



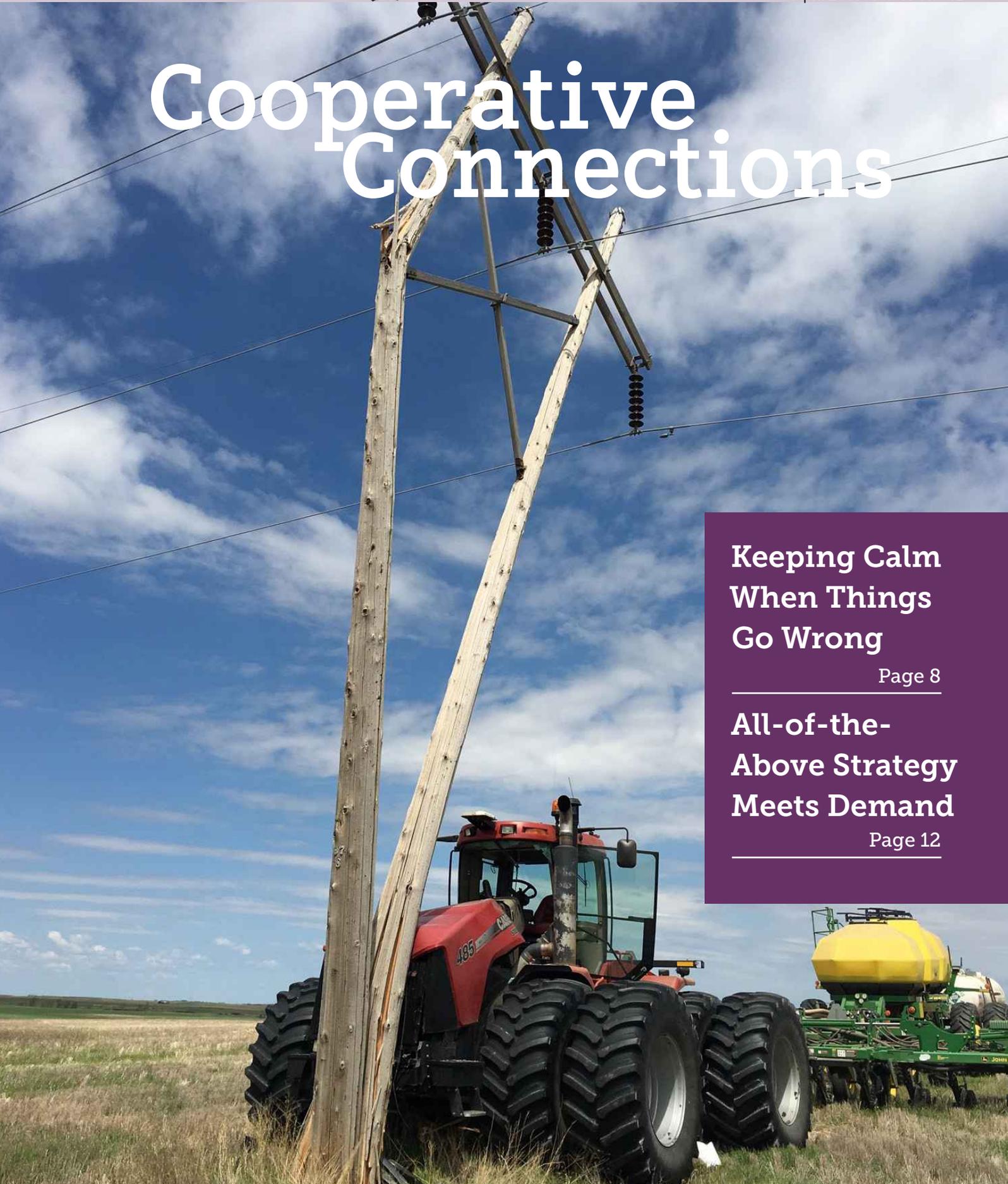
Cooperative Connections

**Keeping Calm
When Things
Go Wrong**

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**All-of-the-
Above Strategy
Meets Demand**

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Distributed Energy Resources Application Process, Fees to Change



DeeAnne Newville, CEO
 dnewville@renville-sibley.coop
 Phone: 320-826-2593 or
 Toll Free 800-826-2593

Over the last few years, we have been communicating with members about Distributed Generation (DG). Going forward, you will see and hear us referring to Distributed Energy Resources (DER) instead of DG. Member-installed wind and solar systems will fall under this category.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), along with stakeholder groups, have been working on new DER interconnection standards and processes. Last winter the MPUC released Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (MN DIP) and Minnesota Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Agreement (MN DIA). In May 2018, they held hearings on both MN DIP and MN DIA. The new rules go into effect on June 14, 2019.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association determined they would create a consumer-centric version of MN DIP and MN DIA. Minnesota statute allows co-ops and municipals to have their own interconnection process provided it addresses the same issues the MPUC interconnection process does. A group of 28 utility personnel provided input to the Cooperative/Municipal DER Minnesota Interconnection Process (C-MIP).

The new C-MIP and fees were approved by the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA) board of directors in February and will replace the current application process and fees on June 1, 2019. The new interconnection processing fees are \$100 for the simplified process track; \$100 plus \$1 per kW for the certified system fast track; \$100 plus \$2 per kW for the non-certified system fast track; and \$1,000 plus \$2 per kW down payment (additional fees may apply) for the study track. For approved projects, a standard Interconnection charge of \$585 will apply prior to final inspection. Any costs for upgrading RSCPA facilities to serve a DER load is the responsibility of the member installing the system.

RSCPA will be updating its forms, processes and tariffs in the coming months. If you are planning a DER interconnection, please check with RSCPA to get the most current information on interconnection standards and fees.

DER information will be updated on RSCPA's website at www.renville-sibley.coop in conjunction with the June 1, 2019, effective date.

RSCPA currently has 32 members who have installed and own a DER wind or solar system – 29 solar, two wind, and one system that utilizes wind and solar. The chart to the right contains the aggregate statistics from 2018 for these systems.

In order to comply with Minnesota Statutes 216B.164 and in compliance with RSCPA's 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, who 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 our office at 103 Oak Street, PO Box 68, Danube MN, via email at renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop or by calling 800-826-2593 or 320-826-2593.

Distributed Energy Resources (DER)	
Total number of DER systems	32
Total kW nameplate	862.7
2018 Totals	
kWh Generated	1,277,455
kWh Purchased by RSCPA	235,411
Capacity Factor	16.07%

If you are planning a DER interconnection, please check with RSCPA to get the most current information on interconnection standards and fees.

Renville-Sibley

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

Roger Manthei - Chair
 Philip Nestande - Vice Chair
 Alan Neyers - Secretary/Treasurer
 Steve Benson
 Matt Haubrich
 Whitey Hinderman
 Gary Peterson
 Helen Ruebel
 Wayland Zaske

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Gene Alex - Line Superintendent
 Brian Athmann - Journeyman Lineman
 Shawn Beckler - Crew Chief
 Mike Benson - Journeyman Lineman
 Brad Braulick - Crew Chief
 Nick Bruns - Systems Coordinator
 Anthony Carruth - Journeyman Lineman
 Amy Ervin - Consumer Accounts Representative
 Brayden Fischer - Journeyman Lineman
 Cindy Mertens - Administrative Services Manager
 DeeAnne Newville - CEO
 Brandon Ochs - Journeyman Lineman
 Clint Olson - Journeyman Lineman
 Lenae Wordes - Communications Manager

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Web site: www.renville-sibley.coop

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Renville-Sibley Co-op to Hold Annual Meeting

The 81st annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2019, at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner immediately following the meeting. 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.

The annual meeting report will be mailed to all members the second week of March. Members will receive their voting ballots for director election, including candidate information, at that time. If you cannot attend and wish to mail your ballot, you may do so. However, if mailed, it must be received through the mail by March 28, 2019.

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 \$10 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 81st annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

Alan Neyers, Secretary



NOTICE:

Candidates for the director positions are listed on Page 7 and candidate information for each district will be included with the ballot mailing.

Protect Your Family

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical cords and temporary wiring account for more than 25 percent of the estimated 81,000 electrical system fires that occur each year. These fires can be prevented by following these essential home electrical safety tips.

Extension cord safety

- Don't use extension cords as a substitute for repairing building wiring.
- Inspect extension cords for broken connectors, damaged insulation and missing hardware before each use.
- Do not run extension cords through walls, over beams, around corners or through doorways.
- Only use extension cords approved for the environment and loads expected.
- Equip extension cords with ground fault interruption (GFI) devices.
- Don't use coiled extension cords.
- Discard damaged extension cords; don't try to repair them.
- Use only surge protected power strips. Inspect the power strips regularly for damage or signs of overloading.

Temporary wiring

- Don't substitute temporary and flexible wiring for repairing building wiring.
- Use temporary wiring only when needed for maintenance, repair or demolition activities.
- Limit temporary wiring for holiday or ornamental lighting to no more than 90 days.
- In outdoor settings, use only outdoor approved temporary wiring and extension cords.
- Don't route temporary wiring across floors, around doors or through walls.
- Locate temporary wiring at least 7 feet above any walking or working surface.
- Protect temporary wiring from sharp edges, heat and sunlight to avoid breakdown of the insulation.

Equipment power cords

- Inspect equipment cords for damage before each use.
- Don't operate equipment cords without a ground connection unless they are double insulated.
- Don't splice equipment cords to repair damage or to extend the original length.

Safeguards to install

- Inspect all electrical appliances to ensure they're properly grounded.
- Write the purpose of each circuit breaker, fuse or switch on the panel board.
- Label all disconnecting switches and circuit breakers.

Source: nationwide.com

Always Call Before You Dig.



One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Visit call811.com for more information.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not use cords with bare spots."

RosaLee Masson, 8 years old

RosaLee is the grand-daughter of Steve and Ruby Niklason, Bryant, S.D. They are members of Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown, 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.

Appetizers and Beverages

Hot Chicken Dip

3 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
 1 (4 oz.) can sliced jalapeños, chopped
 2 (10 oz.) cans chicken breast, drain 1 can
 1 can cream of chicken soup

Mix together and heat in microwave or crock pot. Serve warm with any snack crackers or scoop chips.

Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre, SD

Crab Roll-Ups

2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
 1/2 to 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix
 1 pkg. frozen crab meat, thawed
 1 pkg. large flour tortilla shells

Melt cream cheese in microwave until soft enough to stir; mix in ranch dressing mix. Cut up crab meat into small pieces; mix with cream cheese. Spread over tortilla shells and roll up. Refrigerate 1 hour. Cut into 1-inch slices. Store in refrigerator.

Patricia Cerny, Gregory, SD

Rise and Shine Smoothies

1 cup fresh strawberries
 1 banana
 1 ripe mango
 1/4 cup orange juice
 1/2 cup vanilla yogurt
 2 T. honey
 1 cup ice cubes

Wash and hull strawberries. Peel banana and cut into chunks. Pit, peel and slice mango. In a blender, combine all ingredients, blending until smooth. Pour into glasses. Makes 2 servings.

Eileen Holzerland, Waubay, SD

Cocktail Weiners

1 cup brown sugar
 1 cup ketchup
 1/3 to 1/2 cup grape jelly
 2 pkgs. cocktail smokies

Combine all ingredients; simmer on low heat.

Linda Rauscher, Aberdeen, SD

Orange Glazed Turkey Meatballs

1 egg
 1/4 cup milk
 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
 1 tsp. salt
 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Poultry Seasoning
 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Ground
 1 lb. ground turkey
 1 T. olive oil
 1/2 cup chicken broth
 1 cup orange marmalade
 1 T. white wine vinegar
 1 pinch McCormick® Red Pepper, Ground

Beat egg and milk in large bowl. Stir in bread crumbs, salt, poultry seasoning and pepper. Add ground turkey; mix well. Cover. Refrigerate 1 hour. Shape into 1-inch meatballs. Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Place meatballs in single layer in skillet. Cook until well browned on all sides. Remove meatballs from skillet. Set aside. Mix orange marmalade, broth, vinegar and red pepper in skillet on medium heat. Bring to boil, stirring to release browned bits in bottom of skillet. Return meatballs to skillet. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook 10 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through and sauce has reduced to glaze consistency. Makes 15 (2 meatball) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 123, Total Fat 3g, Protein 7g, Cholesterol 37mg, Sodium 245mg, Carbohydrates 17g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Cappuccino Mix

1 cup coffee creamer
 1 cup chocolate drink mix
 2/3 cup coffee crystals
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg

Combine all ingredients. Add 3 tsp. mix to 1 cup hot water.

Verna Nelson, Wakonda, SD

Please send your favorite casserole, dairy or dessert recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

Operation Round Up®

Operation Round Up was a topic at the member informational meetings held in February. This topic was also on the board meeting agenda and has been talked about in several past issues of this newsletter. In addition, the guest speaker at our annual meeting on March 28 will talk about Operation Round Up. Why are we spending so much time talking about Operation Round Up?

First of all, we are excited to offer this program to our members. Over 27 years ago a cooperative in South Carolina started this program. The funds raised were used to do good in their community. We thought that was a great idea! All of our neighboring cooperatives already participate and are experiencing the benefits of the Operation Round Up program. We wanted our members to experience these benefits as well. The most any member will contribute is \$11.88 per year with the average contribution around \$6. It has been said, give and you will receive. This is your opportunity to give a little each month to benefit your community. Who knows, maybe an organization you belong to may receive some of these funds.

Another reason we are talking so much about the program is to get our message out to everyone. The more we talk about this, the more the word will spread. The program will be an "Opt Out" program which means all members will be automatically enrolled in the program. Any member not interested in participating in the program should simply notify the cooperative and we will be happy to remove them from the Operation Round Up program. While we would like everyone to participate, we realize that this may not be a good fit for all members.

Join us at the annual meeting on March 28 to hear Curt Burns share information on the Operation Round Up program at McLeod Cooperative.



Members attending the meeting in Fairfax learned about the Operation Round Up program from Lenae Wordes.

Member Informational Meetings Held

Lenae Wordes

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

Each February, CEO DeeAnne Newville, Line Superintendent Gene Alex and I travel to four locations throughout our service territory to share information about the cooperative with our members. This year, we started out in Danube, then travelled to Bird Island, Fairfax and finished up in Sacred Heart. These meetings are held at various days and times with the hope that at least one of these meeting days and times will work for our members.

Topics shared at the meetings this year included:

- Operation Round Up
- Renewable Energy Credit (REC)
- Member Tour to Alaska
 - Yes, we are going to venture to Alaska! Contact me for more information.



Line Superintendent Gene Alex shares information from the Operations Department on 2018 activities and 2019 Work Plan projects.

- Review of 2018 projects
- Plans for the 2019 construction season
- Information on the new line patrol app
- Financial update
- Minnesota legislative update
- Federal legislative update

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

Comparative Report

	Jan. 31, 2019	Jan. 31, 2018	Jan. 31, 2009
Average Number of Consumers	1,882	1,882	1,957
kWhs Purchased	20,580,455	21,068,558	20,383,411
Cost of Purchased Power	\$1,162,937.80	\$1,314,475.42	\$765,527.59

Renville-Sibley Director Candidate Information

The following individuals are running for the Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association board of directors. More information from the candidates will be included with the ballot mailing. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces. **1**

Source: energy.gov
Director Districts



District 1:

Townships of Cornish, Severance and Moltke in Sibley County; the townships of Ridgely and West Newton in Nicollet County and the townships of Cairo, Wellington, Martinsburg, Camp, Bandon and Palmyra in Renville County.



Whitey Hinderman
Incumbent

District 2:

Townships of Honner and Delhi in Redwood County and the townships of Beaver Falls, Flora, Henryville, Birch Cooley, Norfolk, Melville, Bird Island and Kingman in Renville County.



David Scheibel



Wayland Zaske
Incumbent

District 3:

Townships of Roseland and Holland in Kandiyohi County, the township of Rheiderland in Chippewa County and the townships of Troy, Winfield, Emmet, Crooks, Sacred Heart, Hawk Creek, Ericson and Wang in Renville County.



Gary Eekhoff



Mike Jakel

Scholar Recognized

Congratulations to Isaii (Chowie) Torres from BOLD High School for being selected as the February Scholar of the Month. He was nominated because of his strong desire to prepare himself for the future despite the life challenges he faces. To do this, he sought out information on what he could do to overcome these challenges. Chowie participates in Knowledge Bowl and is mentoring younger students during study hall.



Isaii "Chowie" Torres

BOLD High School

More information on the Scholar of the Month program can be found on our website www.renville-sibley.coop under the Customer Service tab.

Where's the Number?



Last month, Nicholas Frank did not find his member number in the newsletter. The credit will continue to grow for a value of \$50. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by April 4, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Go with the Flow

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 percent to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.



Source: Energy.gov



Planting season brings reminders for the importance to keep equipment away from power lines.

KEEPING CALM

Know the Steps if an Accident Occurs

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

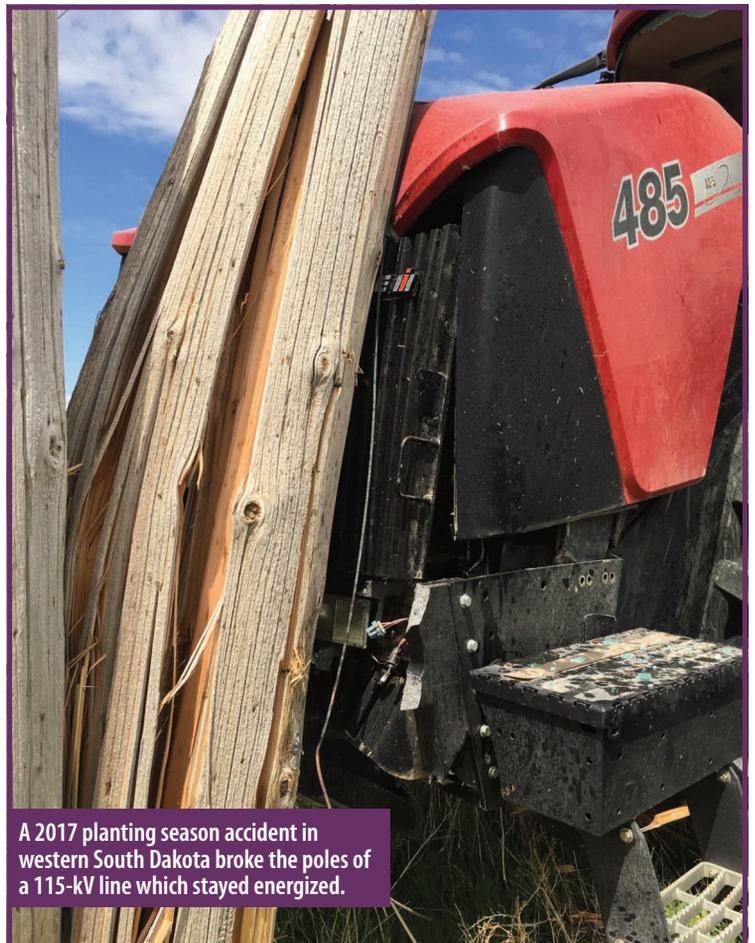
In the spring of 2017, an operations manager of a cooperative in western South Dakota cooperative got a call from a member.

There had been an accident and the member's tractor was now resting against two broken poles which were supporting an energized 115-kilovolt line.

Even though the power line did not ultimately belong to the cooperative, it served to illustrate an on-going concern: accidents between agriculture equipment and power lines appeared to be on the rise.

Cooperatives have engaged in educational efforts to inform people what to do to first avoid the accident and secondly what steps to take if an accident occurs.

The first thing to keep in mind is to avoid the accident. Know the height of your equipment, the width of your equipment and the location of various electric facilities that should be avoided. Then, make sure that all involved are taking the steps to avoid having equipment come in contact with electric utilities.



A 2017 planting season accident in western South Dakota broke the poles of a 115-kV line which stayed energized.

But if an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.

If your equipment does come in contact with a power line:

- Stay inside the cab and call 911.
- Wait for electric crews to clear the area and keep others away from the accident scene.

If the equipment catches fire and one must exit the cab, there's a process to follow, too.

"Tuck your arms up and give yourself a bear hug and hop clear. Don't touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then hop away," said Courtney Deinert, communications director at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

One of Central Electric's members was involved in an incident involving a grain cart and a power line on a farm near Mitchell. The auger of the grain cart became entangled in the lines.

The member immediately called the cooperative and stayed inside the cab of the tractor. Thankfully, a fire did not start so the member did not have to exit and hop away.

Accidents involving underground cabinets – commonly called the green boxes – have also been occurring as equipment gets wider. And, the sheer volume of snow accumulation that occurred in the winter

of 2018-2019 resulted in several cabinets being hit or buried during snow removal operations.

The equipment housed in the cabinets is energized and can pose the same

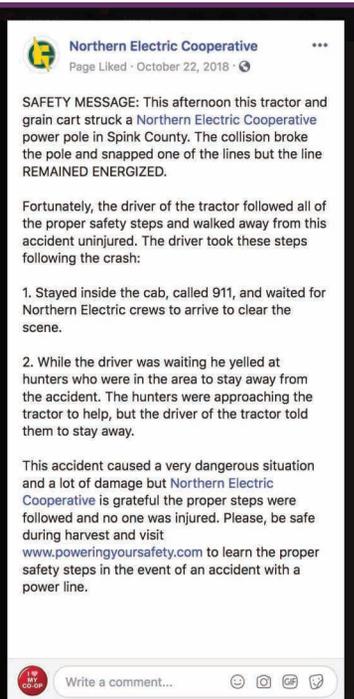
issues that occur when equipment contacts overhead lines.

In either case, the best option is to prevent the accident from occurring by being aware of the location of the equipment. But, if an accident does occur, call your local electric cooperative, stay inside the vehicle's cab and keep others away from the scene until co-op crews arrive.

If an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.



A Northern Electric Facebook post from October discussed an accident in Spink County where the operator took the right steps after being involved in an accident with an overhead line.



PRE-PLANNING CAN SAVE LIVES DURING PLANTING



When it's go-time, it's go-time. We understand that every second counts during planting season, but taking a moment to be mindful of safety during this anxious time could save you a lot of heartache in the long run. Remember to check your equipment, be aware of power lines, keep your cellphone on you at all times, dress appropriately and stay rested this spring.

Together we are

RE-ENERGIZING FARM SAFETY



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

February Board Meeting Highlights

The February board meeting was held on Monday, Feb. 25, at 9 a.m. All board members were present except Philip Nestande, Alan Neyers and Wayland Zaske. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Newville, Cindy Mertens, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the January board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of January
- Capital credits to an estate
- Safety report for February
- Distributed Generation Resolution
- Policy 424 – Cogeneration/Distributed Energy Resources
- Policy 425 – Cogeneration and Small Power Production
- Cogeneration Rules
- Annual Cogeneration Report

- Operation Round Up® Articles of Incorporation
- Operation Round Up Bylaws
- Close the membership list for annual meeting
- Director candidates recommended from Nominating Committee
- 2018 Financial Audit Report by Brady-Martz
- Form 219
- Limited English Proficiency Language Access Plan (LAP)

The board reviewed:

- List of new members and 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 – January 2019 (unaudited)
 - Organization activities

Notice: The March board meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, at 8 a.m. The April board meeting will be held Monday, April 29, at 8 a.m.

- East River update
- Basin Electric update
- NRECA Update
- MREA Update
- Line crew work in progress, equipment update and outage update
- Accounts Receivable
- Member informational meetings
- 81st annual meeting
- Youth Tour
- Scholarship Program
- Member Trip

Please contact the Renville-Sibley office if you would like more information regarding the board meeting. 968800

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 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

Mission Statement

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association

will provide efficient, reliable electric energy and services to enhance the quality of rural living.



For Sale

For Sale: 1920-30s solid oak, ornate dining table with six chairs, matching buffet. \$500 or best offer.

Bonnie Hartmann
Gibbon, MN, 507-834-6409

2016 DIRT Report, Attn: Excavators



Always
VERIFY
the accuracy of marks when
digging in the tolerance zone.

More than **50%** of excavation-related damages with specific known causes are due to a failure to verify the accuracy of markings by **digging a test hole.**



cga-dirt.com

Reminder:

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2019 to please contact our 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 material are received.



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

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.

Outage Report

affecting 10 members or more

Date: 2-03-19	Date: 2-7-19
Time off: 11:30 pm	Time off: 7:51 pm
Time on: 3:09 am	Time on: 8:48 pm
Substation: Kingman	Substation: Kingman
Cause: Weather	Cause: Weather
Date: 02-04-19	Date: 2-9-19
Time off: 4:10 am	Time off: 4:44 pm
Time on: 4:40 am	Time on: 7:00 pm
Substation: Troy	Substation: Kingman
Cause: Weather	Cause: Weather
Date: 02-04-19	Date: 2-11-19
Time off: 6:01 am	Time off: 2:31 pm
Time on: 7:17 am	Time on: 3:00 pm
Substation: Kingman	Substation: Troy
Cause: Weather	Cause: Scheduled outage
Date: 02-04-19	Date: 2-11-19
Time off: 7:25 am	Time off: 3:56 pm
Time on: 8:17 am	Time on: 4:23 pm
Substation: Kingman	Substation: Kingman
Cause: Weather	Cause: Scheduled outage

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



Extreme cold temperatures put the components of wind towers at risk of failure, which is the reason many wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shut down at the end of January.

POWERING THROUGH WINTER

Extreme Cold Requires An 'All of the Above' Approach to Meet Demand for Electricity

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

The record-setting cold and snow in South Dakota this winter led to record demand for power. The cold snap also highlighted the need for the continued use of coal and natural gas generation as many wind generators in the region had to be shut down as a result of the frigid weather.

Extreme cold descended into the Upper Midwest in January and didn't release its grip for several weeks. East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., which supplies wholesale power to 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally owned system in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, experienced an all-time record peak for electric demand on Jan. 29 and 30. Wind chills dipped to 20 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero during that time period.

"The East River system performed well under these extreme weather conditions with very few issues," said East River General Manager/CEO Tom Boyko.

Member co-ops of East River Electric depend on a reliable supply of power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

in Bismarck, N.D., as well as hydropower from the Western Area Power Administration. Basin Electric owns and operates the coal, gas, diesel and wind generation resources needed to meet the demand of member co-ops located in nine states in the middle of the United States.

"Basin Electric is your cooperative," said Dave Raatz, Basin Electric senior vice president of asset management, resource planning and rates. "We are trying to do what we can to ensure everyone has the appropriate power so they do have the ability to have the electric heat and they do have the ability to have electricity at the house."

Basin Electric had plans in place to meet the demand of co-op members during the extreme cold in January and February despite the challenges the frigid temperatures caused its generation resources. Basin Electric saw many of its wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shutdown as a result of cold temperatures and had to rely on natural gas and coal generation as well as market purchases.

According to Basin Electric Senior Vice President of Operations John Jacobs, wind towers become brittle and cannot operate

Weather stations installed on wind turbines automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.

during extreme cold. Weather stations installed on each turbine automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.

“The best analogy I can give is a rubber hose,” explained Jacobs. “If you warm it up enough, it will melt. If it gets too cold, it will get too brittle.”

That is the reason production from Basin Electric’s wind resources bottomed out in the early morning hours of Jan. 30 when the Bismarck area saw air temperatures of 31 degrees F below zero in North Dakota and the National Weather Service in Aberdeen, S.D., reported record low temperatures of 33 degrees F below zero or lower in Aberdeen, Watertown and Groton. Basin Electric’s fleet of natural gas and coal-fired power plants paired with energy purchases from the market provided co-op members with a reliable supply of electricity during that period.

“That’s why we have gas peaking units and you have that coal resource base that just continued operating despite cold weather over the entire area,” Raatz said.

‘All of the Above’ Approach

Basin Electric uses an ‘all of the above’ approach to supply electricity to member co-ops throughout South Dakota. Nearly 45 percent of its generation portfolio comes from coal-fired resources while 20 percent comes from natural gas units and another 20 percent from wind generation. Basin Electric is also a member of four power pools, which are large regions of the United States where utilities can buy and sell electricity in the market, and Basin Electric has the contractual transmission rights to more power between these regions.

“It is a combination of all those owned-assets and market purchases that come to bear to serve member load obligations,” Raatz said.

Basin Electric generates electricity for 141 electric co-ops in nine states and has power plants and resources

in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Iowa. Raatz said that regional diversity is just as important to providing reliable power as a diversified generation mix.

“That’s so valuable in coming up with a power supply. You don’t necessarily see that cold weather over the whole area,” said Raatz.

“People take electricity for granted. Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”

That regional diversity was evident during the cold snap in North Dakota and eastern South Dakota at the end of January. Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D., which supplies power to eight electric cooperatives in western South Dakota saw higher demand for electricity during those time periods but never saw a record peak like the East River co-ops experienced. During that period, Basin Electric was also able to pull generation from resources in Montana and Wyoming because it wasn’t as frigid in those states.

Raatz said load management programs

which control water heaters, grain bin fans and other large loads during peak demand periods are also a piece of the power-supply puzzle. Raatz said the team at Basin Electric which forecasts electric demand can rely on members who have load management devices installed at their service locations to make those peaks less extreme.

“As you get into these types of conditions when it gets really cold, it is easier to predict because load management is taking out the spikes. It is really valuable,” Raatz said.

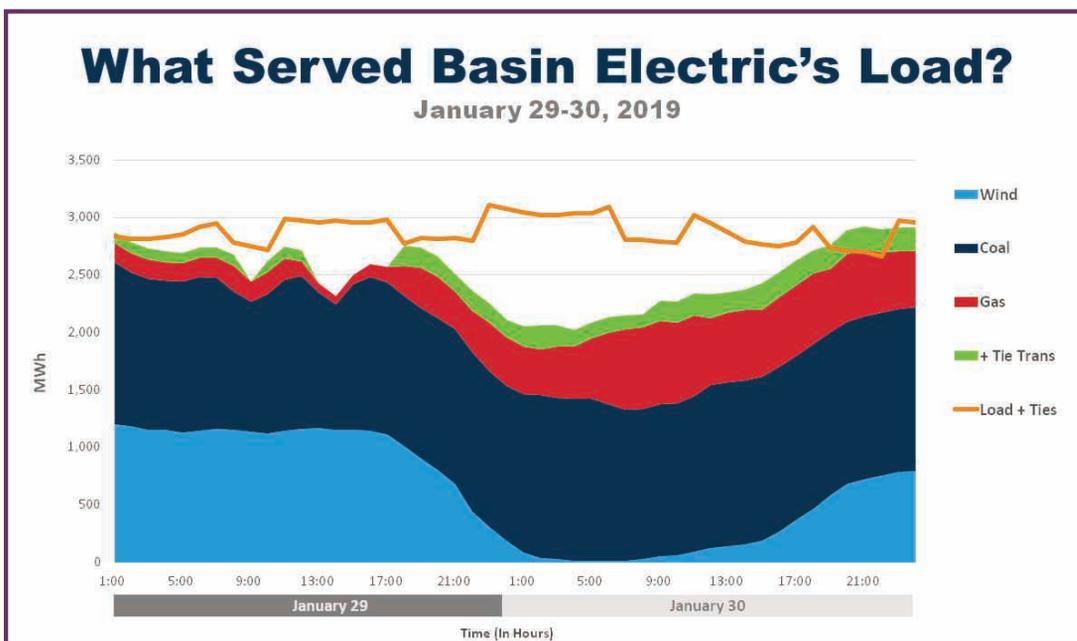
Maintaining Reliability

The main goal of electric cooperatives is to provide safe and reliable power for members at the end of the line. Jacobs said it takes a dedicated team of co-op employees to achieve that mission whether it is the operators at Basin Electric’s power plants or the co-op linemen at the local level.

“We see the importance of having to turn on that (light) switch because most of the time when the weather is bad, our employees are at work,” said Jacobs. “There is a reason for what we do and a good feeling when you walk away.”

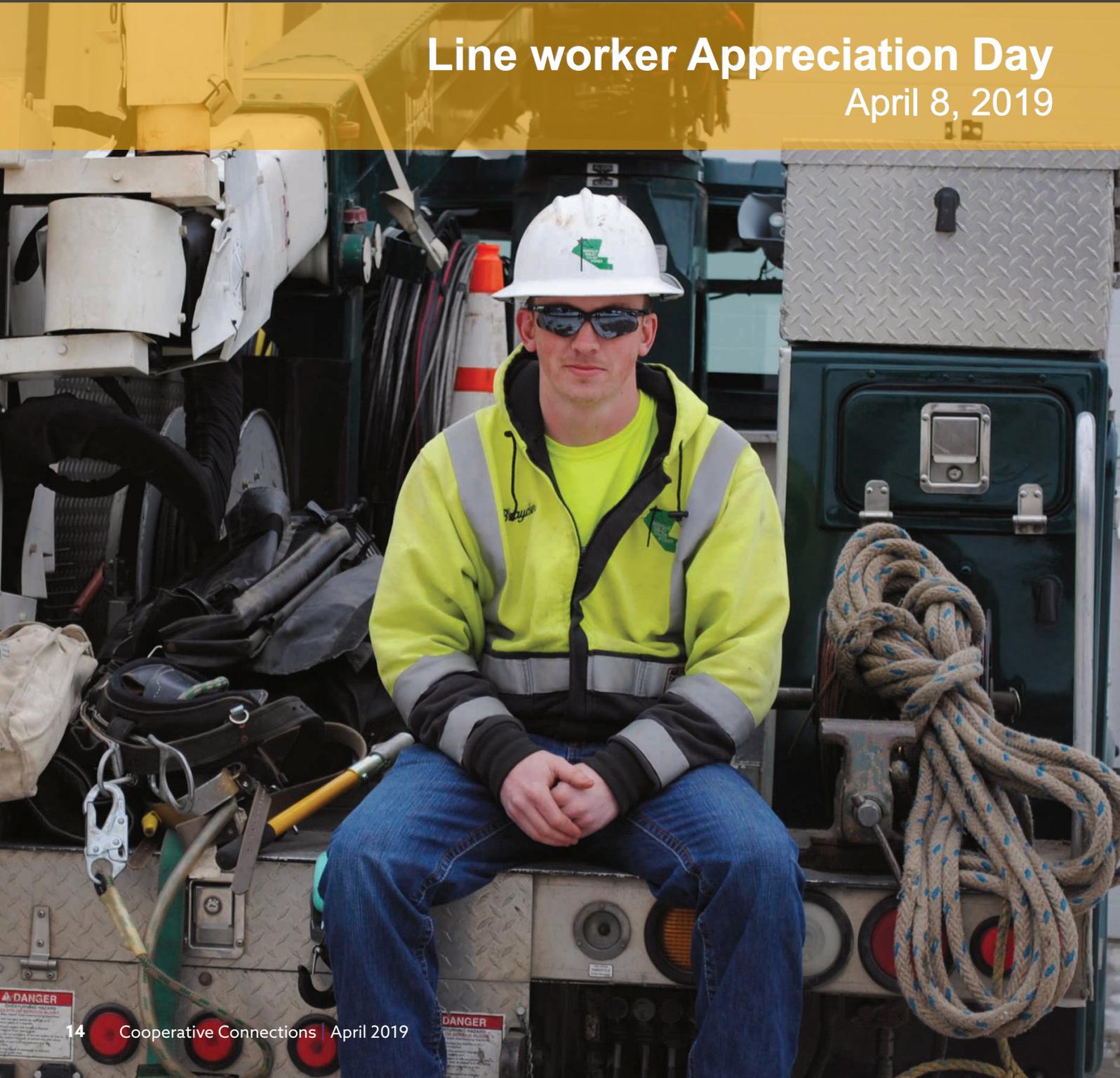
And when the Great Plains and Upper Midwest experiences extreme weather, the goal of maintaining reliability becomes even more important.

“People take electricity for granted,” Raatz said. “Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”



**Committed to the job.
Committed to safety.
Committed to you,
our members.**

Line worker Appreciation Day
April 8, 2019



AEDS ESSENTIAL

Equipment on Utility Crew Trucks

Electric distribution line workers at Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) in Shelbyville, Illinois, recently learned the importance of carrying automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on their utility trucks. Although state laws vary, many states only mandate the defibrillators in public or medical spaces, such as fitness gyms and doctor's offices.

During a power pole-top rescue scenario in the summer of 2018, practice became real when SEC crew members realized one of their linemen became unresponsive while up on the pole. Fellow crew members quickly implemented the synchronized training they hoped they would never have to use: one called for an ambulance while another ran to get an AED. Others got crew member Kevin Carlen safely down off the pole as quickly as possible and started CPR.

About locating an AED, "The truck we brought didn't have one at the time," according to Lineman Jacob Kull, "so I ran to the building and got the closest AED we had." Although some of SEC's utility trucks carried AEDs at the time of the incident, its entire fleet – all crew trucks and work-issued vehicles – now have an AED on board.

"Once the AED took over, it tells you what to do," said SEC Lineman Jerry Johnston. "It even gives you a rhythm."

When EMTs arrived and took over Carlen's care, "I told them we had (already) delivered one shock," the Association for Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) safety instructor, Thad France, recalled. When the EMTs said his heart was stable, "I'd never felt relief like that before," France said.

For their actions, the employees involved in saving Kevin Carlen's life received the 2018 AIEC's Chairman's Award, which was presented at the statewide association's annual meeting.

"Because of the training we do, they were able to spring into action ... getting him to the ground and getting him the help he needed in a very timely manner," said Jim Miles, safety manager for the AIEC. "That is truly what we want to do: to shave those minutes and seconds off the rescue time to make sure the person has the best chance possible."

Kenny Guffey is director of safety and loss control for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. He, like other safety directors for state cooperative associations, is responsible for helping his member cooperatives achieve industry compliance and establish and maintain safety programs for their vehicles, equipment and workers.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electric power line workers ranked in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in America (in 2015). "We're right up there with loggers and crab fishermen," Guffey said.

He says AEDs should be an industry standard because of the nature of the work. "We have a lot of remote locations where guys are working with live power lines. In a lot of cases, it would be virtually impossible to get medical services to someone within three to five minutes..." Guffey explained. "Our argument is, and always has been, that AEDs save lives and you can't put a dollar value on a saved life."

Guffey mentions the importance of swift response because a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) leads to death in minutes without immediate life-saving help.

Ameren Illinois understands AEDs could provide a life-saving benefit and equips all the utility's line trucks with them (those that typically transport more than one line worker). By May 2017, the company installed AEDs inside 239 crew trucks across its operating territory.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Most Cardiac Deaths Occur Outside Hospitals

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in the United States. It affects more than 356,000 adults outside hospitals each year. Often, it is the first indication of a heart problem and it can strike people of all ages (even children and teens) who may seem healthy, according to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation.

According to the foundation, when SCA strikes, the victim collapses and doesn't respond or breathe normally: "They may gasp or shake as if having a seizure... Survival depends on people nearby calling 9-1-1, starting CPR and using an AED (if available) as soon as possible."

Most cardiac arrest deaths occur outside the hospital, according to OSHA, where survival rates are low. Immediate CPR and early defibrillation with an AED can more than double a victim's chance of survival, according to the American Heart Association. For every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation, the chances of survival decrease by 7 percent to 10 percent.

December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

March 22-23, 29-30

Mystery Dinner Theater, Legion Hall, Faulkton, SD, 605-380-1556

March 23

Annual Ag Day, Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 29-30, April 5-6

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 29-31

Black Hills Home Builders Home Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-7850

March 30

Cultural Expo, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Campus, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-6884

March 30-31

29th Annual Hats Off to the Artist Art Show, Community Center, Faulkton, SD, 605-598-4482

April 4

McCrossan Banquet Auction featuring Loop Rawlins and the PBR, 5:30 p.m., Arena, Sioux Falls, SD, Tickets: \$75 each, 605-339-1203, www.mccrossan.org

April 4-5

Holiday Arts Spring Craft Show, Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

April 5-6

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876



Photo courtesy: RJ Ripper Film

April 15-16: Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Elks Theatre, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4101

April 5-6, 11-14

Green Earth Players presents Drinking Habits, Palace Theatre, Luverne, MN, 507-283-9226

April 5-7

Professional Bull Riders Unleash the Beast Tour, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

April 6

The Big Grape, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-322-8900

April 6-7

Zonta Club Vendor and Craft Show, Northridge Plaza, Pierre, SD, 605-222-1403

April 7

Unni Boksasp from Norway in Concert, 2 p.m., Riggs Theater, Pierre, SD, 605-222-1992

April 12-14

First Dakota Classic Archery Tournament, Yankton, SD, 605-260-9282

April 13-14

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Rapid City, SD, 605-270-0764

April 18

John Mellencamp, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Fine Arts Theatre, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

April 19-20

Sioux Empire Film Festival, Belbas Theater inside the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

April 27

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

April 27-28

Annual JazzCrawl, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

May 1-5

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

May 5

Opening Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

May 11

Make-a-Wish Benefit Featuring Dueling Duel, Silent Auction and Wine Pull, Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588

May 30-June 1

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick Brady at 605-978-6924

June 21

Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575, www.dalesburg.org

August 2-4

Musicfest 2019, Pla-Mor Ballroom, Glencoe, MN, 320-826-2531

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.