



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

RENVILLE-SIBLEY
MAY 2025 VOL. 26 NO. 1

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Gardening Greats

**Master Gardeners
Cultivating Community
Growth**

Pages 8-9

Bridging History
Pages 12-13

Photo courtesy of SDSU Extension.

Recap of the Leadership Presentation from 2025 Annual Meeting



DeeAnne Norris

CEO

320-826-2593 or

800-826-2593

On behalf of the board and leadership team, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all members who were able to join us for the 2025 Annual Meeting. Your engagement and participation are invaluable to the success of our Cooperative. I understand that many of you have busy schedules and other commitments, and I appreciate your continued support even if you were unable to attend. The 2024 Financials were presented in detail to the members by Wayland Zaske, Board Secretary/

Treasurer. The Balance Sheet and Statement of Operations (P&L) for 2024 were included in the annual report that was mailed to all members. For those who couldn't be with us, the following is a recap from the leadership presentation.

2024 Financial Summary

Revenue and energy sales increased compared to the previous year, but operating expenses also rose, largely due to the increase in purchased power costs, which remain our largest expense. Our operating margin came in at just under \$54,000 for 2024. Despite these challenges, we remain dedicated to serving our members, who are both energy consumers and owners of Renville-Sibley.

One of the benefits of the cooperative business model is allocating margins and returning capital credits to the membership, which we were once again able to do in 2024 with active members receiving a credit on their bills that were processed in December and inactive members receiving a check. Additionally, we continued investing in system improvements to enhance reliability and maintain the strength of our infrastructure.

Our Cooperative's equity level stands at 44.1%, which is above the state median but slightly below the national median of 44.5%. Maintaining a strong equity position ensures we can continue making necessary infrastructure investments while keeping rates as low as possible, reinforcing our long-term financial health for the benefit of all members.

Our annual audit was conducted by Brady Martz and Associates, who issued an unmodified opinion—the highest level of assurance—indicating that our financial reports were fairly stated. This reinforces our commitment to sound financial management and transparency.



Honoring Linemen and appreciating all employees dedicated to serving members

Linemen regularly face dangerous conditions which could result in injury or death. We are grateful that the second Monday of April has been designated as a day to officially recognize and honor their dedication and service.

I appreciate all our employees and their dedication to serving you, our members. They ensure safe, reliable electricity, assist with your questions, maintain essential data, and uphold regulatory standards. It's an honor to work alongside them and be part of your cooperative.

Wholesale Power Costs

Wholesale power costs have the greatest impact on energy rates, accounting for 73 cents of every dollar paid on electric bills in 2024. For the second consecutive year, these costs have risen, increasing by 7.6% for 2025.

In April, the leadership team will recommend using our revenue deferral to offset the 2025 wholesale power cost increase, with a plan to reassess next year. While the Board has not taken formal action yet, they support this approach.

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Updates

We appreciate the participation of members who engaged in discussions and cast their votes on the recommended changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. We are pleased to announce that all recommended changes were approved. I want to take a moment to address some of the concerns raised during our member informational meetings.

The Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association

One of the most common questions was why we changed the word "Cooperative" to "Association" throughout the documents. Renville-Sibley operates under the cooperative

business model and will continue to do so. Electric cooperatives like ours are structured as 501(c)(12) organizations, meaning we must be organized and operate as mutual or cooperative entities.

Over time, as sections were added and revised, inconsistencies developed. Some sections of the Bylaws referred to "The Association," while others used "The Cooperative." After consulting with our attorney, we standardized the use of "The Association" for consistency. This change does not have an impact on our incorporation, rules, or standing as a cooperative at the state or national level. While these are formal documents, informally, we will continue to refer to ourselves as a cooperative.... because we are.

Governance and Financial Health Improvements

Another concern raised was the provision allowing the Board to remove a director. This change establishes a structured process for removal when necessary. While transparency is a core value of our cooperative, legal constraints may prevent the Board from disclosing certain details to members. This addition ensures due process protection while allowing the Board to act in the best interest of the membership.

To strengthen the Cooperative's financial health, an approved addition allows unretired capital credit allocations to be used to address bad debt. When a member leaves the Cooperative with an unpaid balance and collection efforts fail, a portion of their unretired capital credits can be applied toward that outstanding

debt.

Additionally, disputes unrelated to payment for electricity can be resolved through arbitration instead of court. Recommended by our insurance provider and widely adopted by other cooperatives, this change helps control legal costs and protects all members from the financial burden of costly lawsuits.

Enhancing Clarity and Transparency

While reviewing the documents, we refined language throughout to improve clarity, consistency, and inclusivity. These revisions do not change the intent of the Articles or Bylaws but ensure they are easier to understand.

If you would like to review the full details of these changes, a marked-up version of the Articles and Bylaws was included with your ballot and is also available on our website. If you prefer, you can request a PDF copy from our office.

Moving Forward Together

In summary, these approved updates improve governance, reinforce transparency, and help ensure the long-term stability of our Cooperative. The Board and leadership team fully supported the proposed revisions, and we appreciate your participation in the voting process.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, leadership team, and employees, I would like to thank you for your patronage and support. We value the trust you place in us to make sound decisions that serve Renville-Sibley members.



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 Firlie
 Alan Neyers
 Gary Peterson
 Helen Ruebel

Renville-Sibley Employees

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

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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

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Power Life Safely

May is Electrical Safety Month

Every May, Electrical Safety Month serves as a vital reminder of the importance of preventing electrical hazards at home. Electricity powers nearly every aspect of modern life, but if handled improperly, it can pose serious risks, including injuries and property damage.

Your electric cooperative understands the risks associated with improper electricity use, which is why we're committed to reminding you to stay vigilant and practice electrical safety not only in May, but year-round.

By following key safety practices, you can reduce the risk of electrical hazards and ensure your family stays protected. Here are five essential tips for powering up safely at home.

1. **Be vigilant.** Regularly inspect your home's electrical system for any signs of damage or outdated components and replace any frayed electrical wires or cords. The Electrical Safety Foundation International estimates roughly 3,300 home fires originate from extension cords every year, either from overloading, overheating or fraying. If you're relying on extension cords as permanent power solutions, consider contacting a qualified electrician to install additional outlets where you need them.
2. **Use Surge Protectors.** Safeguard your sensitive electronics and appliances from surges with surge protectors. These handy devices help divert excess voltage away from your electronics, reducing the risk of damage or electrical fires. Not all power strips include surge protection, so read the product label carefully. Additionally, surge protectors can lose effectiveness over time and should be replaced when damaged or outdated.
3. **Practice Safe Power Strip Use.** Avoid overloading electrical outlets with power strips that exceed the outlet's capacity. High-energy devices, like heaters, microwaves and hairdryers should be distributed across multiple outlets. Overloading an outlet with a "busy" power strip can lead to overheating and create a fire hazard, so be sure to check the power strip's wattage rating before plugging in items.

4. **Water and Electricity Don't Mix.** It may seem obvious, but accidents involving water contact with electrical items happen. Always keep electrical appliances and devices away from water sources, like sinks, bathtubs or swimming pools. Make sure your hands are dry before touching any electrical switches or appliances – never handle electrical devices with wet hands. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) should be installed in areas where water and electricity are typically in close proximity, including kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor outlets.
5. **Educate Family Members.** One of the best ways to ensure the safety of everyone in your household is to talk about electrical safety. Teach children not to play with electrical outlets or appliances and ensure they understand the potential dangers of electricity. Create and practice a home fire escape plan that includes electrical safety precautions in case of emergencies.

Practicing electrical safety at home is essential for protecting your family, property and peace of mind. Remember, electrical safety isn't just a one-time effort – it's a year-round responsibility. Taking these steps can help ensure a safer, more secure home for you and your loved ones.



"Don't plant trees near power lines."

Jeremiah Barlow

Jeremiah cautions readers not to plant trees near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Jeremiah! Jeremiah's parents are Mosiah and Cristine Barlow, members of West River 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.



Delicious CHICKEN

CHICKEN BREAST SUPREME

Ingredients:

4 chicken breasts
(boned and halved)
8 strips bacon
2 pkgs. chipped beef
8 oz. sour cream
1 can cream of chicken soup
6 oz. evaporated milk

Method

Wrap each half of chicken breast in a piece of bacon. Place in a baking dish lined with two layers of chipped beef.

Blend sour cream, soup, and milk. Pour over chicken.

Bake uncovered at 300°F for three hours. Serve over rice.

*Makes 8 servings.

Sharon Houchin
Central Electric Member

CHICKEN ROLLUPS

Ingredients:

8 oz. tube crescent rolls
4 boneless chicken breasts
(cooked shredded and seasoned to taste)
8 oz. cheddar cheese
(finely shredded, divided)
10 1/2 oz. can cream of chicken soup
1 packet chicken gravy mix
1 cup water

Method

In a bowl, mix the shredded chicken and 1/3 of the cheese. Take a scoop of the mixture and roll it into a crescent roll then place in a greased 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350°F until the crescent rolls look browned on top. Mix the soup, gravy mix, 1/3 of the cheese, and enough water to make the mixture pourable. Pour over the crescent rolls. Sprinkle the remaining 1/3 of the cheese on top and bake again until the cheese melts and starts to brown.

Nicole Einrem
B-Y Electric Member

SMOKY CHICKEN TACOS

Ingredients:

1 tbsp. oil
1 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into thin strips
1/4 cup Flavor Maker Taco Night Topping Seasoning
1/2 cup water
12 (6-inch) flour or corn tortillas, warmed

Method

Heat oil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook and stir just until browned.

Stir in Flavor Maker Seasoning and water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes or until sauce has thickened and chicken is cooked through, stirring occasionally.

Spoon chicken into warm tortillas. Serve with desired toppings, such as shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, sour cream, guac or salsa.

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.

Control Your Controlled Burn

Don't let your controlled burn get away from you

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn in advance and keep it under check, it can quickly spread too far and wide.

If you are considering implementing a controlled burn (also known as a prescribed fire) to address vegetation or weed management, be sure to follow several precautions to stay safe:

1. Don't start one without advance planning.
2. Certain groups should be notified: check with your town or village office; notify your local fire department; let your neighbors know your plans.
3. Obtain all necessary permits.
4. Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, as well as humidity (as a general rule, relative humidity should be 40 percent or higher).
5. If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole.



6. Wet the base of the pole with water before beginning your burn.

Even with the best laid plans, a utility pole could catch on fire during a burn; however, planning in advance can decrease the chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is

not immediately apparent.

Take the time to plan ahead, or your controlled burn could get expensive. The person who causes damage to a utility pole is responsible for the fees associated with replacing it.

There are many other safety considerations; check with local authorities and fully research all aspects of a controlled burn before implementing one.

Notice to Co-Generators

In compliance with Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association's (RSCPA) adopted rules relating to cogeneration 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, 515 Hwy 212 W, Danube, MN 56230, or call 800-826-2593.

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

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



**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 216D. 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.

GARDENING GREATS

How Master Gardeners are Cultivating Community Growth

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdua.coop

After years of tending to her garden, Codington-Clark Electric member Dianne Rider of Hazel can confidently say she is an expert in horticulture. However, her extensive experience of working with the earth isn't the only reason she is considered a soil savant.

In 2016, Rider earned the prodigious title of Master Gardener through the South Dakota State University Extension's Master Gardener Volunteer Program. This program provides in-depth horticultural training – covering topics like plant science, soil management and sustainable gardening practices – so enthusiasts like Rider can share their extensive gardening knowledge with their communities.

Becoming an Extension Master Gardener volunteer is a commitment. Applicants must complete horticulture classes, pass the course test and contribute 40 hours of volunteer service

during the first year of involvement. Despite the challenges, Rider had aspired to this achievement for decades, but it wasn't until she retired from her teaching career that she was able to dedicate herself fully and earn her place as a Master Gardener.

Reflecting the adage, “once a teacher, always a teacher,” Rider continues to educate and influence those around her, even after retirement, through gardening.

“Becoming a Master Gardener has always been on my bucket list since they organized,” Rider said. “I’ve always been a teacher, so finding a way to help others through gardening is probably what’s most rewarding.”

As a Master Gardener, Rider plays a key role in organizing annual gardening events for SDSU Extension, including the Master Gardener Annual Update Conference at Joy Ranch near Watertown. This event, attended by more than 125 Master Gardeners, serves as a thriving forum for gardening clubs to exchange ideas on the latest and greatest

projects they are tackling.

“The event is a lot of fun, because when you get 125 Master Gardeners in one room – let me tell you, the conversations are riveting,” Rider laughed.

Master gardeners also help SDSU Extension achieve its broader goal: to make cutting-edge research easily accessible to the people who can benefit from the findings. Master Gardeners have regular continuing education opportunities with experts from the SDSU Horticulture team, such as Professor John Ball, a SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist and South Dakota Department of Agriculture Forest Health Specialist. Once equipped with this information, volunteers can share the most significant takeaways from research being conducted across the state through the university, providing a bridge between research and practical application.

“Dr. John Ball’s presentation on how to trim a tree after planting it is one of the best things that I’ve learned that I can now share with others,” said Rider. “He says that raising a tree is just like raising a kid: you have to shape your tree when

Missouri Valley Master Gardeners remove invasive bellflower and other non-desirable plants at the Dorothy Jenks Memorial Garden in Yankton.
Photo courtesy of SDSU Extension.

they are young, otherwise they turn into ugly adults.”

Master Gardener Field Specialist Prairey Walkling emphasizes that the connection between research-based information and enthusiasts is what the Master Gardener Volunteer Program thrives on. And the research goes far beyond just trees. SDSU’s horticulture research also extends into innovative mulching techniques, soil care and even studies on the growth and quality of four popular zinnia varieties.

“SDSU Extension wants to empower individuals to reach their gardening goals through providing science-based information. Each person has different pieces of land, resources and goals for their gardens and landscapes,” she said. “We strive to provide them with trusted, research-based information to help them make decisions.”

Walkling said the impact of these volunteers cannot be understated. According to Walkling, there are more than 400 Master Gardeners across the state and 14 Master Gardener clubs. In 2024, these vital volunteers hosted 153 gardening events, including farmers market booths, gardening workshops and demonstrations, reaching nearly 10,000 South Dakotans. Regardless of the event or what is being discussed, Walkling said Master Gardeners carry an infectious love of digging in the dirt.

“These volunteers help get people excited about gardening,” she said. “There are so many volunteer opportunities – teaching youth, teaching adults, maintaining demonstration gardens, answering questions, organizing events, engaging in horticultural research, writing horticulture articles – the sky is the limit.”



SDSU Extension Master Gardeners host an educational booth at the SD State Fair. From left: Lael Abelmann, Sharelle Meyer and Nancy Kadous.



Coteau Prairie Master Gardener Club (Watertown area) hosted the 2024 state conference at Joy Ranch. | Photos courtesy of SDSU Extension.

ANNUAL MEETING



Renville-Sibley Cooperative Holds Annual Meeting

Renville-Sibley's 87th Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the 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 Eekhoff gave the invocation. Director Wayland Zaske read the notice of the meeting. Information on the district election was presented by Director Jeff Boersma. CEO DeeAnne Norris and Wayland Zaske gave the leadership report. The information shared in the leadership report can be found on pages 2 and 3.

Directors Vicky Firlie and Whitey Hinderman presented the scholarship awards. The Scholarship Committee selected Abigail Willegal for the \$1,000 Basin Scholarship. Also selected by the Scholarship Committee as winners of two Renville-Sibley \$1,000 scholarships were Brenna Wordes and Heidi Beckendorf. The remaining scholarship applicants each received a \$1,000 scholarship - funded by unclaimed capital credits over seven years old. The winners were William Ahrens, Ryan Schrupp, Riley Broberg, and Carson Serbus.

The guest speaker for the evening was Chris Studer. Chris is East River's Chief Member & Public Relations Officer. He spoke about electric safety at home, on the farm and on the road.

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

- District 1 - Whitey Hinderman
- District 2 - Wayland Zaske
- District 3 - Gary Eekhoff

Voting results on recommended changes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were reported. All recommended changes were approved. 976200

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 87th Annual Meeting!

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

Early Bird Gifts: Presented by Director Helen Ruebel and Gene Allex

1. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Joel Bakker
2. Fire Resistant Document Bag – Mike Sullivan
3. **Motorized Bubble Leaf Blower – Zach Swanson**
4. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – James Hebrink
5. Dual Light Headlamp – Donn Stellmacher
6. Cordless Hand Mixer – David Garrahy
7. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Jerry Agre

Remaining Member Gifts: Presented by Directors Gary Peterson and Alan Neyers

1. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Molly Schweinfurter
2. Cordless Inflator Kit – Lyle Black
3. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate - Pat Wacek
4. Swiffer Dry & Wet Sweeping Kit – Bob & Kayla Jansen
5. \$25 CENEX Gift Card – Dick Sindelir
6. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Jim Schewe



ANNUAL MEETING

7. Waffle Maker – Joan Dahmes
8. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Gene Wolling
9. 4-Panel Adjustable LED Light – Gary Klimmek
10. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – David Fischer
11. Mosquito Protection Lantern – Jeff Lingl
12. **Twister Splash – Parker Broberg**
13. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Victor Serbus
14. \$25 CENEX Gift Card – Ramona Larsen
15. Airbroom – Deb Nelson
16. 16 Inch Oscillating Pedestal Fan – Gary Hanson
17. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Stanley Dworshak
18. Deluxe Birdfeeder Buffet – Tom Kodet
19. **Youth Batting tee – Lidia Jansen**
20. \$25 CENEX Gift Card – Patricia Serbus
21. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Lucille Lee
22. Cup Cell Phone Holder – John Robinson
23. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Bill Radermacher
24. 6-Player Croquet Set – Larry Braem
25. **4-Person Dome Tent – Kylie Jansen**
26. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Judy Jacobs
27. \$25 CENEX Gift Card – Kathy Ridl
28. 10-Watt Megaphone – Wencel Kojetin
29. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Mark Tollefson
30. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Larry Breidkreutz
31. Infrared Thermometer – Taylor Serbus
32. Wireless Rain Station – James Santjer
33. East River Prize Pack – Roger Freitag
34. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Gary Simondet



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

The Renville-Sibley office will be closed on the following holiday: Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, 2025

OUTAGE REPORT:

Affecting 10 members or more

Date: 2-28-25
Time off: 4:51 PM
Time on: 6:37 PM
Substation: Birch Cooley
Cause: Wind

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



Local, state and federal officials celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the new Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge, March 25, 2025. Photo by Marcy Anderson, Courtesy of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce.

BRIDGING HISTORY

The Demolition of the Waldron Memorial Bridge

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Tons of concrete and steel came crashing down in a planned demolition of the Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge that connected Pierre and Fort Pierre over a half mile stretch of river. The planned explosion marked a significant historic moment for not only Pierre and Fort Pierre, but also eastern and western South Dakota.

The demolition of the bridge unfolded in seconds. A plume of black smoke erupted from the detonating cord placed at key points in the bridge, quickly followed by a bone-rattling shock wave. Paul Nelson, a recently retired employee of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, witnessed the end of the bridge's 63-year lifespan. Nelson, a member of Oahe Elec-

tric, spent over 40 years with the SDDOT, serving most of that time as the regional bridge engineer. In this role, he was responsible for the maintenance, inspection and upkeep of the very bridge that he saw demolished.

As legacy bridge engineer, this was not Nelson's first experience with such a demolition. "I had actually witnessed the 1986 demolition of the old truss bridge that was just downstream of the current railroad bridge – so I have been around something of this magnitude before," he explained.

Even still, Nelson laughed that the modern demolition had a "pretty good report when it went off."

Although the bridge has been decommissioned, its history endures. In 2002, the bridge was dedicated to Lt. Cmdr. John C.

Waldron, a naval aviator from Fort Pierre who led a torpedo squadron during the Battle of Midway in World War II. His actions proved pivotal in the battle, but led to death of himself and most of his squadron. Of the 30 men who served under his command, only one survived the Battle of Midway.

Waldron's legacy is still commemorated through the new Pierre-Fort Pierre Bridge, which had its ribbon-cutting ceremony last month.

Construction of the new bridge began in 2020, just yards from the old bridge's location. In total, the bridge cost nearly \$50 million and is designed to last a century.

"This bridge is going to be a beautiful and wonderful enhancement to the communities and something that will last more than a hundred years," South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden said at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new bridge that now connects the two halves of the state.

BRIDGE DEMOLITION



The Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge comes crashing down at 9:03 a.m., on March 13.
Photos by Frank Turner.



March Board Meeting Highlights

The March board meeting was held on Tuesday, March 25th, 2025 at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Stephen Yoch, Gene Alexx, and Carren Frank.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the February 25, 2025 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the months of January and February
- Safety Report for March
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Director Expenses
- 2024 Financial Audit Report

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 February (unaudited)
 - o Organization activities
 - o East River update
 - o Member Informational Meetings
 - o Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
 - o Accounts receivable
- Member Comments and Concerns
- 87th Annual Meeting

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

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 \$30. 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!

REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2025 or 2026 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.

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

Notice:

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

The May board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29th, 2025 at 8 a.m.

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

Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Ryan Erickson on being selected as the March Scholar of the Month. Ryan, currently a senior at CMCS, was nominated because he is a respectful student who does more than expected in the classroom. For example, he helped build a utility trailer and a new ball rack for the school. Ryan also helped plan a hayride, petting zoo, and ninja warrior “farmer style” course for his school ag day. He exhibits the four qualifying principles of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to his community. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Ryan Erickson the March Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month!

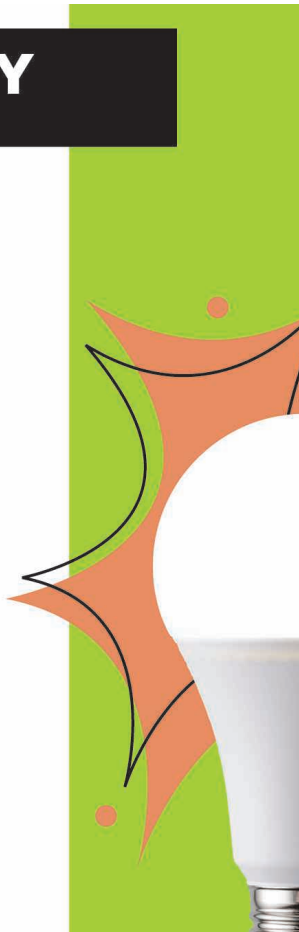


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: energy.gov



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

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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 31, JUNE 28, JULY 26
Fort Sisseton Lantern Tour
 Lake City, SD
 605-910-4465

*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.

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

MAY 6-7
7th Annual Energize!
Exploring Innovative Rural Communities Conference
 Hosted by SDSU Extension
 Community Vitality
 Platte, SD
 605-626-2870

MAY 10
Cinco De Mayo Falls Park Fiesta
 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Sioux Falls, SD

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 Vivian, SD
 605-222-3296

MAY 17
Annual Plant Sale
 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
 Codington Co. Extension Complex
 Watertown, SD
 830-534-5359

MAY 23-25
Brandon's Big Car Show
 Carnival & Car Show
 Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m.
 Sat. 1-11 p.m., Car Show 1-4 p.m.
 815 McHardy Rd
 Brandon, SD

MAY 24-SEPT. 13
Buggy Museum
 Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Free Buggy Rides,
 Chuckwagon Foods.
 Stockholm, SD
 605-938-4192

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

MAY 31
Miss Prairie Village Pageant
 6:30 p.m.
 Lawrence Welk Opera House
 Madison, SD
www.prairievillage.org

JUNE 5
Danish Constitution Day Celebration
 6:15 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Danish Folk Dancing & Music
 Daneville Heritage Museum
 Viborg, SD
 605-766-1312
danevilleheritage.com

JUNE 11
Agricultural Women's Day
 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Agar-Blunt-Onida School
 Onida, SD
 605-769-0013

JUNE 13
Jesse James Days
 Garretson, SD
visitgarretsonsd.com

JUNE 20-21
Czech Days
 Fun, Music, Entertainment,
 Dancing & Czech Food
 Tabor, SD
www.taborczechdays.com
Facebook.com/TaborCzechDays

JUNE 19-22
Hartford Jamboree Days
 Hartford, SD
 605-941-0809

JULY 9
Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
 2-7:30 p.m.
 Tracy, MN
 507-629-3252
 Rain Date: July 10

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.