

COOPERATIVE

CONNECTIONS



From Cows to Canvas

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Rural Life in Art**

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for Success**

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Get Involved!

Join us at the Annual Meeting



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

Time sure flies! It feels like just yesterday we were gathered in Redwood Falls for our 2023 annual meeting. It is already 2024 with March 26th fast approaching, and we're excited to announce that Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will be hosting our annual meeting once again. This event is dedicated to you, our esteemed members whom we are proud to serve.

We sincerely hope you'll mark your calendars and join us at The Redwood Falls Community Center for what promises to be an engaging and informative gathering. Our annual meeting provides a wonderful opportunity for your elected board of directors and the leadership team to connect with you, our members, and hear your thoughts and concerns firsthand. Your active participation is invaluable to us, and we extend our heartfelt thanks in advance for your involvement.

During the meeting, we'll share insights into the outcomes of 2023, offer projections for the year ahead in 2024, and provide a brief update on our new facility. But it's not all business; we've planned activities for the kids, delicious food from Ms. Becky's Catering out of Fairfax, exciting prizes, and a special guest speaker.

Your input and perspective on the energy future of our cooperative are incredibly important to us. As we navigate through significant changes in the energy industry, your feedback helps shape our strategies and decisions to better serve all members of the Renville-Sibley communities.

You might be wondering if your opinion truly makes a difference, and the answer is a resounding yes! Your insights guide our priorities and influence our decision-making processes. At the annual meeting and at our Member Informational Meetings held every year in February, issues may be raised for consideration by our general membership—everyone who receives electric service from Renville-Sibley. Additionally, each year members have an opportunity to cast their votes for the cooperative's board of directors.

Our board comprises nine individuals who reside and work within our local service area, ensuring

they have a deep understanding of the needs within our communities. And here's a thought: we encourage you to consider running for the board in the future. We're always seeking passionate individuals who care about our Cooperative and are willing to serve.

"We sincerely hope you'll mark your calendars and join us at The Redwood Falls Community Center for what promises to be an engaging and informative gathering."

By providing local input, we ensure that members needs and priorities are at the forefront of our decisions, directing where co-op funds are allocated. Each year, we invest in updating our local system to maintain reliability and grid resilience. So, every time you pay your electric bill, you're contributing to the well-being of our cooperative, as a majority of all funds remaining after we pay for wholesale power, support the operation and infrastructure of Renville-Sibley. These investments ensure that you have dependable power for your daily life.

At Renville-Sibley, we're not your typical utility company; we're a cooperative driven by a mission to serve our members and the community. While our core purpose is to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power, our motivation extends beyond profits to a commitment to serve our local communities. 916300

We invite you to embrace the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting on March 26th. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to connect with you once again!

January Board Meeting Highlights

The January board meeting was held on Tuesday, January 23 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 December 19 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of December
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for January
- Depreciation Resolution
- Nominating Committee Replacement for District 2

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 December (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
- Pre-Audit Communication with Brady Martz & Associates
- Mandatory Annual Harassment Training
- Member Informational Meetings
- CRC Request for Director Candidates
- CoBank 2024 Request for Director Candidates

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

Notice:

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

The March board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21 at 8 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 Firle
 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

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Make Fall Safety a Top Priority

It may come as a surprise that the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death is falls. In 2021, 44,686 people died in falls at home and at work, according to Injury Facts®. For working adults, depending on the industry, falls can be the leading cause of death.

Falls are 100% Preventable

March is Ladder Safety Month. Whether working from a ladder, roof or scaffolding, it's important to plan ahead, assess the risk and use the right equipment. First, determine if working from a height is absolutely necessary or if there is another way to do the task safely.

- Discuss the task with coworkers and determine what safety equipment is needed
- Make sure you are properly trained on how to use the equipment
- Scan the work area for potential hazards before starting the job
- Make sure you have level ground to set up the equipment
- If working outside, check the weather forecast; never work in inclement weather
- Use the correct tool for the job, and use it as intended
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder
- Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface
- A straight or extension ladder should be one foot away from the surface it rests on for every four feet of height and extend at least three feet over the top edge
- Securely fasten straight and extension ladders to an upper support
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder, and have someone support the bottom
- Never use old or damaged equipment; check thoroughly before use

Fall Hazards at Home

Are you a weekend warrior or do-it-yourselfer? If you take on home improvement or other weekend projects, it's important to prepare yourself for physical exertion, especially if you've been sedentary through the winter months, and take extra precautions to prevent falls.

Risky projects, like installing siding, gutters or roofs, are best left to professionals. Saving money isn't worth risking a debilitating or fatal fall.

At home or at work, many of the same rules apply. When taking on a project:

- Practice all of the ladder safety tips mentioned above
- Keep the work area clear of hazards and immediately clean up spills
- Read all instructions and safety precautions on your equipment
- Don't wear loose clothing that can get caught in equipment

We tend to think we're always safe on flat ground, but the thousands of injuries each year tell us otherwise.

- Falls are the #1 cause of death for older adults; fall-proof your home
- Keep floors and surfaces clear of clutter
- Keep file cabinets and desk drawers closed
- Keep electrical and phone cords out of traffic areas
- Install handrails on stairways
- Wear sensible footwear
- Never stand on chairs, tables or any surface with wheels
- Properly arrange furniture to create open pathways
- Maintain good lighting indoors and out

More than 6.9 million people were treated in emergency rooms for fall-related injuries in 2021. A fall can end in death or disability in a split second, but with a few simple precautions, you'll be sure stay safe at home and at work.

Source: National Safety Council



Trim Your Trees

Brace Tapio, Age 8

Brace Tapio cautions readers to trim their trees to prevent power line damage. Brace's parents are Nate and Elsa Tapio from Armour, S.D., members of Douglas 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.

SEAFOOD SPECIALS

CAJUN SHRIMP

Ingredients:

1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
2-3 tsps. cajun seasoning
2 tbsps. butter

Method

Coat shrimp with seasoning. Melt butter in large skillet on medium heat. Add shrimp; cook and stir three minutes or just until shrimp turn pink. Serve over cooked rice, if desired.

McCormick.com

CRAB SALAD SPREAD

Ingredients:

8-12 oz. imitation crab meat, flake style, tear into small pieces
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 cup (approx.) shredded Cheddar cheese
1 small can black olives, sliced
Mayo (must be Mayo), to get correct texture, less is better than too much
1/4 to 1/2 pepper, cracked

Method

Mix by hand. Serve with Club or Ritz crackers.

Linda Hubbard
Rapid City, S.D.

CREAMY SHRIMP LINGUINE

Ingredients:

8 oz. linguine
1 tbsp. butter
1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 cup heavy cream
1 package garlic butter shrimp scampi
2 tbsps. white wine

Method

Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well.

Melt butter in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add shrimp; cook and stir 2 minutes or just until shrimp turn pink. Add cooked pasta, Seasoning Mix, cream and wine. Reduce heat to medium; cook 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese.

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.

REC PROGRAM

RENVILLE-SIBLEY
CO-OP POWER

Choose Renewable Energy for Your Home or Business

You can easily purchase renewable energy from your local electric cooperative, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. Renville-Sibley has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% renewable energy options. The price of the RECs will be added to your current electric bill.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Renville-Sibley Co-op Power but, by participating in this program, you will be supporting current and future renewable projects in our area.

Your home or business will be joining hundreds of other people from across the nation who are supporting renewable energy. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

FAQS

What is a Renewable Energy Credit (REC)?

- 1 MWh (megawatt hour) produced by a renewable energy source equals 1 REC
- RECs are also called Green Tags
- RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of wind energy

How much does it cost?

\$1 per MWh. The average Renville-Sibley member uses 1,200 kWh a month. Participating in the REC program would add the following amount to your monthly bill:

- 100% = \$1.20
- 75% = \$0.90
- 50% = \$0.60
- 25% = \$0.30

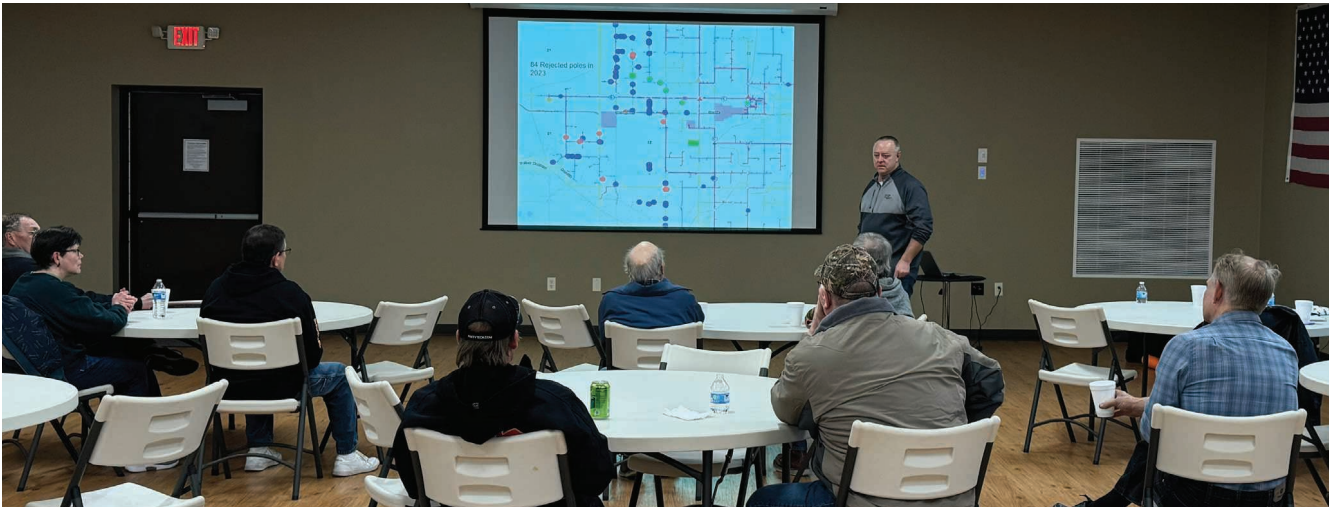
Do I need to purchase any special equipment?

No. Renville-Sibley will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.

Where do the RECs come from?

The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. These include, but are not limited to:

- North Dakota: PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 & 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
- South Dakota: Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project



Renville-Sibley Line Superintendent Gene Alex provides an operational update to the members in attendance at the Informational meeting in Fairfax.

Member Informational Meetings

Each year Renville-Sibley hosts Member Informational Meetings throughout our service territory. At these meetings information is shared about what is happening with your cooperative and in the electric industry in general. This is also a great opportunity for members to ask questions or offer comments in a smaller group setting. Beginning February 3rd, Renville-Sibley members had the chance to attend one of these meetings in their area. These meetings were held in Danube, Fairfax, Franklin, and Sacred Heart. The topics covered at these meetings included:

- Review of the financial condition of the Cooperative
- Overview from the Operations Department on work projects completed in 2023 and what the plans are for the 2024 construction season
- A video was shared featuring a virtual tour of Renville-Sibley's new headquarters

Members who may have questions about any of the above topics are encouraged to call or stop into the office for more information.

SUBMIT A LOCATE REQUEST

Twin Cities Metro: (651)454-0002 Greater MN Area: (800)252-1166

...or go online at www.gopherstateonecall.org

Get the Dirt

GSOC

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW ABOUT EXCAVATION SAFETY

Welcome to the Excavator Safety Guide, Minnesota edition! 2016 brings a number of changes to Gopher State One Call (GSOC) that will provide excavators with new and easy-to-use technology for excavation ticket processing. These changes are intended to keep the basic goal of damage prevention in clear focus. See the custom pages in this guide for important information about both the new electronic ticket system and basic facts that will help you dig safely in Minnesota, this time and every time.

Inside You'll Find...

- ▶ An Overview of GSOC's Technology Suite
- ▶ Who Should Call 811: Don't Forget, Farmers!
- ▶ The Process for Safe Excavation
- ▶ What Doesn't Get Marked: Private Lines
- ▶ Get the Scoop on the GSOC Team

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Gopher State One Call is the nonprofit corporation formed in 1987 by the enacting of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 214D. GSOC ensures the safety of all Minnesotans by receiving notices of intent to excavate from any person engaged in excavation activity and notifying underground facility operators who have requested notification in the areas of excavation.



Rural Artist Michelle Weber has illustrated 11 children books in addition to showcasing her art nationwide and internationally.

Michelle Weber Captures Rural Life in Art

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

During her upbringing in Windom, Minn., Michelle Weber discovered her passion for art at a young age. She was the kid who was always doodling, often paying more attention to her drawings than to the class. Holding on to her passion, Weber took her first art class in high school with her art

teacher, Mark Nass. Although the class had a rocky start, Nass recognized her potential and helped fuel a passion that would ultimately lead Weber to becoming a prominent rural artist.

“I was a junior in high school when I enrolled in my first real art class, and to be honest, I kind of hated it,” said Weber. “That first week, I was mortified that I wasn’t any good.”

Initially contemplating dropping the class, Weber sought a signature from her art teacher to change her art class to a study hall instead. Despite her request, Nass refused to let her drop the class and encouraged her to try give the class another chance.

“After a few weeks, everything just clicked,” said Weber. “I fell in love with painting and began living in the school’s art room.”

In less than a year, Weber made substantial progress in her artistic abilities. Enough so, that her teacher encouraged her to apply for the Congressional Art Competition. She applied,

and her painting not only won in her district but also earned a spot in the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C., where it was showcased for an entire year.

Weber's success in the Congressional Art Competition foreshadowed what was to come. Drawing inspiration from her upbringing on a farm and involvement in 4-H, Weber began primarily painting livestock. In 2011, Weber's friend from Mitchell, S.D., Amanda Radke, approached her with a request to illustrate a children's book featuring livestock and rural agriculture, a perfect fit for Weber's artwork. This opportunity led to the creation of "A World With Cows," marking Weber's first foray into a full-time career as an artist.

"The book was a huge stepping stone for both of us," said Weber.

The children's book marked not only the beginning of a career but also established Weber's niche – capturing the focal point of rural life on canvas: livestock, horses, buffalo, and more. Weber has since illustrated 10 additional children's books and successfully sold her artwork both nationwide and internationally.

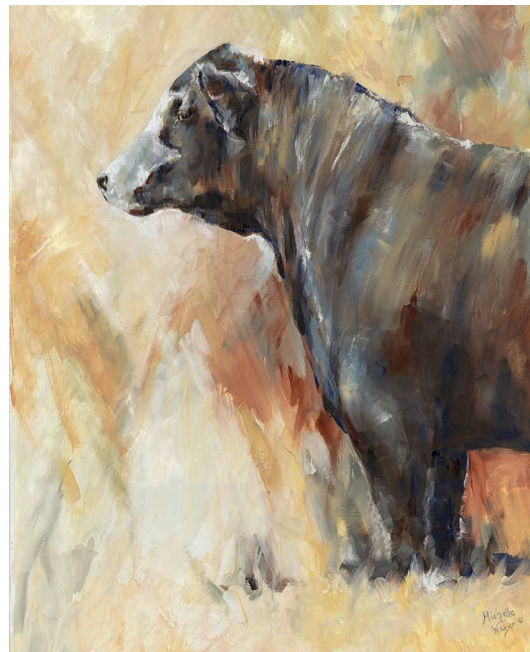
Traditionally, her oil paintings have been rooted in a realism, capturing every detail of the depicted animals. More recently, Weber has expanded her art to include a more whimsical and abstract representation of the rural lifestyle.

"My niche market is the producer, so it's important that my art reflects an authentic rural lifestyle," said Weber. "I want these paintings to have a touch of who I am, but also have the integrity of this lifestyle retained on canvas too."

Today, Weber resides just outside Lake Benton, Minn., a town just outside the South Dakota border. From her small town, Michelle Weber also maintains a website, michelleweberstudio.com, where she showcases a wide range of products

featuring her artwork, including prints, notecards, children's books, and even cake pans. In addition to her website, Weber recently opened a studio named, "The Studio by Michelle Weber" in the center Lake Benton.

"The Studio is a space located right in the heart of Lake Benton," said Weber. "Some people look at Lake Benton with a population of less than 700 or less and ask, 'Why would you open your studio there?' But I stand behind supporting these small. They are the heartbeat of this country, so it only seemed fitting to bring it home."



A Weber painting, titled "Side Eye."



Weber is widely known for her oil paintings that capture the essence of an authentic rural lifestyle on canvas.

Wait! Where is my cell phone? What do you mean no service?

You might have nomophobia if...

If your heart races and you become anxious when you cannot use your cell phone, you might have nomophobia. The relatively recently coined word is used to describe a psychological condition in which people have a fear of being detached from mobile phone connectivity. (The term is well-named: it is short for “no mobile phobia.”)

The term falls under the definition of “phobia for particular/specific things,” as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-IV. The term “phobia” can be misleading; however, because having nomophobia is considered an anxiety disorder.

Although teens and young adults are most likely to be addicted to using their cell phones for the largest chunk of the day (and night), all ages can be guilty of overuse. The Cambridge Dictionary defines nomophobia as “fear or worry at the idea of being without your phone or unable to use it.”

Cell phone use

Here are some statistics on cell phone use, according to Exploding Topics:

- The typical cell phone user touches their phone 2,617 times a day.
- People check their phones 58 times each day.
- More than half of the phone checks happen during work hours.
- Half of all screen time sessions begin within 3 minutes of the last.
- On average, people across the globe spend 3.25 hours on their phones per day.
- In the U.S., individuals spend 4.5 hours on their smartphones each day.

- Of Americans, 46% believe they spend an average of 4 to 5 hours on their smartphones each day.
- Among Americans, 11% claim to spend 7+ hours on their phones each day.

Cutting back

If you would like to free up some of your day, be more productive at work or home or have grown weary of eye strain and brain drain, here are some ways to help cut back on phone use:

- Reduce the number of phone notifications. Start by turning off all notifications except for calls, messages and calendar events. You can always turn notifications back on one by one if you miss them. The idea is to pare down the types of notifications you receive so that you are only alerted when real people are trying to reach you.
- Download tracking apps that show your amount of screen time and limit time on devices.
- Remove your phone from your bedroom. (This is a good thing because a cell phone, especially one that is plugged in, should not be placed on or under soft bedding or

a pillow.)

- Set boundaries for your devices (like phones and tablets), such as not using them during meals or at bedtime.
- Make goals to determine other ways to use your time, especially if you find you use your phone out of boredom.
- Identify triggers for excessive phone use, such as a desire to connect or to avoid discomfort.
- Use an auto-response feature telling people you and your phone are taking a break and that you will respond later. If it is an emergency, they can get in touch another way.

Smartphones have helped us have everything we need to connect to the outside world, and then some, right in the palm of our hands. The trick is not letting them take over in-person, real-life experiences and face-to-face connections that are so essential to our well-being.

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 the next issue of *Cooperative Connections*.

Annual Meeting Notice

The 86th Annual Meeting of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is being called in accordance with the bylaws of the association to transact the following business:

1. Report of officers, directors and committees.
2. Election of three (3) directors, one (1) from District 1, one (1) from District 2 and one (1) from District 3.
3. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Voting ballots for director election, including candidate information, will be mailed to all members the week of March

12th. If you cannot attend and you wish to mail your ballot, you may do so. However, if mailed, it must be received through the mail by March 26, 2024.

A \$15 energy credit attendance prize will be given to members (one credit per member) who attend the annual meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the 86th annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

- Wayland Zaske, Secretary

Notice: Candidates for the director positions will be listed in the April Cooperative Connections and candidate information for each district will be included with the ballot mailing.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



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 \$60. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 4th of March, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

OPERATION ROUND UP

At the January Operation Round Up board meeting, the Board of Trustees awarded two (2) donations to local non-profit organizations. A \$1,000 donation was given to the Olivia Hospital and Clinic Foundation to support the health of our local communities through the Good Samaritan Fund. A \$500 donation was given to BOLD Post Prom to support post-prom activities.

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. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on April 16, 2024. The deadline for applications is April 1.

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



Sacred Hoops Coach Tuffy Morrison is just one of many volunteer coaches who make Sacred Hoops Basketball a reality for rural athletes.

SHOOTING FOR SUCCESS

Sacred Hoops Basketball Scores Big with Rural Youth

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Sacred Hoops Basketball, a nonprofit organization unique to South Dakota, has been changing the game for youth basketball across the state for more than six years. Using basketball as a tool for youth development, the program organizes teams, trains coaches, and hosts tournaments and workshops for young individuals in all communities – both big and small.

Since the program's conception, the emphasis has centered on rural engagement. Allan Bertram, the owner and operator of Sacred Hoops, co-founded the program alongside Jordan Long and a few other movers and shakers as a way to bring quality basketball instruction to students who would otherwise need to travel hundreds of miles to participate. Their goal was to make basketball accessible to all athletes across the state, not only improving their basketball skills but

also their life skills.

"We wanted to bridge the gap for kids in rural areas, particularly our athletes in low socio-economic areas who may not have been able to play basketball otherwise," said Bertram. "We want to ensure that every kid who wants to play can."

Beyond hosting tournaments and teams, Bertram and the organization's other volunteers have found other ways to make changes on and off the basketball court. In addition to hosting more than 120 high school instruction programs across the state, Sacred Hoops Basketball annually distributes more than \$70,000 in scholarships that aid athletes from low-income families to play ball. The organization was also the driving force behind a recent initiative that placed 2,000 new pairs of shoes in the hands of children from select, rural



Sacred Hoops Director and Coach Ted Standing Soldier draws up a play for the the Sacred Hoops West River Youth Team.

elementary schools in South Dakota. “We’ve seen so many kids grow and fulfill their passion,” said Bertram. “In today’s world, our youth sometimes don’t understand what their purpose or passion is, and that’s why so many of our youth are struggling. It doesn’t matter what a kid is passionate about – it could be music, sports, gaming, or whatever – but it’s our job to help feed that passion because that is what gives those kids a purpose.”

Today, the program has expanded to encompass more than 50 dedicated volunteers and 600 athletes across 60 teams in their summer season, with athletes spanning from third grade to high school. These numbers, said Bertram, have added up to a real impact for athletes across the state. Within Sacred Hoops Basketball, more than 75 athletes have gone on to play college-level basketball.

“It gives us a great sense of pride because those kids are not only getting a post-secondary degree but also get to continue their passion by playing at the next level,” said Bertram. “Many of these kids come from rural areas or

locations.”

Sacred Hoops Basketball Director and Coach Ted Standing Soldier also emphasized the impact that the nonprofit has had on West River athletes. Standing Soldier regularly works with athletes from several rural

West River communities, including Pine Ridge, Belle Fourche, Kadoka, and more.

“We have athletes from all over come to play on one team, and it’s changing the game for these kids. We have seen several of our athletes start making junior varsity and varsity teams as middle schoolers,” said Standing Soldier. “These are kids we want to help reach their full potential, both on and off the court.”

Reflecting on his upbringing, Standing Soldier said that basketball played a significant role in his early life, ultimately leading to college scholarships that allowed him to play basketball for Platte Community College in Nebraska and later the University of Mary in North Dakota. Those opportunities, he said, are ones that he wants to share with other youth in South Dakota.

“Basketball has been a part of my entire life,” he said. “I developed a love for the game. God has used it to impact my entire life, and now I’m using it to impact others.”



The Sacred Hoops Basketball AAU West Coast National Championship Team.

Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Emily Lippert on being selected as the January Scholar of the Month. Emily, a senior at Renville County West High School was nominated because of the great leadership she shows whether at school, on the basketball court or during her extracurricular activities. Her determination, drive, and desire shines through in her role as captain of the basketball team. She is a role model to students of all ages academically and athletically with her positive attitude. She exemplifies an all-around positive influence for our school community and our community as a whole. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Emily Lippert as the January Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Emily Lippert as the January 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	18,806,812	20,769,463	21,618,602
Cost of purchased power	\$1,139,123.41	\$1,372,933.44	\$1,093,974.09

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 THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation to Safe Avenues. By supporting the work of Safe Avenues, you are ensuring that victims and families are able to regain the confidence, skills, and resources necessary to move forward in a positive way. Thank you for your support. – Save Avenues

Thank you for the generous donation and feeding our kids!
 – Renville County Back-the-Pack Program

FOR SALE:

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

Dave Pastors
 Olivia, MN 56277
 320-522-4851

Go Industries grill guard. Fits F250 through F550 from 2017 to 2022.

Louise Anderson
 Fairfax, MN 55332
 507-829-1183

**SET YOUR
CLOCKS
FORWARD
ON 3/10.**

Daylight Saving Time Begins



**Mission
Statement**

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

**Nondiscrimination
Statement**

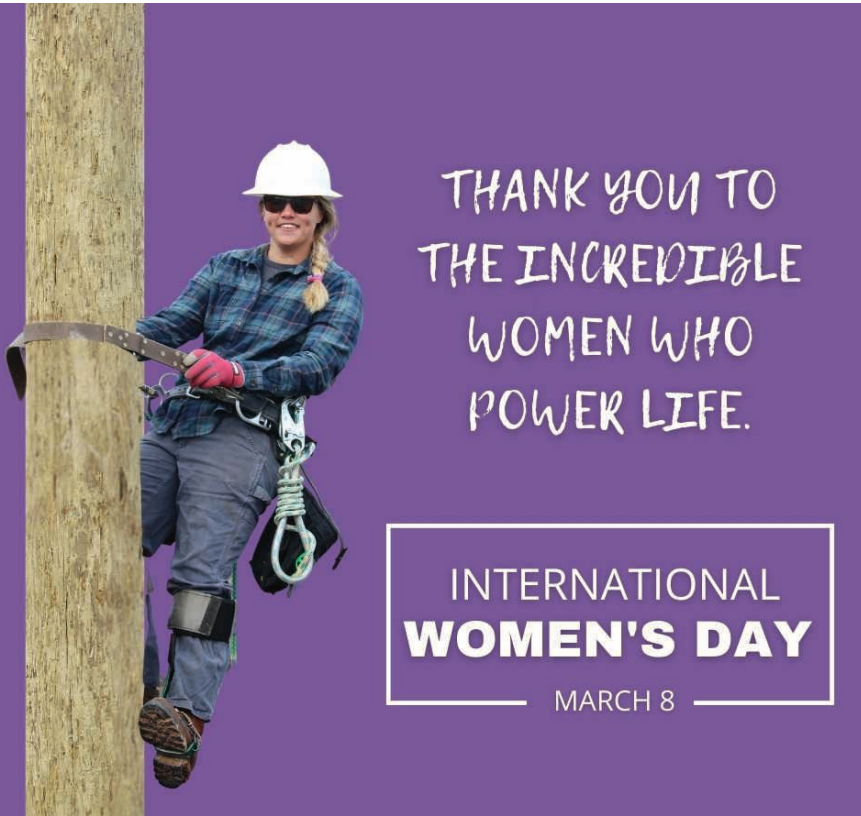
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national 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, audiotope, 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.

THANK YOU TO
THE INCREDIBLE
WOMEN WHO
POWER LIFE.

INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8





MARCH 1-3, 2024
National Pheasant
Fest & Quail Classic
 1201 N West Ave.
 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
 5 p.m.
 Alex Johnson Ballroom
 Rapid City, SD

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

MARCH 14-16
Spring Rummage Fundraiser
 Spearfish Senior Center
 Spearfish, SD

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

MARCH 15-16
Badlands Quilter Weekend Getaway
 5:30 p.m. Friday, all day Saturday
 Wall Community Center
 Wall, SD

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

MARCH 16
South Dakota Poetry Society Poetry on the Road & Open Mic
 1 p.m.
 Tri-State Museum
 Belle Fourche, 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

APRIL 2
Clay-Union Electric Ribbon Cutting & Open House
 3 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
 31321 SD Hwy. 19
 Vermillion, SD

APRIL 5-7
71st Annual Hayes Play: Under a Cowboy Moon
 7 p.m.
 Hayes Community Hall
 Hayes, SD

APRIL 12-14
The Farmer's Daughter 19th Anniversary Celebration
 Hill City, SD

APRIL 14
Hill City Senior Sunday Breakfast
 8 a.m.
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, 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.

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