diem for their time as well as all personal expenses.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Renville-Sibley Board of Directors, contact the Renville-Sibley office at 1-800-826-2593 before January 6th for further information.

FOR SALE:

Grass fed, grass finished beef. Burger-Individual cuts-Quarters-Halves when available. Call for pricing.

Dave Pastoors
Olivia, MN 56277
320-522-4851

WANTED:

Skid loader – any year, any size. In good condition.

Denny Hanlon
Franklin, MN 55333
320-212-3803

OUTAGE REPORT:

Affecting 10 members or more

Date: 10-24-24
Time off: 9:00 AM
Time on: 10:57 AM
Substation: Emmet
Cause: Prearranged

Date: 10-30-24
Time off: 1:37 PM
Time on: 1:50 PM
Substation: Emmet
Cause: Material or Equipment Fault/Failure

Date: 10-31-24
Time off: 8:40 AM
Time on: 10:45 AM
Substation: Crooks
Cause: Ice, Sleet, Frost Not Trees

Please contact Renville-Sibley's office for more details about these power outages.



LOOKING AHEAD

An aerial view of the Wild Springs Solar Project near New Underwood, S.D. Photo submitted by East River Electric

Wind Energy Association Changes Name, Advocates For All Renewables

Jacob Boyko
jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

The South Dakota Wind Energy Association is getting a fresh coat of paint this year with a rebrand that will expand the association’s advocacy mission to include more forms of renewable energy.

As solar energy generation in the state increases with new and upcoming projects, expanding the association — now called the South Dakota Renewable Energy Association — to include other forms of renewable energy and battery storage was the clear way forward according to association president and Sioux Valley Energy Director Gary Fish.

“The association started out as being very wind oriented, and that’s our legacy,” Fish explained. “But we also have somewhat migrated to having an energy portfolio where wind coexists

with coal, natural gas and solar, and that was the driver behind changing our name.”

The change comes in the wake of South Dakota’s first large-scale solar farm near New Underwood, which began commercial operation in March 2024. Basin Electric Power Cooperative will purchase 114 megawatts of the 128-megawatt renewable project.

The association began with the

leadership of East River Electric Power Cooperative in the mid-2000s as the generation and transmission co-op looked for ways to develop wind generation in the state to serve its growing member utilities and bring economic development and job opportunities to the state.

“Wind energy was at that time starting to become a more viable utility-scale source of power generation,” said Chris Studer, chief member and public relations officer at East River Electric.

A look on the ground as crews prepare the Wild Springs Solar Project for power generation. Photo submitted by East River Electric



“East River led an effort to build an association of stakeholders in South Dakota that can help advocate for the wind industry.”

It’s a mission that’s propelled South Dakota to being the state with the third highest renewable energy makeup, with more than 54% of in-state power generated from renewable wind and solar resources.

“We’ve gone from essentially zero wind energy to more than 3,000 megawatts of installed capacity in the state,” Studer said. “We have far surpassed what our original goal was.”

In the South Dakota Wind Energy Association’s initial stages, the board was composed mostly of utilities and developers focused on studying potential economic benefits and the infrastructure needs that come with increasing generation.

“I think everyone knew we had a great wind resource, but the real issue was having additional transmission to get the power out,” Fish said. “Could we build

the towers? Yes. Could we get the power to market? That was the challenge.”

As the association successfully made the case for wind energy, the membership grew to include other G&Ts and investor-owned utilities, landowner groups, turbine manufacturers, servicing companies and others from the wind energy supply chain.

One of the first large-scale renewable energy wins for the South Dakota Wind Energy Association and rural electric cooperatives was the 2011 commissioning of the 172-megawatt Crow Lake Project north of White Lake, South Dakota. The association membership helped support the launch of South Dakota Wind Partners to bring local residents an opportunity to invest in and own several turbines in the project.

According to East River Electric, the program generated about \$16 million worth of local investment.

“It was a very unique and successful

project that the South Dakota Wind Energy Association had involvement in and advocated for,” Studer said. “The people that invested got tax equity benefits over time, and after about 10 years they sold it back to Basin Electric and got their investments back.”

Moving forward, the association will continue to advocate for a renewable energy-friendly business environment to propel South Dakota energy projects forward.

“South Dakota Renewable Energy Association is here to make sure our state’s tax policies are fair, that developers still want to come here and develop renewable energy projects, and that there’s a market for all of the supply chain that’s needed for wind energy and now for solar, as well as the necessary transmission,” Studer continued.

A new South Dakota Renewable Energy Association website and promotional material will debut within the next several months.



The Crow Lake Wind Project near White Lake, S.D., is the largest wind project owned solely by a cooperative in the United States. The \$363 million wind project went into operation in 2011.

Photo submitted by East River Electric

Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Gabriella Pederson on being selected as the November Scholar of the Month. Gabby, currently a senior at CMCS, was nominated because she is an outgoing individual who is always willing to get the job done. She is attentive to details and always strives to do her best. Gabby works to solve problems with a positive attitude and is always willing to help others. For example, she loves to run cross-country but opted to help manage the team when an injury kept her from running. Gabby took this role seriously and encouraged her teammates to do their best. Renville-



Sibley Co-op Power salutes Gabriella Pederson as the November Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month!

Comparative Report			
	Current YTD	One Year Ago YTD	10 Years Ago YTD
Average # of Consumers	1,881	1,879	1,914
kWhs purchased	17,802,942	19,512,198	21,133,550
Cost of purchased power	\$1,220,543.22	\$1,168,628.79	\$1,141,677.35

FREE Want Ad Service

Members can submit ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent, and Wanted. Ads should be or are limited to no more than 15 words and must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Renville-Sibley reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Ads will be run one time only unless resubmitted. Please complete the following information and mail it to the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Ad to be placed (limit of 15 words per ad)

Type of ad: Giveaway For Sale For Rent Wanted

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month RSCPA member found their member number in the newsletter. Congratulations! The value of the energy credit will start over at \$15. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 6th of January, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2025 to please contact the office as soon as possible. In order to complete these projects on time, material may need to be ordered well in advance as often there is extended lead time to get the appropriate material. In addition, crew time will be scheduled in the order projects and materials are received.

OPERATION ROUND UP

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 3 p.m. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, December 31, 2024. If your non-profit organization has a project or event that would benefit the community, Operation Round Up funds may be available to help your group reach its goal.

Applications for donations can be found at rscpa.coop/operation-round. Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

November Board Meeting Highlights

The November board meeting was held on Tuesday, November 26 at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, Gene Alex, Amy Ervin and Carren Frank.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the October 22 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of October
- Safety Report for October
- Proposed updates to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Olivia Ambulance Application Resolution
- Market Rate for 2025
- CRC Annual Meeting Voting Delegates
- Nominating Committee Appointments
- NRECA Annual Meeting Voting Delegates
- NRTC Annual Meeting Voting Delegates

The board reviewed:

- Total new members
- Capital Credits Transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
 - o High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through October (unaudited)
 - o Organization activities
 - o East River update
 - o Basin Electric update
 - o NRECA update
 - o MREA update
 - o Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
 - o Accounts Receivable
 - o Member Informational Meeting Schedule
 - o ACRE/REPAC Dues

Please contact the Renville-Sibley office if you would like more information regarding the board meeting.

Mission Statement

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will provide safe, efficient, reliable electric energy and services to enhance the quality of rural living.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Notice:

The December board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19 at 9 a.m.
There will not be a January 2025 board meeting.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo to win a Blackstone electric grill!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



JAN. 11
Snow Queen Coronation
7 p.m.
Aberdeen Civic Theater
Aberdeen, SD
SDSnowQueen.com

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Snow Queen Festival

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.

UNTIL DEC. 26
Christmas at the Capitol
8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Pierre, SD
605-773-3178

UNTIL DEC. 29
Trees & Trains Exhibit at SD State Railroad Museum
Hill City, SD
605-665-3636

UNTIL DEC. 31
Olde Tyme Christmas at participating businesses, Lane of Lights Viewing
Hill City, SD

UNTIL DEC. 31
Garden Glow at McCrory Gardens
5-9 p.m.
Brookings, SD

UNTIL DEC. 31
Hall of Trees
12-4 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
The Mead Museum
Yankton, SD

DEC. 31
American Legion Post 15 Save the Last Dance 2024
8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
El Riad Shrine
Sioux Falls, SD
605-336-3470

DEC. 31-JAN. 1
New Year's Eve in Deadwood
Deadwood, SD
800-999-1876

JAN. 5, FEB. 2
American Legion Post 15 Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
1600 W. Russel St.
Sioux Falls, SD
605-336-3470

JAN. 7-9
Dakota Farm Show
Tue. & Wed. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Thurs. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
USD DakotaDome
Vermillion, SD

JAN. 11.
Coats for Kids Bowling Tournament
Meadowood Lanes
Rapid City, SD
605-393-2081

JAN. 15
46th Ranchers Workshop
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Community Events Center
White River, SD
605-259-3252 ext. 3

JAN. 18
Breakin' the Winter Blues Chili Cookoff
Main Street
Hill City, SD

JAN. 26
Souper Supper Fundraiser Rapid Valley United Methodist Church
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$6
5103 Longview Dr.
Rapid City, SD

JAN. 31-FEB. 8
Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo
Central States Fairground
Rapid City, SD
605-355-3861

FEB. 14-17
11th Annual Frost Fest
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Brookings, SD
605-692-7444

FEB. 22
Bellator Titans Charter Casino Night Fundraiser
6-11 p.m.
316 2nd St.
Aberdeen, SD

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