

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Small Town, Big Dreams

Tucker Kraft's
Road to the NFL

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Electrical Safety in
Action

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Renville-Sibley Annual Meeting Manager's Report



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

We are thrilled to announce that our new building will be ready for occupancy this summer! It has been a challenging road to get here, especially considering the unprecedented events that occurred shortly after the board approved the project in February 2020. The global pandemic and war in Ukraine caused economic turmoil, resulting in shortages and a rapid rise in material costs, followed by several increases in borrowing rates. Despite these obstacles, we were able to secure funding for our new facility at a blended interest rate of 2.7% for 30 years. We are thankful for the unwavering support from the board and our membership throughout this journey, and we are eagerly looking forward to moving into our new location.

To mitigate the impact of our new facility on member rates, we plan to utilize our \$2.43 million revenue deferral, at an average of \$270,000 per year, over the next nine years. This will help to delay and soften the effect on rates in the short term, while we actively seek opportunities for cost savings.



Our cooperative headquarters has been located in our current building for the past 74 years. The premise was initially constructed in 1931, which makes it 92 years old. Once we have completed the relocation process to our new site, we will initiate the sale of the office and warehouse locations in Danube.



ENGAN ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS / INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Future View with Public Electric
Vehicle Charging and Solar Panels

If you are interested in obtaining further information about either of these facilities, please do not hesitate to contact our Line Superintendent, Gene Alex, at 320-826-2593.

With the construction of a new precast concrete building, we are looking forward to serving you, our members, for the next 100 years from our new site.



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our employees and board members, as well as our project partners, Ryan Breitbart, President of Breitbart Construction; Richard Engan, Architect/Owner and Senior Designer/Project Manager Barbara Marks, both from Engan Associates Architects. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Barbara for her contribution as our guest presenter at the annual meeting. Her professional expertise and perspective as a Renville-Sibley member during the design and building process were invaluable. I was sorry to hear her family has not yet found their member number in our newsletter. To all those involved, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your hard work and careful planning.

We are happy and frankly relieved to share with you that the ground was broken, the walls are erected,

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**RENVILLE-SIBLEY
CO-OP POWER**

(USPS 019-074)

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Shane Suess – PT Janitor

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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

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Annual Meeting Manager's Report, Continued

and the finishing touches will be in place to open our doors to members and the public on Monday, Aug. 7. **To celebrate, we invite you to join us for an open house and tour on Tuesday, Aug. 22, between 10:30 a.m., and 8 p.m.** The decision by the board of directors to move forward with this new facility was not taken lightly, and their impressive leadership during the process was instrumental in making this vision a reality.



Visitors to our office in Danube may view renderings and floor plans of the new facility in the lobby. Additionally, we have posted a time-lapse video recording of the external view of the building along with a timeline on our website at rscpa.coop/renville-sibley-new-facility.



School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota and Dr. Keith Taylor, Asst. Econ. Development Specialist UC Cooperative Extension, University of California, Davis. While on the trip, I served as the practitioner instructor for a group of students in the Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy Masters Degree program.

Our mid-May tour began at Renville-Sibley in Danube, where we had a discussion about broadband, solar energy, and farming led by Renville-Sibley's member, Jake Rieke. The tour continued with 14 additional stops in five days, and we spent 26 hours riding together on a bus, where instructors taught lessons, provided insight about upcoming visits, and answered questions. I was amazed at how enlightening it was to hear the feedback and comments after each stop and see the experience through the eyes of the students, our future leaders.



In May 2022, students toured co-op facilities in MN, SD, and ND:

- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
 - Headquarters (Bismarck, ND)
 - Antelope Valley Station (Beulah, ND)

Continue reading on page 6.

Workplace Safety: Avoid Common Electrical Hazards

Contact with or exposure to electricity is one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities. Follow these tips to avoid electrical injury:

Overhead Power Line Contact

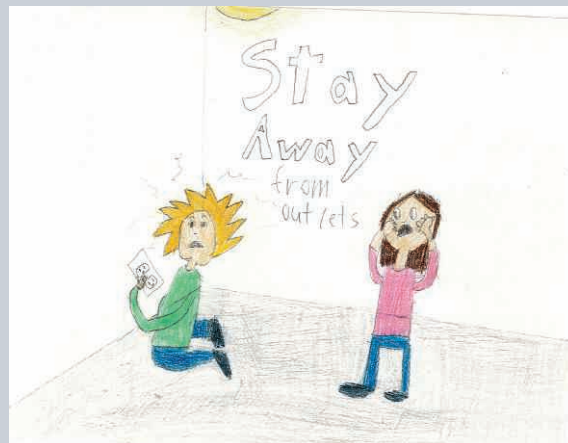
- 46% of all electrical fatalities are caused by contact with overhead power lines
- 57% of overhead power line fatalities were in non-electrical occupations
- Always assume all lines are live and dangerous
- Always look up; be aware of overhead power lines
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines
- Do not touch anything that is in contact with overhead power lines
- Carry equipment, including ladders, horizontally to avoid contact with power lines
- Stay at least 35 feet away from downed lines

Accidental Contact with Energized Conductors or Parts

- 45% of all electrical fatalities were caused by working on or near energized conductors or parts
- 74% of these fatalities were in electrical occupations
- Always test for voltage before you perform work. Be sure to also test the area around the equipment you are working on to avoid accidental contact with energized equipment
- Always perform a site and risk assessment before conducting work. Hazards exist on and near the equipment you are working on
- When possible, turn off power before conducting work
- Follow proper lockout / tagout procedures
- Avoid complacency. Every job is different, make sure you follow the hierarchy of controls and other electrical safety work practices on every job

Electrical Safety in the Workplace

- 69% of all electrical fatalities involved non-electrical occupations
- Know when to say when. If you feel unsafe performing a job, say something
- Be aware of potential electrical hazards in the workplace. Avoid electrical rooms and other potentially hazardous areas
- All electrical work should be completed by qualified workers with proper training
- GFCI protection should be installed where electricity and water may come in contact
- Five sources accounted for 92% of all electrical fatalities
 - Overhead power lines
 - Unexpected contact with electricity
 - Working on energized parts
 - Ground faults
 - Damaged wiring



Power Line Safety

Serena Dekrey, age 9

Serena Dekrey, age 9, gives wise advice to readers on electrical safety. She cautions us to be careful around power outlets. Serena is the daughter of Don and Cassandra Dekrey, members of Sioux Valley Energy based in Colman, S.D.

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.

COMFORTING CASSEROLES

PHEASANT CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 pheasant
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- Bacon grease
- 1/2 cup flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

METHOD

Mix flour, salt, pepper, and roll pieces of pheasant in the mixture. Brown in bacon grease. In separate pan, mix butter, milk, and 6 T flour. Stir and bring to a boil. Pour over the pheasant that had been put in a baking dish with bacon laid over it. Bake until tender.

Gail Klipfel
Ellendale, N.D.

TACO CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can (16 ounces) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (11 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup crushed tortilla chips

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400°F. Brown meat in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Stir in seasoning mix, beans, tomato sauce and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and tortilla chips. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with assorted toppings, if desired.

mccormick.com

CHICKEN, BROCCOLI, AND RICE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. chicken tenders
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsps. garlic powder
- 2 tsps. onion powder
- 1 1/2 tsps. whole rosemary leaves, crushed
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slow pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender.

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.

Annual Meeting Manager's Report, Continued from Page 3

- Deer Creek Station (Brookings, SD)
- Dakota Coal Company (Beulah, ND)
- Dakota Gasification Company (Beulah, ND)
- Wilton Wind (Minot, ND)
- Dakota State (Madison, SD) and SDSU (Brookings, SD) Energy Research Labs
- East River Electric Power Cooperative (Madison, SD)
- Western Area Power Administration's Garrison Dam (near Riverdale, ND)
- Lake Region Electric Cooperative (Pelican Rapids, MN)
- Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative (Williston, ND)
- Neset Consulting – Fracking (Tioga, ND)
- Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (Danube, MN)
- Sioux Valley Energy (Coleman, SD)



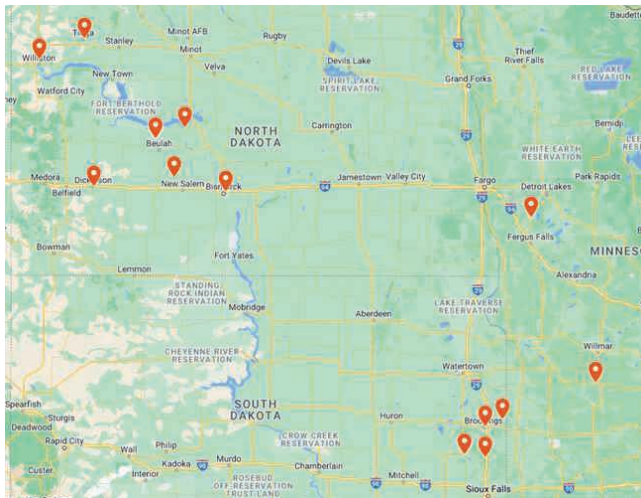
the projects Renville-Sibley and our broader cooperative family have participated in with universities and researchers.

I loved having the opportunity to join graduate students on a fun educational tour while promoting the incredible electric cooperative business model owned and governed by our members. The collaboration between ECIC, multiple universities, subject matter experts, and cooperatives across three states is an inspiring example of how electric cooperatives can contribute to a sustainable energy future. Our willingness to open our doors and provide information and industry expertise helps researchers, regulators, and legislators create robust models and attainable plans. Trusting and mutually beneficial relationships with professors, students, and researchers allow us to represent rural energy consumers and gain the knowledge and influence needed to continue providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric energy to our members in the rapidly changing energy environment.

As a small cooperative with 14 employees and 1,586 members, it would be easy to sit back and say we are too small to make a difference. However, we are making a difference. We will continue promoting projects and educational tours and will be actively involved in cultivating essential genuine relationships while ensuring our members' interests are represented in the research and models created during the energy transition.

Renville-Sibley exists to serve you, our valued member-owners. I am proud of all our employees and wish to express my appreciation for their dedication and sincere efforts to bring you safe and reliable electricity, maintain your data, and ensure we meet all state and federal mandates. It is truly an honor to work alongside such a remarkable group of individuals and to be supported by a thoughtful and forward-thinking board of directors. I am grateful for the opportunity I have been given to be a part of this team and your cooperative.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and employees, I want to thank you for your unwavering support and patronage. We understand the trust you have placed in us to make sound decisions that serve the Renville-Sibley membership, and we take that responsibility very seriously. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our new facility or our collaboration with the University of Minnesota, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are available to help, whether you choose to visit us in person or give us a call.



During our annual meeting, I shared a video created as a result of the experiences the students had on our tour and visits to other electric cooperatives in the twin cities area throughout the semester. To learn more about the Electric Cooperative Innovation Center and view the video, please visit our website at rscpa.coop/Energy-Transition. You will also find links to articles and papers highlighting some of

Thousands Treated Every Year for Chainsaw Injuries

Each year, approximately 36,000 people are treated in hospital emergency departments for injuries caused by using chainsaws. The potential risk of injury increases after hurricanes and other natural disasters when chainsaws are widely used to remove fallen or partially fallen trees and tree branches.

When trimming trees, do not trim near power lines. Only OSHA-certified line clearance tree trimmers are allowed by law to trim within 10 feet of power lines.

Aside from serious injury or electrocution from contact with or getting too close to an overhead power line or other electrical

source, the three most common injuries from chainsaws are caused by kickback, binding and pull-in.

Kickback occurs when the chain's teeth catch on something as they rotate around the tip of the blade. It may also happen when the nose strikes another object, starts to bore a cut improperly or catches the bottom or side of a cut while being reinserted.

Binding (or pinching) occurs when the material clamps down and stalls the cutting chain.

Pull-in happens when the chain at the bottom of the

bar stops suddenly due to pinching or striking a foreign object, which can draw the saw forward.

When using a chainsaw on a job or at home, always wear protective clothing and glasses. Other basic safety tips include:

- Read the owner's manual carefully before operating a chainsaw.
- Choose the proper size and type of chainsaw for the job.
- Be sure that bystanders maintain a safe distance from cutting activities.
- Check for hazards near the job, such as power lines, poles or other cables.

When trimming trees and branches:

- Take extra care when cutting branches that have been bent, twisted, hung up on or caught under another object under high wind.
- Realize that branches and trees react in different ways when they are cut, depending on the type, age and condition of the tree, as well as external factors such as weather and wind speed/direction. Other variables can also exist.

In addition, here are some other safety tips to follow when using a chainsaw.

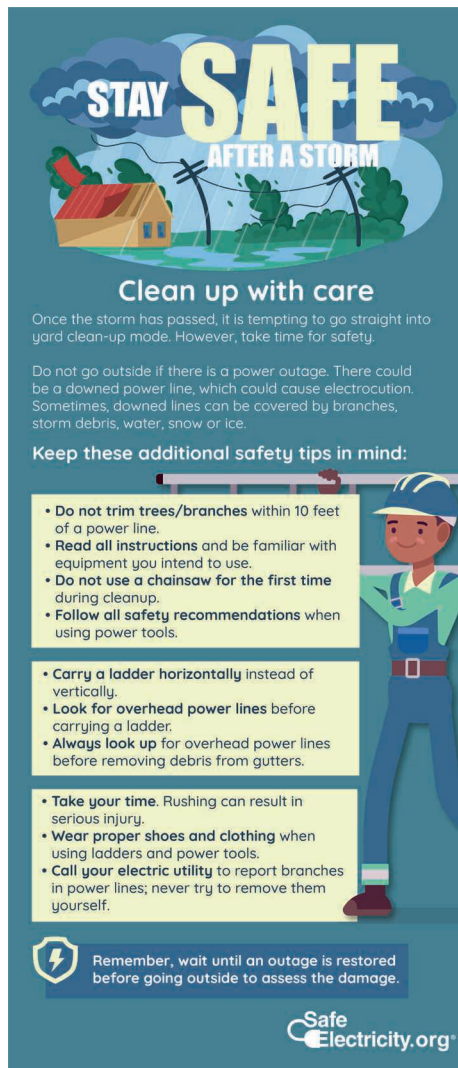
DO:

- Make sure all safety functions on the saw work properly and are in place.
- Keep the chain clean, sharp and lubricated with the correct oil.
- Keep the cutting area clear.
- Work with a partner.
- Avoid overhead hazards, such as utility lines or dead, hanging limbs that may fall.
- Be careful of inclines and uneven ground.
- Stand to the side of what you are cutting.
- Keep the saw as close to you as possible for better control.
- Keep both hands on the saw handles.
- Cut at full throttle (i.e., bring the saw up to speed before starting to cut).
- Let the saw come to a complete stop before reaching for the chain or bar.
- Turn off the saw or activate the chain brake when carrying the saw.
- Ensure the saw is well-maintained and in proper working order.

DO NOT:

- Do not operate a saw alone.
- Do not wear loose clothing.
- Do not use the tip to cut.
- Do not cut with a chainsaw above shoulder height.
- Do not refuel a hot saw.

The tips provided are not all-inclusive; instead, they are a reminder to keep safety first. Remember, an injury is much more inconvenient, painful and costly than taking the time to do the job safely.



STAY SAFE AFTER A STORM

Clean up with care

Once the storm has passed, it is tempting to go straight into yard clean-up mode. However, take time for safety.

Do not go outside if there is a power outage. There could be a downed power line, which could cause electrocution. Sometimes, downed lines can be covered by branches, storm debris, water, snow or ice.

Keep these additional safety tips in mind:

- Do not trim trees/branches within 10 feet of a power line.
- Read all instructions and be familiar with equipment you intend to use.
- Do not use a chainsaw for the first time during cleanup.
- Follow all safety recommendations when using power tools.

- Carry a ladder horizontally instead of vertically.
- Look for overhead power lines before carrying a ladder.
- Always look up for overhead power lines before removing debris from gutters.

- Take your time. Rushing can result in serious injury.
- Wear proper shoes and clothing when using ladders and power tools.
- Call your electric utility to report branches in power lines; never try to remove them yourself.

Remember, wait until an outage is restored before going outside to assess the damage.

Safe Electricity.org

TUCKER KRAFT



SMALL TOWN, BIG DREAMS

Kraft refuses to go down amongst a group of Redbird defenders.

Tucker Kraft's Road to the NFL

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

With a population of 500 residents, Timber Lake, S.D., may seem similar to many small-town communities across the state. The town is known for its scenic beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities, and rich history. However, what really sets Timber Lake apart from the rest is a homegrown NFL prospect: Tucker Kraft.

At an impressive 6-foot-5 and weighing 254 pounds, Kraft has proven himself to be South Dakota's latest up-and-coming football star. Ask any fan of college football and they will tell you that Kraft has the size and skill set to make waves on a professional level.

Luckily, Kraft's talents haven't gone unnoticed. During his latest breakout season as SDSU's All-American tight end, Kraft left an impression on NFL

scouts with his ability to outrun opponents, snatch incredible catches and charge through multiple tackles. A top contributor in nearly every game, Kraft led the Jackrabbits to their first-ever FCS National Championship. The historic season quickly cemented Kraft's place as a top tight end in the NFL Draft.

Kraft recalls the moment everything fell into place: "I just realized that when I had the ball, no one could touch me," he said. "I knew after that season that I was completely capable of playing with the pros."

Timber Lake High School head football coach Ryan Gimbel says he is not surprised to see his former stu-



Tucker Kraft

dent and player on the doorstep of the NFL. Countless hours in the weight room and gym, he said, revealed Kraft to be a student-athlete with incredible drive.

“Seeing the raw natural talent of Tucker spoke for itself and what he could accomplish, but he also had the dedication to take it to that next level,” said Gimbel. “To me, it wasn’t a surprise, and that was our running joke when he left high school – ‘I’ll see you playing on Sundays.’”

Kraft’s journey to the NFL, however, was not without its fair share of adversity. Growing up in Timber Lake, Kraft lost his father to a plane crash when he was only 12 years old. Kraft overcame the childhood tragedy with his two brothers and mother by working tirelessly on and off the field. Honoring his father’s legacy, Kraft followed in his father’s footsteps to become an All-American college star like his father had done before him.

“My brothers took a big part in raising me after my dad died,” said Kraft. “My mom, my aunts and uncles all played a role, but I pride myself on getting a lot of things done independently.”

Steely determination has carried Kraft to the highest level of football, and not even dramatic injury has been able to slow him down. In November Kraft officially declared his name in the NFL draft. Kraft’s friends and family cheered him on as he showed off his incredible strength and skill on national television at the NFL Combine. There, Kraft proved his ability to play alongside the likes of Dallas Goedert, Riley Reiff and South Dakota’s other pro footballers.

“I was kind of star-struck walking in,” said Kraft. “Sitting down with the head coaches of the NFL franchise, you realize that you are at this level now. This is a job interview.”

The NFL Combine, however, will

not be the last of Kraft’s time on national television. Ranked as the sixth top tight end, Kraft’s eyes are set on the draft in April. And, although he hails from somewhere small, Kraft plans to loom large on the field as a starting player with great potential.

“I want to go to a team that’s going to use me, whether I’m on the line of scrimmage in the trenches with the big guys or catching balls and getting yards after the catch. I want to make an impact on a team, day one.”

Whatever happens in April, Kraft’s hometown is ready to cheer him on. According to Gimbel, most of Timber Lake is ready to don colors and jerseys that they are not used to wearing to support their hometown kid.

“The buzz in our town has just erupted,” said Gimbel. “Our community, school, and family friends – they all want to see him be successful in the opportunity that he has worked for.”



NFL prospect Tucker Kraft evades a tackler, leading SDSU to a 31-7 win last November against the Illinois State Redbirds.

NEW FACILITY UPDATE

Due to the delayed arrival of spring weather, progress on the exterior of our new facility has been slower than expected. We are eagerly awaiting warmer, dryer conditions to complete the grading and pavement of our yard and parking lot. Meanwhile, inside the facility, we have completed painting the offices and have just begun painting the shop.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be focusing on completing all electrical and plumbing installations. You can follow the progress of our project on our website with a time-lapse video that shows the different stages of construction: rscpa.coop/renville-sibley-new-facility. Although it may seem like there is not much happening at the site since the walls and roof have been installed, there is a lot of activity going on this winter to prepare for our move into the building in 2023.

Comparative Report			
	Current YTD Through FEB. 28, 2023	One Year Ago YTD Through FEB. 28, 2022	10 Years Ago YTD Through FEB. 28, 2013
Average # of Consumers	1,882	1,889	1,918
kWhs purchased	16,649,117	16,466,031	17,919,575
Cost of purchased power	\$1,066,922.68	\$1,049,408.80	\$960,566.43

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

NOTICE TO CO-GENERATORS

In compliance with Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association's (RSCPA) adopted rules relating to co-generation and small power production, RSCPA is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. RSCPA is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the RSCPA Board. Interested members should contact Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, PO Box 68, 103 Oak Street, Danube, MN 56230, or call 800-826-2593.

REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2023 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.

FOR SALE:

"Sun" 3-wheel bike, 24" wheels

Only rode three times - like new.

Dave Lang
Danube, MN 56230
320-522-2406

March Board Meeting Highlights

The March board meeting was held on Tuesday, March 28 at 8 am. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Gene Allex, Cindy Mertens, and Amy Ervin. The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the February 28 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of February
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for March
- 2023 Budget
- RESCO Request for Director Candidate Nominations

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 February (unaudited)
- Organization activities
- East River update
- Basin Electric update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
- Accounts receivable
- New facility update

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

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month Cole Gigstad did not find his member number in the newsletter. The credit will increase to a value of \$60. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter.

If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of May, you will receive this credit on your electric statement.

Good luck in your search!

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. Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

OUTAGE REPORT

Affecting 10 members or more

Date: 2/15/23

Time off: 12:28 a.m.

Time on: 2:40 a.m.

Substation: Troy

Cause: Cause Unknown

Date: 2/15/23

Time off: 3:17 a.m.

Time on: 8:14 a.m.

Substation: Troy, Henryville

Cause: Overhead or Dead Tree

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

NOTICE:

The April board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, at 8 a.m.

The May board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23 at 8 a.m.

Scholar of the Month



Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, congratulates Myles Muetzel on being selected as the March Scholar of the Month!

Myles is a senior at Renville County West High School and was nominated because of his accountability in the classroom. Myles is a very impressive student and always completes his assignments on time and at a high level of quality. He is diligent in planning out when his assignments are due. He is creative, pays attention to detail, and has a great deal of interest in learning in all his classes. Myles is also involved in his community by playing guitar for his church.

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Myles Muetzel as the March Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Month.



ELECTRIC SAFETY IN ACTION

In a controlled demonstration, Journeyman Lineman Brady Gaer uses life-size equipment on the high voltage demonstration trailer to educate students about electricity.

Empowering the Public to Stay Safe

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

Electric safety is a topic that South Dakota students are excited to engage with. They often ask questions like, “What should you do if your tractor equipment touches a power line?” or “How can birds sit safely on a power line?” or even “What does it look like when something comes in contact with high voltage?”

These are some of the most popular questions Oahe Electric’s Chief Financial Officer Valerie Marso has not only been answering but also demonstrating for more than 20 years.

“They always just have tons of questions,” said Marso. “It’s always fun to hear what they come up with next.”

It’s not just for entertainment, however. Oahe Electric and its employees are committed to realizing their goal of zero accidents at home and at work. Part of preventing tragedy starts with educating the public, especially youth, on how to stay safe around electricity.

In the last year alone, Oahe Electric traveled to nine different schools and led demonstrations for more than 900 students. For Marso, verbal communication is only half the battle when it comes to educating students

about electric safety. The real impact, she said, comes from showing them.

“The visuals and the noise that the high voltage makes really lands in a way that you just can’t convey with words,” said Marso. “It can scare the students a little bit, but I think it gives them a healthy respect for electricity.”

Co-op across the state, including Oahe Electric, use three different interactive safety demonstrations to hone their message about safety: Power Town, Co-ops in the Classroom and the high voltage demonstration trailer.

One of the most popular, Power Town, is a small-scale, tabletop model of a few quaint houses attached to a small power grid. The miniature electrical system shows students how electrical current moves through

various items they may encounter in their daily lives, presented in a fun and easy-to-learn format. Line-workers, who work on the real equipment every day, lead the demonstration and teach students about personal protective equipment worn by co-op employees to complete their jobs safely.

Co-op in the Classroom is yet another powerful initiative South Dakota co-ops engage in to promote safety across the state. Working in conjunction with East River's Education and Outreach Program, co-ops meet the students where they are in the classroom to teach local youth the importance of respecting electricity through hand-on lessons that engage and excite the audience.

Lastly, the high voltage demonstration trailer is a portable unit that carries life-size equipment from events to local schools. It's a demonstration that always leaves an impression. Within a safe environment, students get to see actual equipment, such as utility poles, electrical conductors and distribution transformers, in action. Each hour-long demonstration shows what can happen when objects such as animals, trees, ladders and even fruit come into contact with power lines.

"This is equipment that our linemen work on every day, so they are comfortable showing these students how energy works," said Marso.

These demonstrations not only

entertain, but also promote a healthy and safe environment for co-op members and the public. During one of Oahe Electric's latest outreach events, Marso recalled listening to a small group of kids talk about how they sometimes sit on "the green boxes." They were referring to underground transformers. It became a teachable moment that left an impact on both the students and teachers.

"We told them to never touch them," she said. "You never know what going on in there, and it's always better to be safe than sorry. It was at least one person who took something home and actually used it. Moments like that show we are really making an impact with these students."



Oahe Electric Power Supply Specialist Steve Long teaches electric safety using Power Town, a miniature model used in safety demonstrations.



Renville-Sibley Cooperative Holds Annual Meeting

Renville-Sibley Member Barbara Marks of Engan Associates Architects was the guest speaker.



Amy Ervin

Member and Board Services Representative

Renville-Sibley's 85th Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 30, at Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Drawings for early bird prizes were held at 5:45 p.m. Board Chair Roger Manthei presided over the meeting. Director Gary Ekehoff gave the invocation. Alan Neyers read the notice of the meeting. CEO DeeAnne Norris and Alan Neyers gave the leadership report. The information shared in the Leadership report can be found in DeeAnne's article on pages 2, 3, and 6. Information on the district elections was presented by Gary Peterson.

Matt Haubrich and Kylie Rieke presented the scholarship awards. The Scholarship Committee selected Annika Nosbush for the \$1,000 Basin Scholarship. Also selected by the Scholarship Committee as winners of two Renville-Sibley \$1,000 scholarships

were Keegan Lorang and Kayln Hellendrung. The remaining scholarship applicants each received a \$1,000 scholarship – funded by unclaimed capital credits over seven years old. The winners were Adam Schrupp, Madalynn Nachreiner, Isaac Haen, and Cora Watson.

The guest speaker for the evening was Renville-Sibley member, Barbara Marks. Barbara is a Senior Designer and Project Manager with Engan Associates Architects. Barbara shared information and progress pictures on the New Facility Project.

Alan Neyers announced the results of the elections. Directors elected to serve a three-year term were as follows:

- District 1 – Kylie Rieke**
- District 2 – Jeff Boersma**
- District 3 – Roger Manthei**

Drawings were held for the remaining prizes before the meal was served. Miss Becky's Catering prepared and served a delicious meal following the meeting.

Thank you to all who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend Renville-Sibley's 85th Annual Meeting!

Prize winners were as follows: (red = kid's gifts)

Early Bird Gifts: Presented by Director Helen Ruebel and Cindy Mertens

1. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Sonja Thune
2. Ninja Chopper – Kayla Jansen
3. Chalk Set – Zach Swanson
4. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – David Wordes
5. Personal Blender – Tom Runck
6. Veggie/Fruit Chopper – Joel Jansen
7. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Larry Brown



Keegan Lorang, winner of a \$1,000 scholarship selected by Renville-Sibley's scholarship committee, poses for a picture with Scholarship Committee Members Matt Haubrich, Kylie Rieke, and Wayland Zaske.

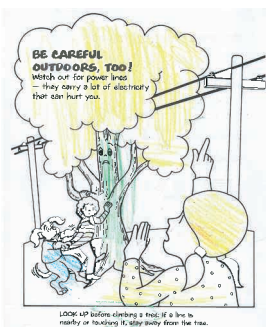
Remaining Member Gifts: Presented by Directors Wayland Zaske and Helen Ruebel

1. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Jim Knutson
2. Garden Tool Set – Jerome Kiecker
3. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Lyle Black
4. Golf Set – Gilbert Borth
5. \$25 Cenex gift card – Karl Breikreutz
6. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Dorothy Frikke
7. Expanding Hose – Thomas Breikreutz
8. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Middle Creek Church
9. Dish Soap Set – Ronald Lund
10. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Vernon Beran
11. Cookie Sheet Baking Set – Dorothy Borth
12. **Splash & Slam Baseball – Kylie Jansen**
13. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Rocky Pietig
14. \$25 Cenex gift card – Roy Myers
15. Wireless Weather Station – Mary Sullivan
16. Bath/Shower Set – Lyle Witte
17. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Darrell Gens
18. Cooler Basket with utensils – Donald Frank
19. **3 Piece Squirt Guns – Andrew Bruns**
20. \$25 Cenex gift card – Dave Lang
21. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Douglas Kiecker
22. Washer/ Bean Bag Toss – Pamela Benson
23. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Gary Simondet
24. Baking Pan Set – Wayne Zaske
25. **Bubble Leaf Blower – Jacob Fennern**
26. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Edward Garrahy
27. \$25 Cenex gift card – Darlene Konz
28. Grill Set – Steven Herschman
29. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Dick Sindelir
30. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Paul Weikle
31. Hose Hideaway – Deborah Halverson
32. Tabletop Electric Grill – Karen Schulte
33. Tabletop Electric Grill – Dale Kiecker
34. East River Gift – Built2Work Flashlight Tool Set – Keith Bode

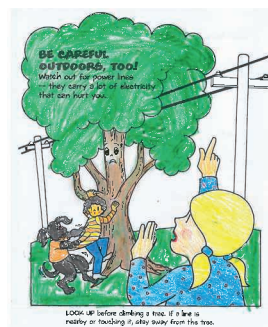
Coloring contest winners were as follows:

- 0 – 4 years old: Bristol Bruns
- 5 – 8 years old: Maverick Brown
- 9 – 12 years old: Levi Swanson

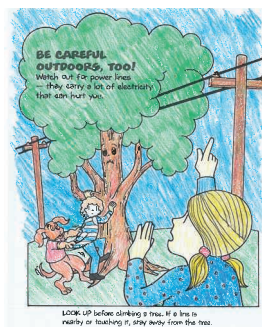
The winners received a \$10 Dairy Queen gift card.



Bristol Bruns



Maverick Brown



Levi Swanson

Member Notice

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will be closed **Monday, May 29, 2023**, in observance of Memorial Day.

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 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.



May 28, 2023
Back When They Bucked
 Days of '76 Arena
 Deadwood, SD
 800-344-8826

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.

MAY 6
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
 Lake Farley Park
 Milbank, SD
 605-432-6656

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 6 p.m.
 Vivian, SD
 605-222-3296

MAY 20
Buggy Museum Open House
 10 a.m.
 Stockholm, SD
 605-938-4192

MAY 20
Booth Day
 10 a.m.
 Booth Fish Hatchery
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-7730

MAY 20
Frühlingsfest and Spring Market
 1 p.m.
 Main Street Square
 Rapid City, SD
 605-716-7979

MAY 25
Wine Walk
 5 p.m.
 Downtown Businesses
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-226-3441

MAY 26-28
Hidden Treasure Heritage Festival
 Lead, SD
 307-259-4484

MAY 27
Back When They Bucked All-Day Rodeo
 9 a.m.
 Days of '76 Event Complex
 Deadwood, SD
 605-717-7642

MAY 27
Norwegian Constitution Day
 11 a.m.
 Lake Norden, SD
 605-874-2171

JUNE 3
Health Connect of South Dakota: The Human Race 5K
 9 a.m.
 Sertoma Park
 Sioux Falls, SD

JUNE 11
River Honoring Community Potluck
 5 p.m.
 Clay County Park River Shelter
 Vermillion, SD
 605-670-0540

JUNE 16-18
Fine Arts In The Hills Show & Sale
 Main Street
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2810

JUNE 18
Father's Day Fishing
 10 a.m.
 Palisades State Park
 Minnehaha County, SD
 605-594-3824

JUNE 21
2023 McCrossan Boys Ranch Golf Classic for Kids
 Central Valley Golf Course
 Hartford, SD
 605-339-1203

JUNE 23
Flandreau Fridays
 5 p.m.
 Downtown Flandreau
 Flandreau, SD

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