

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## South Dakota Snowmobiling

Seasonal Fun in the  
Snow

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Gaining Dual Credits

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# Preparing for the Winter Season



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

In the Upper Midwest, we are accustomed to enduring severe winters. As your local electric cooperative, we are well-prepared to confront the challenges posed by Mother Nature, be it ice, snow, wind, or frigid temperatures. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing you with reliable power at an affordable price, even in the face of adversity. Although challenges may arise, our electric cooperative employs various measures to ensure the highest possible reliability during harsh weather conditions.

Ensuring energy security and resilience necessitates a diverse mix of energy sources—an approach we often refer to as an "all-of-the-above" generation strategy. Our generation mix encompasses coal, natural gas, wind, hydropower, and soon solar energy. Dispatchable generation sources, including coal, natural gas, and hydropower, can be activated as needed, offering a reliable and responsive energy supply. In contrast, non-dispatchable or intermittent resources like wind and solar depend on specific weather conditions. For wind resources, this involves the speed of the wind, while solar resources rely on the unimpeded rays of the sun. This distinction highlights the importance of weather patterns in determining the availability of these renewable energy sources.

Our cooperative is interconnected with major power suppliers, including East River Electric Power Cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and the Western Area Power Administration. These entities collectively form part of the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO), a regional transmission organization responsible for grid balancing in our region. MISO officials, having analyzed the probability of energy shortfalls this winter, have assured that there is minimal risk of such occurrences.

Mike Mattox, senior advisor of operations planning at MISO, emphasizes the importance of monitoring weather forecasting, stating, "Our meteorologists stay on top of weather forecasting because no two winters are the same. When it comes to winter grid planning, we pay close attention to the weather, available resources, fuel supplies, and lessons learned from past storms."

A recent article released by MISO supports the

outlook for the upcoming winter season, stating, "MISO forecasts having enough electricity supply to meet expected consumer demand under typical conditions. Of course, there is always the potential for high risk, low probability weather events impacting the MISO grid. Those type of events often require operators to implement emergency procedures for power to keep flowing."

**"We are committed to advocating for a diverse energy mix, upgrading infrastructure as needed, and implementing winterization measures."**

Our electric cooperative has proactively invested in its electric distribution system to withstand extreme weather conditions. This includes placing an increasing number of miles of line underground, designing a well-connected transmission system for efficient energy transportation, and maintaining an all-of-the-above generation strategy. Technologies detecting problems, an energy management system reducing usage during peak times, and winterizing equipment further contribute to system resilience.

While the likelihood of power interruptions this winter remains minimal, concerns about the future of grid generation assets persist. The retirement of dispatchable generation units nationwide, coupled with rising energy demand, poses a threat to grid reliability. Potential federal regulatory mandates could further impact electric cooperatives, potentially forcing the closure of coal or natural gas plants. Collaborating with lawmakers and regulatory officials, we strive to prevent premature asset retirements and ensure a reliable and resilient energy generation system to meet heightened winter demand.

We are committed to advocating for a diverse energy mix, upgrading infrastructure as needed, and implementing winterization measures. Your cooperative remains dedicated to delivering reliable and affordable power while maintaining a robust energy delivery system, ensuring a stable and secure energy supply throughout winter and beyond.

# December Board Meeting Highlights

The December board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 19 at 9 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, Gene Alex, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the November 28 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of November
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for December
- Bad Debt
- Schedule A – Standard Pricing Guide
- Policy 510 – Sick Leave
- Policy 513 – PTO Leave
- Policy 521 – Cooperative Paid Holidays and Community Service Days
- Nominating Committee Appointments for District 2 & 3
- CRC 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 November (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
- Sale of Cooperative facilities
- Christmas Open House
- Member Informational Meetings
- REPAC Donations
- ACRE Dues
- KRTA Presentation from CFC
- Finance & Audit Committee

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

## Notice:

The January board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23 at 9 a.m.

The February board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27 at 9 a.m.

## 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 – Member and Board Services Representative  
 Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman  
 DeeAnne Norris – CEO  
 Cali Olson – Cooperative Support Specialist  
 Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman  
 Kathy Ridl – Accounting Clerk  
 Marc Snyder – Business Finance & Accounting  
 Shane Suess – PT Janitor

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Web site: [www.rscpa.coop](http://www.rscpa.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Cooking Safety

### Watch What You Heat: Cooking is the Number One Cause of Home Fires

#### Plan A: Primary Prevention

- The best time to cook is when you are wide awake, and not drowsy from medications or alcohol.
- Always wipe clean the stove, oven, exhaust fan to prevent grease buildup.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Keep a pan lid and dry potholders or oven mitts near you EVERY time you cook.
- Turn pot or pan handles toward the back of the stove.
- When heating food in the microwave, use microwave- safe cookware that allows steam to escape.
- Allow food to rest before removing from the microwave.
- When frying, use a pan lid or splash guard to prevent grease splatter.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly. Remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you to check on your cooking.
- After cooking, check the kitchen to make sure all burners and other appliances are turned off.

#### Plan B: Secondary Prevention

If your food does catch on fire...

1. Cover the pan with its lid. A cookie sheet works too. Leave covered until the pan is cool. NEVER move the pot or carry it outside - the pot is too hot to handle and the contents may splash, causing a severe burn.
2. Turn the heat off. With the lid on and the heat off, the fire should quickly put itself out. NEVER use water to put out a kitchen fire. Water will cause the

oil to splatter and spread the fire, or scald you as it vaporizes.

3. If the fire is inside the oven or microwave, keep the door shut and turn it off. Keep closed until the oven is cool.
4. If the fire gets out of control- get out, stay out and call 9-1-1. Don't return inside for any reason.

#### STATS

- 47% of all home fires are caused by cooking
- Preventing a burn injury is always better than the pain and trauma of medical treatment afterward.

**National Burn Awareness Week (Feb. 4-10, 2024)** is a window of opportunity for organizations to mobilize burn, fire, and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities.

*Source: American Burn Association*



#### Call 811 Before You Dig

##### Lillee Pannell, Age 10

Lillee Pannell instructs readers to call 811 before digging. Lillee is the daughter of Scott and Kim Pannell from Sioux Falls, S.D., members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

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.

# BRUNCH SPECIALS

## FRENCH TOAST SUPREME

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter  
2 tbsps. white corn syrup  
1 cup brown sugar  
5 eggs  
1 cup Carnation milk  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/4 tsp. salt

### Method

Boil together butter, corn syrup, and brown sugar for one minute. Grease a 9x13 pan and put the caramel mix in bottom. Slice French bread about one inch thick or use Texas toast. Put slices close together on top of the caramel sauce. Beat together eggs, milk, vanilla, and salt. Pour on top of bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. When ready to serve, turn the pieces over and caramel will be on top. Best served warm.

Brigitta Hofer  
Bridgewater, S.D.

## MINI FRITTATAS

### Ingredients:

8 eggs  
1/4 cup milk  
1 1/2 tps. Italian seasoning  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. ground black pepper  
1 cup crumbled cooked bacon  
1 med. onion, finely chopped  
1 med. zucchini, finely chopped  
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

### Method

Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat eggs, milk, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper in medium bowl until well blended. Add bacon, onion, zucchini and 1/2 cup of the cheese; mix well. Spray one (12-cup) muffin tin generously with no stick cooking spray. Spoon about 1/4 cup egg mixture into each cup. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake 20 to 22 minutes or just until eggs are set. Run small knife or spatula around each cup to loosen mini frittatas. Let stand five minutes before serving.

McCormick.com

## CINNAMON PANCAKES

### Ingredients:

2 cups pancake mix  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 cup milk  
2 tbsps. vegetable oil  
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

### Method

Stir pancake mix and cinnamon in large bowl until well blended. Stir in eggs, milk, oil, and vanilla just until blended.

Pour 1/4 cup of batter per pancake onto preheated lightly greased griddle or skillet. Cook one to two minutes per side or until golden brown, turning when pancakes begin to bubble. Serve pancakes with Spiced Syrup, if desired.

Kitchen Tip: To make flavorful Spiced syrup, mix one cup pancake syrup, one teaspoon pure vanilla extract and 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon in a small microwave-safe bowl and microwave on HIGH for one minute or until warm, stirring once.

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



Renville-Sibley Co-op's rebates and incentives can save you money.

# Renville-Sibley Co-op Power 2024 Rebates and Incentives

## Non Commercial Electric Heat Rebates:

*(replacement incentive offered after 10 years)*

- \$800 Geothermal Heat Pump
- \$800 Air-to-Air Heat Pump
- \$300 Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

Electric heating systems must meet the DOE manufacturing standard for HSPF efficiency. DOE standard in 2024 is 8.8. Ductless system must be new, under 2 tons, electrical ductless equipment and meet the DOE manufacturing standard for HSPF efficiency. Contact the office for commercial, industrial or agricultural rebate information.

## Special Discount Rates:

Separately metered electric heat is only 6 cents/kWh!

Contact the office for details. – There is a \$2.50 per month charge for all discount meters.

## Electric Water Heater Rebates:

*(replacement incentive offered after 10 years)*

- \$6/gallon – Marathon® Lifetime Warranty Units
- \$100 bonus rebate for new home or fossil fuel conversion
- \$6.50 monthly credit for controlled electric water heater

Renville-Sibley has 100-gallon grid enabled water heaters available. Please call the office for more details on this program.

## Nonresidential Efficient Lighting Replacement Program:

Renville-Sibley offers a rebate of \$.20/watt saved for the replacement of inefficient lighting systems in nonresidential installation. The maximum rebate amount is \$1,000 per member per calendar year and a maximum of up to 50 percent of the total project cost. The minimum rebate is \$50.

## Energy Star® Rebates:

- \$100 – Refrigerator (requires proof of disposal of existing unit)
- \$200 – Central Air-Conditioner
- \$50 – Dishwasher
- \$50 – Clothes Washer
- \$50 – Clothes Dryer
- \$100 – Freezer
- \$25 – Dehumidifier
- \$25 – Room Air-Conditioner
- \$5 – LED Light Bulb (*bulb must be a minimum of 8 watts, maximum of 20 bulbs per location*)
- \$35 – Disposal rebate for refrigerator or freezer currently in service (*requires proof of disposal*)

*(ENERGY STAR® Rebates are capped annually; contact the office to verify status of program.)*



**All rebate forms can be found at [www.rscpa.coop](http://www.rscpa.coop)  
For more information, please contact us at 800-826-2593 or 320-826-2593.**

# Horses gallop and so can power lines

How can galloping lines impact power transmission and distribution?

Gallop power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to start to bounce.

Once the lines get going, they can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

There is not much a power company can do to alleviate galloping lines since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. To help prevent this, many power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. While they can help,

sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping wind.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

- When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.
- Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the types of lines —stay away from all lines.
- Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and

metal culverts.

- Keep in mind that a dead line could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.
  - Never drive over a downed line. It could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.
  - If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.
  - Only exit a car or cab near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.
- For more electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://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 2024 – 2025 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 experiences, 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 22, 2024. Winners will be announced to the public at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting on March 26, 2024.

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 12 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](http://www.rscpa.coop).



# SOUTH DAKOTA'S SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

A group of Black Hills Snowmobile Club members enjoy a ride through the snow covered pines.

## Snow Lovers Create Trails and Lifelong Friendships Through Club Membership

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Being a member of one of South Dakota's many snowmobiling clubs is more like being a member of a big, adrenaline-loving family.

Being a part of a snowmobile club provides the opportunity to meet likeminded individuals that can easily turn into some of your best friends. That's the case for Mike Boock, of Rapid City, who is a longtime member of the Black Hills Snowmobile Club (BHSC).

"Most of the friendships that I have today are because of the snowmobile club. Many of us even camp together during the summer at the lake," Boock said.

Boock said the club boasts up to 70 members in all. While he primarily rides the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming, Boock loves riding in Black Hills when the area receives enough snow.

There are a total of 416 miles of groomed snowmobile trails

in the Black Hills National Forest, making it a pristine spot for snowmobiling.

The snowmobile clubs in the Black Hills have it a little easier than those out east as they don't have to mark, install, groom or repair trails.

"The state takes care of that," Boock said. "This allows clubs like the BHSC to become more of an educational and community support organization."

This allows club members more free time to volunteer or participate in community events, such as the Festival of Lights Parade and Storybook Island Christmas Nights of Light.

Kelly Weaver is the President of the South Dakota Snowmobile Association and a member of the Aberdeen Drift Busters Snowmobile Club.

The Aberdeen Drift Busters maintain what's called the Dakota Midland trail system, which connects Aberdeen, Mina Lake, Richmond Lake, Westport, Frederick and Columbia.

"This provides about 75 miles of riding in a safe, marked, and groomed corridor," Weaver said.

There are rules governing the trail system. While there are no posted speed limits on the trail, when the trail is located in a road right-of-way, the speed limit of the road applies.

There are also laws governing the type of vehicle that can be ridden on a snowmobile trail. Machines must meet the state definition of a snowmobile. ATV's and other motorized vehicles do not typically meet that definition.

Aberdeen Drift Busters has held the title of being the largest snowmobile club in the state for several years. It was established in 1969, the same year the South Dakota Snowmobile



Association was established.

“Currently, our membership is right around 100 families,” Weaver said. “The club has been as large as 225 members but membership has slowed over the past decade due to the lack of snow and the growing number of activities that families have an opportunity to participate in.”

Anyone can join a snowmobile club and snowmobile ownership is not a requirement.

“You are connected with very experienced snowmobilers who can provide information about machines, riding ventures and how organized snowmobiling operates,” Weaver said. “It is a way to connect with people who have a shared passion for the sport.”

Weaver had her first taste of snowmobiling as a young child with her father and neighbors.

“When I was young, I only rode as a passenger, which I found was not to my liking. When I met my future husband, he also had a snowmobile and I had to ride as a passenger once again,” Weaver said.

Weaver and her husband decided to join the Aberdeen Drift Busters while taking a break from riding for a bite to eat years ago.

“In 1986, my fiancé – now husband – and I were on a snowmobile ride and stopped to eat at a trailside business. Another snowmobiler, who we did not know, approached us and told us we needed to join the club. We did and have been actively involved ever since. That snowmobiling ‘stranger’ became a lifelong friend who we’ve shared many snowmobile memories with,” Weaver said. “Like most things we are drawn to, it is the ability to connect with others who share a common interest that keeps us involved. We have met so many people across the state and the nation through our involvement and have experienced some awesome and fun-filled trips over the years. There are so many ways to be involved that even members who are not avid riders can benefit from and enjoy

being part of the club.”

Once married, Weaver decided she’d need her own sled if she were to continue with snowmobiling. When her husband acquired a new Polaris, she was granted a used Arctic Cat Jag that she described as a “trusty starter sled.”

“Early on in our riding, we were able to make trips to the Black Hills, Big Horn Mountains and West Yellowstone. These venues are even more breathtaking in the winter,” Weaver said.

A long day on the trail in a large riding area might last six to eight hours. There needs to be a minimum of six inches of snow on the ground, depending on the terrain.

It may take several layers of snow to create a base for the trail, which can then be groomed and maintained throughout the season.

With adequate snow and a trail in place, an ideal riding day for Weaver would be sunny skies with a little wind, and temperatures between 0 and 30 degrees.

Over in the southeastern corner of

the state, Duane Duerr, President of the Siouxland Sno Trackers, finds great enjoyment in riding his Ski Doo 900 Ave Four Cycle snowmobile.

The Siouxland Sno Trackers is one of the original snowmobile clubs in South Dakota and has around 78 miles of groomed trails for its 80 members.

Duerr grew up in Minnesota and joined the club in 2006 when he moved to South Dakota. Joining the club helped him to learn the trails and rules, and provided him with many friendships.

“I think snowmobiling has become more popular, but involvement in all organizations is down,” Duerr said. “Many do not realize that snowmobile clubs are why we have a trail system and that they put it in and take it out. Without the clubs, we will no longer have trails in South Dakota. Member support is what makes a difference and too many take that involvement for granted.”

More information on the state’s snowmobile clubs can be found at the SDSA’s website at [snowmobilesd.com](http://snowmobilesd.com).



Watertown’s South Dakota Snowmobile Club members take a break during an outing.

# Are You Interested in a New Adventure?

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is beginning to plan for the 86th Annual meeting of the membership that will be held on March 26, 2024 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. Alan Neyer's term will expire in 2024.

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 Zaske and Jeff Boersma. Helen Ruebel's term will expire in 2024.

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 Peterson's term will expire in 2024.

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:

o 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.

o Attend regular and special Board meetings of the Cooperative.

o 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. 940500

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. 997900

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 2nd for further information.

## WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month RSCPA member did not find their member number in the newsletter. The value of the energy credit will be increased to \$45. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of February, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

## OUTAGE REPORT

*Affecting 10 members or more*

**Date: 11-7-23**

Time off: 3:30 PM

Time on: 4:47 PM

Substation: Emmet

Cause: Cause Unkown

**Date: 11-13-23**

Time off: 9:52 AM

Time on: 10:48 AM

Substation: Troy

Cause: Member Equipment

**Date: 11-17-23**

Time off: 9:45 AM

Time on: 11:06 AM

Substation: Henryville

Cause: Conductor Sag or Inadequate Clearance

**Date: 11-22-23**

Time off: 9:00 AM

Time on: 10:56 AM

Substation: Troy

Cause: Other Prearranged

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

## ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE

Renville-Sibley's 86th Annual Meeting will be held on March 26, 2024 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. More annual meeting information will be provided in upcoming newsletters.



Jocelyn Cihak takes a dual-credit calculus class offered by Northern State University. *Photo courtesy of Northern State University*

# DUAL-CREDIT

## High Schoolers are Gaining College Credits

**Scott Waltman**

Some graduates of South Dakota high schools are showing up on college campuses with a semester's worth of credits.

Sometimes even more.

The dual-credit program has proven to be both beneficial and popular since it was introduced by Gov. Dennis Daugaard in 2014.

It's easy to understand why. Here's how the program works. High school juniors and seniors at any South Dakota high school can take classes for which they get both high school and college credits. There are scores of

classes to choose from, and the cost to take them is steeply discounted.

For instance, once a student enrolls at any of the state's six public schools or universities, they pay between \$253.85 and \$260.55 per credit hour. That cost for a high school student taking a college-level class through the dual-credit program? It's a mere \$48.33 per credit hour.

That's why education officials in South Dakota love the program.

Nathan Lukkes, executive director and chief executive officer for the South Dakota Board of Regents, said providing an affordable education has been a priority for the regents in

recent years. Tuition freezes and an increased number of scholarships are part of that work. But so are dual-credit classes, he said.

Most of the dual-credit courses are general education classes – or generals, as college students often call them – he said. Through the program, students can have some of those courses out of the way before they even get their high school degrees.

The work done by the regents and the universities resulted in Forbes naming South Dakota the most affordable state in which to get a high school education, Lukkes said.

All six South Dakota public universities offer dual-credit classes, and the number of high school students taking advantage has been going up in recent years.

The number of students taking dual-credit classes changes throughout

the year, but there were 1,223 taking classes at Northern State University in Aberdeen in fall 2023 compared to 1,141 the year before. And at South Dakota State University in Brookings, the number jumped from 903 to 1,031 in fall 2023, according to statistics from the board of regents.

Here's how the systemwide numbers are trending based on the number of students taking dual-credit classes, according to the 2023 South Dakota Board of Regents Fact Book, which was issued during summer at the end of the most recent fiscal year.

**2021-2022:** 4,300

**2020-2021:** 3,919

**2019-2020:** 3,781

**2018-2019:** 3,168

## The 10 most popular classes all had more than 150 students.

**College algebra:** 990

**Fundamentals of speech:** 905

**Composition I (English 101):** 830

**General psychology:** 513

**U.S. history I:** 379

**American government:** 317

**Music appreciation (Music 101):** 280

**Introduction to sociology:** 241

**Biology survey I (Biology 101):** 157

**Biology survey lab:** 156

In 2021, there were 9,523 dual-credit courses taken by South Dakota high school students, according to information from the regents. That number includes summer courses and students who took more than one course.

At Northwestern High School in Mellette, Superintendent Rob Lewis said about 25% of the juniors and seniors are taking advantage of dual-credit courses. One student has taken a full semester's worth, he said.

Do the math over the course of a semester, and that's a savings of north of \$2,300. And that doesn't take on-campus housing and food into account.

That's just a great deal for high school kids, Lewis said.

Chris Ulrich, the middle school and high school principal at Northwestern, agrees.

"It's a nice opportunity for kids

to get not only college credits, but also experience what college is like," he said.

And they get to do it within the comfort of their high school, Ulrich said. The program is a great transitional step leading from high school to college, he said.

AP, or Advanced Placement classes, were great, but dual-credit classes are even better, Lewis said.

AP classes are college-level courses taught by high school teachers. But they don't always equate to college credit. Dual-credit courses are taught by college instructors and professors and always result in college credit, if a student passes.

In South Dakota, dual-credit courses can be taken on any of the six public university campuses, in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Huron, Pierre, Watertown and online.

And there's another benefit, Lukkes said. Dual-credit classes create a tie between South Dakota high school students and the regental schools. Any chance a high school student has a chance to engage with a state school creates a bond that could help keep that kid in South Dakota, he said.

Perhaps a Spearfish High School student takes a dual-credit class at Black Hills State University and it's a good experience. Maybe that high school graduate stays in town and enrolls at BHSU.

Lewis, too, said the program is a great way to keep students in South Dakota for college and perhaps beyond.

That's also a focus for the Aberdeen Development Corp., which is starting a program aimed at keeping more Northern graduates in town to start their professional careers.



Rhianna Troske, a student at Northwestern High School in Mellette, takes a dual-credit class while at school. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

# Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Sophie Geer on being selected as the December Scholar of the Month. Sophie is a senior at Renville County West High School. She has a hard work ethic in the classroom and the after-school activities she is involved in. She demonstrates innovative ideas in the classroom through her class projects and is creative in her marketing ideas as her role as volleyball manager. She is not afraid to speak up when she has questions and can find solutions when necessary. Sophie balances her schoolwork and after-school activities and work life well for someone her age and is a dependable student. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Sophie Geer as the December Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative congratulates Sophie Geer as the December Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.

## Comparative Report

	Current YTD	One Year Ago YTD	10 Years Ago YTD
Average # of Consumers	1,879	1,889	1,918
kWhs purchased	18,852,653	17,554,710	19,598,226
Cost of purchased power	\$1,183,246.64	\$1,099,431.07	\$1,061,285.71

## 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

## REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2024 or 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

Since the inception of the Operation Round Up program in June 2019, Renville-Sibley's membership and employees have made an impact on our local communities through their participation. Renville-Sibley has collected a total of \$47,012.33 in contributions. To date, with your generosity, we've given \$38,850.00 back to 42 organizations.

This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact. Thank you to all who participate in this program! Applications for donations can be found at <https://rscpa.coop/operation-round>. Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dorothy Frikke on being selected as the winner of the \$50 prize energy credit at our Holiday Open House! Thank you all who came to our Open House, we look forward to celebrating with you again next year!

## WANTED:

Oliver & Minneapolis Moline memorabilia - calendars, cans, ash trays, thermometers, etc.

Bob Fredrickson  
Renville, MN 56284  
320-212-9867

# Member Informational Meetings

Each year, Renville-Sibley holds Member Informational Meetings throughout the service area. These meetings are held at various days and times with the hope that if one day or time doesn't work for a member, another day or time might. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about Renville-Sibley and the electric industry. This year, the schedule is as follows:

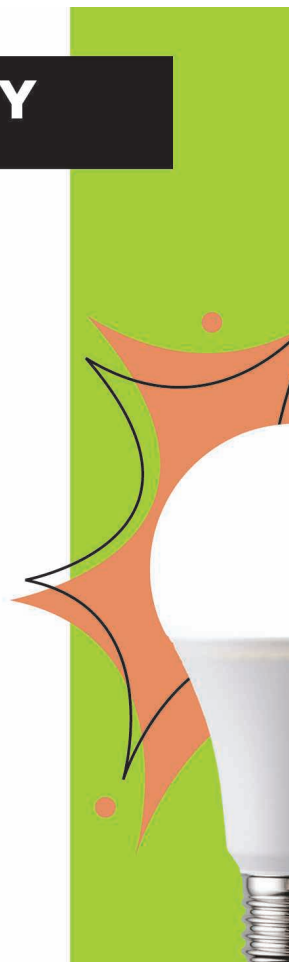
Saturday, February 3 @ 9:30 a.m. – Renville-Sibley Boardroom  
 Monday, February 5 @ 6:30 p.m. – Franklin Community Center  
 Tuesday, February 6 @ 9:00 a.m. – Fairfax Community Center  
 Thursday, February 8, 2024 @ 1:30 p.m. – Sacred Heart Community Center

A light snack will be provided at each of the meetings. We look forward to seeing you at the Member Informational Meetings in February.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



## Mission Statement

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will provide 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



**FEB. 24, 2024**  
**Nemo 500 Outhouse Races & Chili Cookoff**  
 10 a.m.  
 Nemo Guest Ranch  
 Nemo, SD

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.

**FEB. 3**  
**Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby**  
 11 a.m.  
 City Boat Landing  
 Hendricks, MN

**FEB. 9-10**  
**Mardi Gras Weekend**  
 Historic Downtown Deadwood  
 Deadwood, SD

**FEB. 10**  
**Polar Bear Chili Cook-Off**  
 11 a.m.  
 Main Street  
 Hill City, SD

**FEB. 11**  
**Beadle County Humane Society Bingo, Silent Auction & Bake Sale Benefit**  
 2 p.m.  
 Huron Community Center  
 Huron, SD

**FEB. 18-20**  
**MASC presents Disaster! the Musical**  
 Vesta Community Center  
 Vesta, MN

**FEB. 22**  
**The Starlets: Pop Female Trio**  
**Aberdeen Community Concert Association**  
 7 p.m.  
 Johnson Fine Arts Center NSU  
 Aberdeen, SD

**FEB. 23-24**  
**Women in Blue Jeans Conference**  
 Highland Conference Center  
 Mitchell, SD

**MARCH 1-3**  
**National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic**  
 Denny Sanford Premier Center  
 Sioux Falls, SD

**MARCH 2**  
**Live on Stage**  
 High Country Guest Ranch  
 Hill City, SD

**MARCH 7**  
**Elevate Rapid City Economic Summit**  
 8 a.m.  
 The Monument  
 Rapid City, SD

**MARCH 9**  
**French Toast/Pancake Feed & Health Fair**  
 8:30 a.m.  
 Tea Community Building  
 Tea, SD

**MARCH 9**  
**SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy & 3rd Annual Shamrock Gala and Benefit Auction**  
 5 p.m.  
 Alex Johnson Ballroom  
 Rapid City, SD

**MARCH 11-15**  
**Black Hills Institute's 50th Anniversary Celebration**  
 Hill City, SD

**MARCH 15**  
**East Dakota Chapter NWFT 31st Annual Banquet**  
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall  
 Sioux Falls, SD

**MARCH 16**  
**Live On Stage**  
 High Country Guest Ranch  
 Hill City, SD

**MARCH 16-17**  
**Hill City Antiques, Railroad & Collectibles Show & Sale**  
 Hill City Center  
 Hill City, SD

**MARCH 17**  
**St. Patrick's Day Green Pancakes and Sausage**  
 8:30 a.m.  
 RVUMC  
 Rapid City, SD

**MARCH 20-23**  
**Hill City Restaurant Week**  
 Hill City, SD

**MARCH 23**  
**Tyndall VFW Vegas Night**  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Tyndall Community Center  
 Tyndall, SD

**MARCH 23**  
**Hill City Children's Easter Egg Hunt**  
 Visitor Info Center  
 Hill City, SD

**MARCH 24**  
**Ham Dinner & Silent Auction**  
 11:45 a.m.  
 RVUMC  
 Rapid City, SD

**MARCH 24**  
**Run for the Rangers**  
 Hill City, SD

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