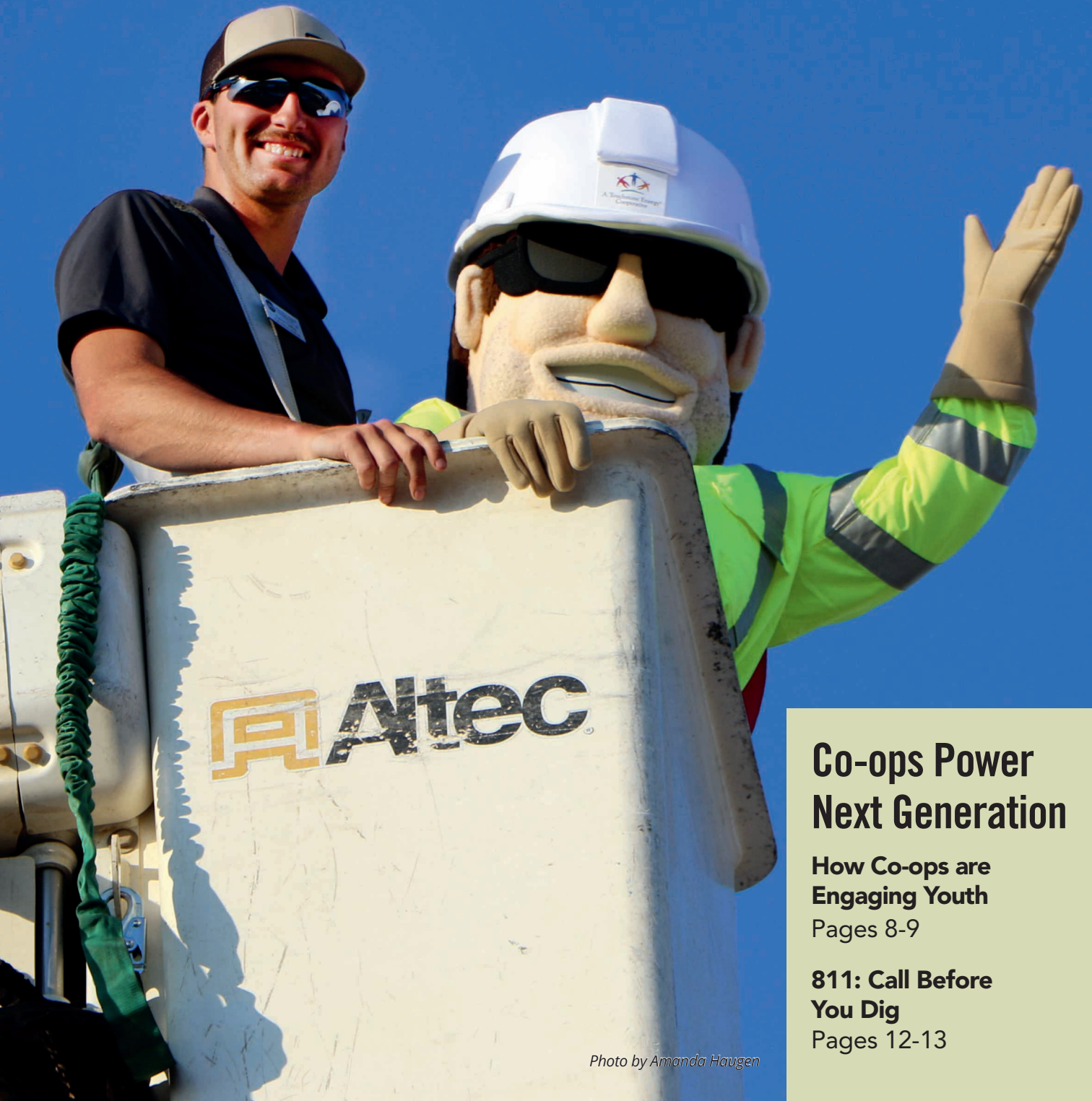


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Co-ops Power Next Generation

How Co-ops are
Engaging Youth
Pages 8-9

811: Call Before
You Dig
Pages 12-13

Spring into Safety: Storm Preparedness Starts Now



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

Spring is here, and like many of you, I'm excited for warmer weather and the chance to spend more time outdoors—whether it's biking, hiking, or simply enjoying the beauty of our local parks. Unfortunately, spring and summer also bring the perfect conditions for severe storms.

At Renville-Sibley, our crews are always on standby, ready to respond to power outages caused by severe weather. When storms cause disruptions, our lineworkers take every necessary

precaution before working on downed power lines.

But just as we prepare for these events, we encourage you to do the same. Practicing storm safety and preparedness can help protect your family and minimize the impact of a storm.

The **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** recommends these items as a starting point for your emergency preparedness plan. For additional resources, visit www.ready.gov:

- **Non-perishable food:** A three-day supply, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials (e.g., diapers, toiletries).
- **Sanitation and hygiene:** Towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- **First Aid Kit:** Stock with pain relievers, bandages, and any essential medications (don't forget to check that prescriptions are current).
- **Emergency household items:** Flashlights, extra batteries, a manual can opener, and a battery-powered radio or TV.
- **Organized supplies:** Keep everything you need in one easy-to-access location.



In the event of a prolonged outage, remember to turn off major appliances, electronics, and sensitive devices to prevent damage from power surges. Keep one light on so you'll know when power has been restored.

If you're using a portable generator, ensure it's rated for the power you need, and always follow the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Stay informed by listening to local news or a **NOAA Weather Radio** for updates, and consider using a radar app to monitor storms from a safe distance.

Never approach a downed power line. Always assume it is energized, and stay far away. If flooding occurs, avoid walking through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning is the key to reducing stress and anxiety during a storm. By preparing now, you'll minimize the storm's impact when it arrives.

Sign up for **NOAA Emergency**

Alerts to receive warnings, and in case of an outage, please call us directly at **800-826-2593** or **320-826-2593**. Do not send messages via our website as we do not monitor them outside of office hours.

While we hope we don't experience severe storms this season, Mother Nature is unpredictable. At Renville-Sibley, we recommend making your plan today—because storm preparedness is always our best defense.



Notice:

The March board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25th, 2025 at 8 a.m.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Thursday, March 27th, 2025 at 6 p.m. at Redwood Community Center. See page 11 for the Annual Meeting notice.

The April board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 at 8 a.m.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

Roger Manthei - Chair
 Whitney 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

RENVILLE-SIBLEY COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association, 515 Highway 212 W, Danube, MN, 56230 for its members. Electric cooperative members devote 75 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Periodicals Postage Paid at Danube Post Office, Danube, MN 56230 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Renville-Sibley Cooperative Connections, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230; Telephone (320) 826-2593; Toll Free 1-800-826-2593; Fax (320) 826-2679.

Web site: www.rscpa.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Distracted Driving

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system – anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Consequences

Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2022, 3,308 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Get Involved

We can all play a part in the fight to save lives by ending distracted driving.

APRIL
Distracted Driving Awareness Month
an **nsc** initiative
National Safety Council

Teens

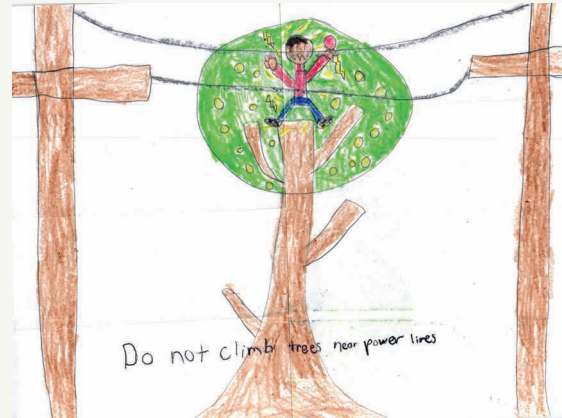
Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents

Parents first must lead by example – by never driving distracted – as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

Educators and Employers

Educators and employers can play a part, too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving. Ask your students to commit to distraction-free driving or set a company policy on distracted driving.



“Do not climb trees near power lines.”

Naomi Krcil, Age 7

Naomi cautions readers about the dangers of climbing trees near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Naomi! Naomi's parents are Andrew and Andrea Krcil, members of Charles Mix Electric Association.

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.

Let's Have BRUNCH

EASY BREAKFAST MUFFIN

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tsps. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs (beaten)
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup milk

Method

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a 12 cup muffin tin with paper liners or spray each cup with cooking spray. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.

Add in eggs, oil and milk and mix only until combined, don't beat or over mix or they will be dry! Fold in 1/2 cup mix-ins if desired.

Scoop into prepared muffin tin and bake for 15 to 18 minutes or just until golden and a toothpick comes clean. Serve with butter and jam.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Member

UMM BRUNCH

Ingredients:

Scallops
English Muffin
Eggs

Method

Soak scallops in cold water in fridge for two hours, pat dry, sauté in butter and garlic until opaque (approx. 4 min). Put on toasted English muffin. Cook poached eggs in 10-inch skillet with 1 tbsp. vinegar (3-5 mins.) Remove with slotted spoon and drain on paper towel. Add to the scallops and top with Hollandaise Sauce.

Hollandaise Sauce:

Cut 1/2 stick butter into thirds. In double boiler, combine 1 piece of butter and 3 egg yolks, 1 tbsp. lemon juice and 1 tbsp. water. Place it over boiling water and cook while whisking rapidly. Add remaining butter one at a time, continue to cook. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Kari Reder
Northern Electric Member

SAUSAGE AND EGG TACOS

Ingredients:

4 oz. breakfast sausage, casings removed
1 tbsp. perfect pinch roasted garlic bell pepper seasoning
6 eggs
2 tbsps. milk
1 tbsp. butter
6 small flour tortillas, warmed
1/4 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend
1 med. ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced

Method

Heat medium skillet on medium-high heat. Add sausage and Seasoning; cook and stir until sausage is browned and crumbled. Remove sausage from pan; keep warm. Drain fat from pan.

Beat eggs and milk in medium bowl with wire whisk. Melt butter in same skillet on medium heat. Add egg mixture; cook and stir until eggs are firm.

For each taco, place one tortilla on plate. Top with eggs, sausage, cheese and avocado. Sprinkle with additional seasoning, 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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

The Hands That Keep the Lights On: Honoring Our Lineworkers

Before the sun rises, and at times long after it sets, lineworkers are on the job, ensuring our communities have the power they rely on. Clad in flame-resistant gear, safety goggles, rubber gloves, and heavy boots, they face the elements and the unexpected—all in service to others.

As we recognize **Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14**, it's an important time to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and high-voltage power lines, lineworkers display a strength that extends beyond the physical. Whether battling harsh weather, troubleshooting technical issues, or navigating treacherous heights, they demonstrate resilience and quiet determination. Their work ensures that our homes stay warm, farms and businesses remain operational, and emergency services are always accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

At Renville-Sibley, our crews travel across our service territory, building, maintaining, and repairing our system. But their dedication doesn't stop at our borders. When neighboring cooperatives experience widespread outages, our

lineworkers answer the call for help—just as other coops send their crews to us when we need them. This spirit of "**Cooperation Among Cooperatives**"—one of the seven guiding principles of electric cooperatives—is never more evident than in times of crisis.

When storms strike and the lights go out, lineworkers are the first to respond. Their swift action restores power, offering reassurance and a return to normalcy. Whether they're repairing storm-ravaged lines or working tirelessly behind the scenes, their unwavering commitment shines the brightest when we need it

most.

This April, let's take a moment to recognize the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable electricity in our communities. The next time you flip a switch, remember those who make it possible. If you see a lineworker, consider offering a wave or a simple "thank you" from a safe distance. While they always appreciate words of gratitude, stopping at a job site can be dangerous for both you and the crew. Your support means the world to them, and the best way to show it is by allowing them to focus on their important work.



Board Chair, Roger Manthei, visits crew onsite.

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 March 1st, Renville-Sibley members had the chance to attend one of these meetings in their area. These meetings were held in Danube, Fairfax, Redwood Falls, and Sacred Heart. The topics covered at these meetings included:

- State and federal legislative update and priorities.
- Review of the financial condition of the Cooperative
- Overview from the Operations Department on work projects completed in 2024 and what the



DeeAnne Norris welcomes members to the Member Informational Meeting in Danube, MN, on March 1, 2025.

- plans are for the 2025 construction season
- Review of proposed updates to our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

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

National Lineworker Appreciation Day

America's electric cooperatives have designated April 14th as National Lineworker Appreciation Day. On April 14, 2025, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power will honor the dedicated men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric lineworkers for the services they perform around the clock to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.





FROM CELEBRATION TO INSPIRATION

Megawatt welcomes members to the football tailgate party hosted by West River Electric.
Photo by Amanda Haugen

How Electric Co-ops Are Powering the Next Generation

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

April marks Lineman Appreciation Month, the perfect time to spotlight the essential role that electric cooperative employees play in their communities. In line with their commitment to education and community involvement, electric cooperatives are celebrating lineworkers through youth engagement initiatives, and it all stems from one of the electric cooperatives' seven cooperative principles: concern for community. For years, programs such as Cooperatives in the Classroom have provided schoolchildren with innovative, hands-on learning opportunities, demonstrating the critical work electric cooperatives perform in their communities.

Whether it's engaging youth through a Neon Leon safety demonstration or taking students to explore Basin Electric's energy infrastructure during the SDREA Youth Excursion, electric cooperatives across the state are constantly finding new and exciting ways to engage the youth within their communities and inspire the next generation. Below are two new avenues for spurring youth engagement in cooperatives across the state:

Megawatt Mascot

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Megawatt, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative's newest lineman mascot. This summer, select electric cooperatives in western South Dakota are suiting up to introduce Megawatt – a friendly-faced lineman adorned with a hard hat, safety gloves and

bright red cape – to their members.

"The goal is to get younger kids to start thinking about linemen in a certain way – almost larger than life and the backbone of the electric cooperative," said Rushmore Electric Chief Marketing Officer Matt Brunner. "The hope is that it translates into them considering the lineman profession when they get older."

Megawatt has already made his debut at several member appreciation events, bringing high-energy fun to parades and tailgates as a true champion of the cooperative spirit. So far, Brunner said the mascot has left a big impression.

"The kids and adults have loved it, and the interactions have been great," Brunner said. "If nothing else, it's unique. People are constantly asking, 'Who is that?' The costume does a great job of starting the conversation: what is a lineman, and what do they do?"

Beyond lineworkers, cooperatives offer a diverse range of career paths.

From engineers to accountants, the cooperative world is full of exciting roles that include opportunities in communications, where professionals share the cooperative's achievements and member services, where employees work directly with the community to meet their needs.

Brunner said he expects the idea to continue gaining momentum over the coming months with new avenues of appreciation for linemen and a better understanding of the day in the life of a lineman, as well as other exciting careers in the electric cooperative industry.

STEM Gains Steam

Jennifer Gross, education and outreach coordinator at East River Electric Power Cooperative, has inspired classrooms for years with a variety of engaging demonstrations, covering everything from science to safety. Last year, Gross introduced a new activity to spark curiosity while incorporating STEM – an approach to education that integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics into learning. The result led to a crafting activity where kids use simple materials to fashion their own wind turbine.

“We are always trying to come up with new ideas for students,” Gross said. “Incorporating STEM into this project seemed like a natural fit because both teachers and students are very receptive to it.”

The idea is straightforward. Students construct a small-scale turbine from wooden dowels, fins, and a motor capable of generating power. Once completed, they connect their tiny turbine to a multimeter, which measures the energy generated. Instead of relying on natural wind, students use a fan to simulate a windy day. By altering their model turbines, students can find the optimal design for the best output of energy. And just like that, students can step into the role of engineers.



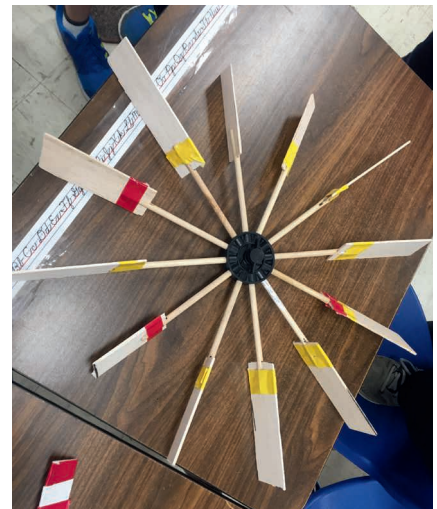
Megawatt is joined by U.S. Air Force personnel enjoying the Annual Base Picnic.
Photo by Amanda Haugen

Gross said the students and the project have a lot in common. Once the building begins, the students' minds begin to whirl – just like a turbine. The activity prompts question after question: Why does the wind blow? How does a wind turbine work? How does the shape and weight of the blade influence the experiment?

“The students enjoy being engineers for this project,” Gross said. “They enjoy having the freedom to choose their materials and design. There's no right or wrong way to do it, and they enjoy that. I mention to the students that careers in wind energy are in high demand and some are 4-year degrees and others are fewer years, but the push for renewable energy sources is growing and our state produces plenty of wind.”

Whether it's through a hands-on activity or an engaging mascot, cooperatives aim to not only educate but inspire, ensuring that today's students can become tomorrow's linemen, engineers, communicators or member service representatives. By

sparking curiosity and introducing young people to the world of cooperatives early on, they're opening the door to careers that keep communities powered and connected.



This is just one example of how students create wind turbines using materials such as balsa wood, foam, card stock, cardboard and paper cups.
Photo by Jennifer Gross

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

Annual Meeting Notice

The 87th Annual Meeting of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, 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

around March 7. Also included in the mailing will be voting ballots for proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

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 26th, 2025.

Drawings for the early bird prizes will begin at 5:45 p.m. Drawings will also be held at the close of the annual meeting. Children in attendance will be eligible for prize drawings.

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 87th annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

Wayland Zaske, Secretary

FOR SALE:

Two single harnesses, saddle with bags, buggy, cutter, leather sewing machine, hides, clippers, blankets, spurs.

John Polkowske
Fairfax, MN 55332
(507)426-7001

(2) 265R75/15 like new tires \$110.
Rent storage Boat, Camper, Cars \$50/
mo. Woods L59 \$499

Randall Mertz
Olivia, MN 56277
(320)522-0776

NOTICE

Candidate information for each district will be included with the ballots mailed in March. Additional ballots for Article and By-Laws updates will also be included.

OUTAGE REPORT:

Affecting 10 members or more

None to report this month

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

ANNUAL
MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 27, 2025
@ 6 P.M.

Renville-Sibley's 87th Annual Meeting will be held on March 27, 2025, at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Early Bird Prizes begin at 5:45 p.m. A meal will be served following the meeting.



DIGGING SAFELY

Call 811 Before You Dig Every Dig. Every Time.

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdra.coop

Every year, underground utility lines are damaged by homeowners and contractors who dig without calling 811. This single call is a crucial step in any project. Striking a water, gas or power line can cause serious injuries, costly repairs and service outages for an entire neighborhood. Whether you're beginning construction on a major project or are simply planting a tree, calling 811 before you dig is a free and simple solution to what could potentially be considerable damage.

What is 811?

The South Dakota One-Call System, or 811, is a mandatory statewide

one-call notification system that was established by South Dakota Statute in 1993. 811 is now recognized as the national "Call Before You Dig" number in the U.S., designed to safeguard people and protect underground utilities. It's a free service that coordinates with your utility providers to help locate and mark underground lines.







Codi Gregg, executive director for South Dakota 811, said, "The main purpose of the program is to avoid digging into any utility and potentially causing a loss of life, loss of property, or any infrastructure buried in the ground."

"We are fully funded by the utilities who want to protect the services they provide," Gregg continued. "It is



GET TO KNOW THE COLOR CODE

Below are The American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Codes for temporary marking of underground utilities.

| | |
|--|---|
|  <p>Proposed Excavation</p> |  <p>Electric</p> |
|  <p>Water</p> |  <p>Communication / CATV</p> |
|  <p>Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry</p> |  <p>Temporary Survey Marking</p> |
|  <p>Gas, Oil, Steam</p> |  <p>Sewer / Storm Drain</p> |

South Dakota state law that you contact 811 two business days before you dig.”

South Dakota has underground utility lines for electricity, gas, water, sewage and telecommunications. Inadvertently hitting one of these lines could cause power outages, property damage, water contamination, gas leaks, legal liabilities and injury.

Gregg explained that when an excavator makes the 811 call before they dig, utilities receive the locate and have 48 hours to mark all lines in the designated area with color-coded flags or paint.

“If you happen to dig into a utility or find one that was not located while excavating, you have to report that to 811. If you happen to dig into a gas line or anything toxic, you must call 911 first, then 811.”

How It Works

Contractors, homeowners, ranchers and farmers can easily make a request for underground utility lines to be marked by

following these steps before every project.

1. Call 811 or submit an online request at least 48 hours prior to your project.
 - Information can be found online at www.sdonecall.com.
2. Wait for utility markings.
 - Utility companies will send professionals to mark buried lines using color-coded paint or flags.
3. Get locates on secondary or privately-owned lines if needed.
4. Check markings.
 - Confirm all utility companies listed on your ticket have responded to the request after the two-business days have passed.
5. Dig safely.

Real-Life Examples of Hitting Underground Utility Lines

Contractor Hits Unmarked Secondary Line

Tom Lundberg, member services manager from H-D Electric Cooperative in Clear Lake, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made to a secondary line:

“Normal situations start out like this – South Dakota 811 calls are made from an excavator or member (persons doing the work), and flags and paint go on the ground marking the underground services. This is a normal occurrence. However, some digs are more complicated, and there may be what we call secondary wires, pipes, sewer lines, etc. located in the dig area as well. The words primary and secondary are confusing to some people and they assume that all is well after the 811 call is made. Primary lines are owned and operated by the utility. Secondary lines are member-owned lines that are not marked by any utility. They must be marked by the member-owner of the property.

Unfortunately, we have had many of these lines hit during a dig, which makes it an emergency service call. One example is when we had a 600-amp service for a member that was damaged by a contractor. The call came in to us, and we responded to the site. We realized it could have been a very dangerous situation if the contractor would have entered the dig. Luckily, they guarded the hole until we arrived. The underground wires were extremely damaged, and the contact did not take out the transformer fuse or any kind of overcurrent protection. When I arrived, there was water in the hole, and I could hear the muddy water boiling. At that time, I assumed it was still energized. The first thing I did was turn the power off and assess the extent of the damage. The mud and water were so hot that I had to wait for a while for it to cool off. Repairs were made and everything was put back together. I double checked my work, then turned the power back on. This happened because secondary locates were not completed – resulting

in a three-hour delay for the business and a costly repair.

We have had many of these calls over the years, and we want to communicate that anyone digging for a project must ensure all the dig area is marked for primary and secondary functions (wire, pipe, gas, telephone, sewer).

Long story short, the impact of not marking all the dig area can cost you time, loss of production, money and even worse – injury or death.”

Out-of-State Contractor Hits Underground Power Line

Mike Stadler, manager of electric operations from Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made by company digging gravel:

“We had a dig-in a couple of years ago at a gravel pit. The county contracted a crushing company out of state to mine more gravel from an existing pit they had rights to. The crushing company started by digging test holes with a bulldozer. They would take the bulldozer and dig a hole about eight feet deep, just one dozer width wide, to see how good the gravel was before they committed to mining the whole area. We had underground cable around the pit. When they were exploring new areas to mine, they dug right through our cable and didn’t know it (keep in mind the test holes are 8 feet deep, and our cable is four feet deep). They dug the hole, went in and looked at the gravel, decided it wasn’t worth it, and covered the hole back up. Meanwhile, we had an outage.

When our crew began searching for the cause of the outage, they discovered the fresh dirt which was moved and had to dig it back up to fix it. When I asked the contractor why he didn’t call a locate, he stated the county superintendent said he didn’t have to because there was nothing there. They were very reluctant to pay the bill and thought the county should be liable. When I explained to them it was the law that all contractors are required to call 811, and it didn’t matter what the county told them, they paid the bill. We have since educated the county on 811 laws.”

Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Isaac Asche on being selected as the February Scholar of the Month. Isaac, currently a senior at CMCS, was nominated because he exhibits the principles of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. He enjoys tackling hard projects in school and exhibits great problem-solving skills. Isaac has shown impressive dedication to his projects, from working on his grandpa's golfcart that was not running, to his incredible paintings done in art class. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Isaac Asche as the February Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month!



WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month's 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 1st of April, 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

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, 2025. 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.

Operation Round Up Thank You

Thank you for supporting our students during Post Prom. Your donation is greatly appreciated!

- RCW Post Prom Committee

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



Renville-Sibley linemen, thank you for keeping the lights on! Here our linemen are repairing a broken structure. 405000

February Board Meeting Highlights

The February board meeting was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, Gene Alex, and Carren Frank.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the December 19, 2024 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of December
- Safety Reports for December and January
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Depreciation
- Close the Membership List for Annual Meeting
- Bring proposed Articles of Incorporation amendments to members via ballot.
- Bring proposed By-Laws Amendments to members via ballot
- Director Candidates for 2025
- NRECA Annual Meeting Voting Delegates
- CRC Annual Meeting Voting Delegates
- NRTC Annual Meeting Voting Delegates
- CoBank Director Candidates
- Director Expenses

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:
 - High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through January (unaudited)
 - Organization activities
 - East River update
 - NRECA update
 - Winter Legislative Meeting
 - MREA Annual Meeting
 - Energize Forum
 - MREA update
 - Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
 - Accounts Receivable
 - Member Informational Meeting Schedule
- Member Comments and Concerns
- Annual Training on Harassment and Discrimination
- MREA Legislative Presentation
- 87th Annual Meeting

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.



APRIL 11-12
Forks, Corks & Kegs
Food, Wine & Beer Festival
 Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

*Photo courtesy of
 Travel South Dakota*

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.

APRIL 3
Viva Las Vegas
McCrossan Banquet Auction
 5:30 p.m.
 Sioux Falls Arena
 Single Ticket \$100
 Tables Available
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-339-1203

APRIL 3
Bachelors of Broadway:
Gentlemen of the Theatre
 7 p.m.
 NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center
 aberdeencommunityconcerts.org

APRIL 4
Mitchell Technical College
2025 Alumni Gathering
Cornhole Tournament
 5 p.m. Social
 6:30 p.m. Tournament
 The World's Only Corn Palace
 Mitchell, SD
 605-995-7342

APRIL 4-5
Annual Schmeckfest
 German Heritage Celebration
 748 S Main St.
 Freeman, SD
 605-925-4237

APRIL 4-6, 11-13
Women Playing Hamlet
 April 4-5, 11-12: 7:30 p.m.
 April 6, 13: 2:30 p.m.
 Mighty Corson Art Players
 Corson, SD
 www.mightycorson.com

APRIL 5-6
Youth & Family Kids Fair
 Sat. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Sun. 12-4 p.m.
 The Monument
 Rapid City, SD
 605-342-4195

APRIL 6
Hay County Jamboree
 2 p.m. Matinee
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

APRIL 11-12
Junkin' Market Days Spring Market
 Fri. 4-7 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
 Sioux Falls, SD
 www.junkinmarketdays.com

APRIL 24-26
HuntSAFE Course
 Davison County Fairgrounds &
 Mitchell Trap Club
 Mitchell, SD
 605-770-5555
 gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education

APRIL 27
Country Roads
 2 p.m. Matinee
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

MAY 2-3
SD Spring Square Dance Festival
 Fri. 7:30-10:30 p.m.
 Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Faith Lutheran Church
 601 N. Cliff Ave.
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Call for events & times
 605-360-2524

MAY 3-4
Prairie Village Events
 Sat. Consignment Auction
 Sun. Season Opening
 Madison, SD
 www.prairievillage.org

MAY 3
West River Pheasants
Forever Banquet
 5 p.m. Central Time
 Draper Auditorium
 Draper, SD
 605-516-0143

MAY 3
American Legion Post 15
Just Because It's Time to Dance
 6-10:30 p.m.
 Tables Available
 El Riad Shrine
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-336-3470

MAY 31
Auto Parts Swap Meet & Car Show
 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Brown County Fairgrounds
 Aberdeen, SD

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