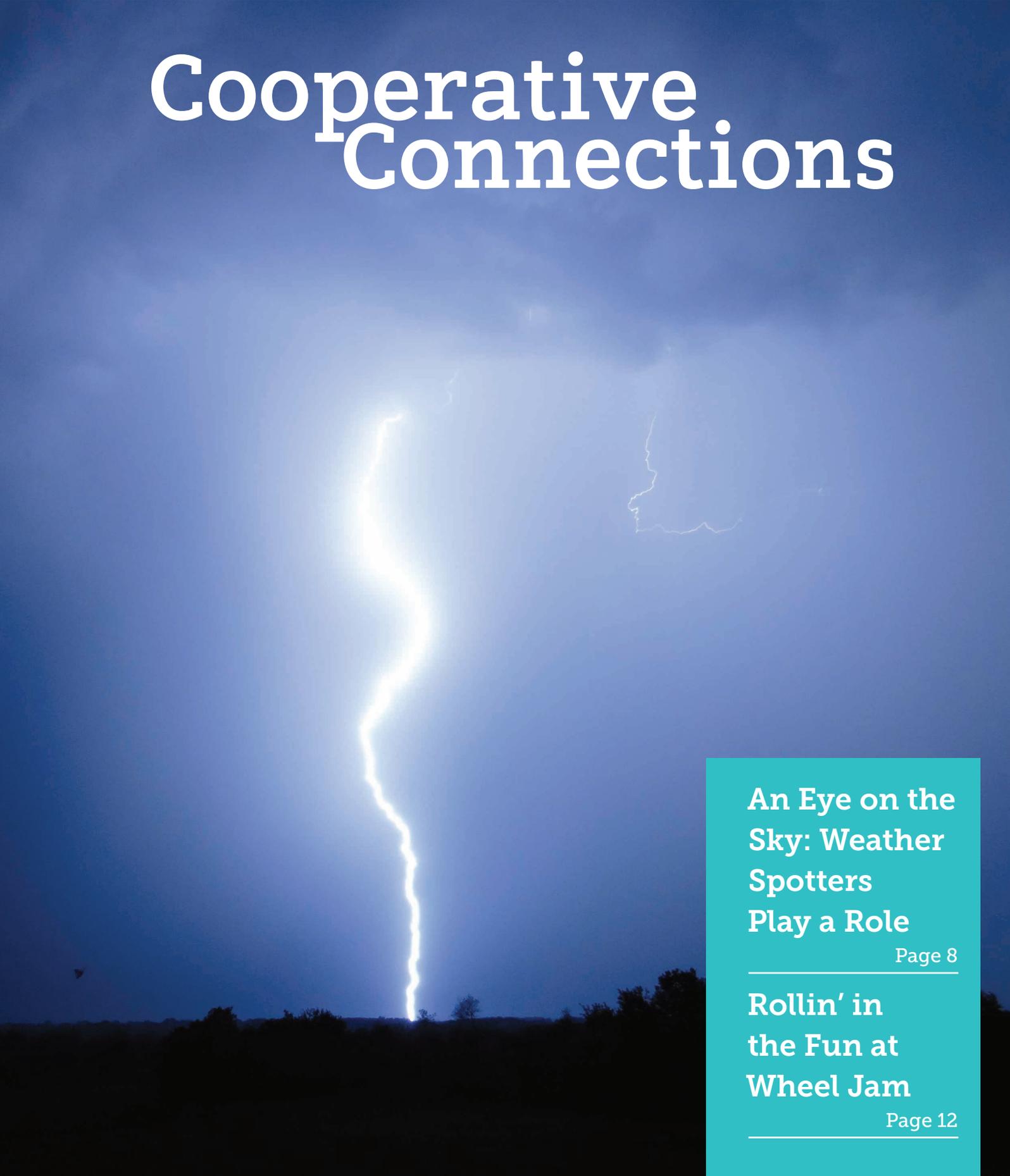




# Cooperative Connections



**An Eye on the  
Sky: Weather  
Spotters  
Play a Role**

Page 8

**Rollin' in  
the Fun at  
Wheel Jam**

Page 12

# Annual Meeting is in the Books

## Rates, Operation Round Up® Discussed



**DeeAnne Newville, CEO**

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

**We had a great turnout this year, serving 319 people.**

On March 28, we hosted our 81st annual meeting. We were fortunate to have Curt Burns who serves on the McLeod Cooperative Power Operation Round Up® Board as our guest speaker, providing an update on their Operation Round Up Program as we prepare to roll out a similar program this coming June. As a reminder, you will automatically be enrolled in our Operation Round Up Program. If you would prefer not to participate, please contact the office at 320-826-2593 or renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop.

We had a great turnout this year, serving 319 people. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. If you were not able to make it this year, we completely understand; you have many activities competing for your time.

An election was held for directors in each district. Elected were:

- District 1 for a three-year term – Whitey Hinderman
- District 2 for a three-year term – Wayland Zaske
- District 3 for a three-year term – Gary Eekhoff

The following is a recap of what I presented at the annual meeting. You are always welcome to call me or stop by the office anytime if you would like to have a more in-depth conversation on any topic.

In February, RUS approved a plan for our remaining \$1,052,500 of deferred revenue to be recognized equally from 2020 through 2024. We will continue our rate plan to slowly bring rates up each year to offset the 13 percent increase we received in our wholesale power cost in August of 2016. The revenue generated by a rate increase beginning in May represents just over a half a percent increase overall for the remainder of 2019.

Single-Phase General Service Rate	
Monthly Customer Charge	
Previous	New
\$40/month	\$42/month

Small Three-Phase General Service Rate	
Monthly Customer Charge	
Previous	New
\$90/month	\$92/month

The 2019 residential rate increase includes increasing our general service monthly charge to \$42 and increasing the small three-

phase monthly charge to \$92. Controlled air conditioning, controlled grain drying, and electric heat rates will increase to 6 cents per kilowatt-hour. Additionally, the monthly meter charge for these special metered programs will increase to \$2.50 and will apply for all 12 months each year.

Controlled Air, Controlled Grain Drying and Electric Heat Rates		
	Previous	New
<b>Energy</b>	5.9¢/kWh	6¢/kWh
<b>Monthly Meter Charge</b>	\$2/month	\$2.50/month

Rental Yard Light Program				
	Previous		New	
	150W HPS Fixture	150W HPS Fixture	40W LED	
<b>Metered</b>	\$4.25	\$8	\$5	
<b>Unmetered</b>	\$7.50	\$10.50	\$7.50	

The rental yard light program will also see some changes. Metered High Pressure Sodium light rates will be increased to \$8 per month. LED equivalent lighting will be \$5 per month. For unmetered lights, High Pressure Sodium light



**Whitey Hinderman**  
District 1



**Wayland Zaske**  
District 2



**Gary Eekhoff**  
District 3

# Renville-Sibley

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

### Board of Directors

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

### 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 - 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
- Kathy Ridl - Office Assistant
- Lenaë Wordes - Communications Manager

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Web site: [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

rates will increase to \$10.50 per month. The equivalent LED lighting will be \$7.50 per month. Consider switching over to LED as it is a more cost-effective option.

The large and small 5/7 interruptible peak demand charge will increase to \$2 per kilowatt each month. The off-peak irrigation rate will increase to 6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Small & Large Power 5/7 – Interruptible		
Monthly Demand and Energy Charge		
	Previous	New
Peak Demand	\$1.85/kW	\$2/kW

Off-Peak Irrigation Rate	
Energy Charge	
Previous	New
5.9¢/kWh	6¢/kWh

Effective May 1, 2018, Renville Sibley began assessing a grid access charge for all new distributed generation installations in excess of 3.5 kilowatts. Members who install wind or solar on our system or members who purchase an existing property with wind or solar will receive a monthly charge for single-phase installations of \$5.76 per kilowatt not to exceed a total of \$55 per month. Small three-phase installations will be charged \$4.67 per month per kilowatt not to exceed \$133 per month.

### No charge for the first 3.5 kW of installed generation. Charges based on nameplate kilowatt (kW) rating.

Single-Phase General Service Rate	
Monthly Charge	Not to Exceed
\$5.76/kW	\$55/month

Small Three-Phase Rate	
Monthly Charge	Not to Exceed
\$4.67/kW	\$133/month

As you may have read in our most recent newsletter, beginning June 1st the application process and fees will change for members installing wind or solar generation. If you are considering adding wind or solar, please contact me for more information. We will work with you and your installer to make sure you are aware of the changes made by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the impact it has on the process and fees for Renville-Sibley members.

I am proud of all our employees and appreciate their dedication to you, our members. They are the ones who bring you safe and reliable electricity, answer your questions, maintain your data and make sure we meet all our state and federal mandates. I am honored to work with such an amazing group of individuals, and I am thankful for the opportunity I have been given to be a part of your cooperative.

At Renville-Sibley we have a tradition of celebrating employees who reach their 25th year with our cooperative. Wayland Zaske, board member from District 2 presented Gene Alex with a “25 years of service clock” in celebration of his dedication to our members. Thank you and congratulations, Gene!

Many of you have had the opportunity to join us on member tours. Participants learned about our power supply, have gotten to know other members during these trips and have received some of Lenaë’s creative, fabulous prizes. Lenaë has taken your feedback and has planned an educational and enjoyable tour for 2020 to Alaska.

Not just any trip. A 14-day land tour and cruise. Members may join us for the entire 14 days or may elect to fly up and meet the group in time for the cruise. We plan to visit an electric cooperative while in the area, if possible. Larry Alvey, from 4 Seasons Vacations, leads this trip for other cooperatives in Minnesota. He will be our escort to assure you have a fabulous experience. Please watch for more information in this and upcoming newsletters.

On behalf of our board of directors, leadership team, and employees, I would like to thank you for your patronage and support.

### High Water, High Stakes

Flooding can happen in a number of ways including river and stream overflow, excessive rain or storm surge to name a few. Floodwater contaminants can create serious fire hazards if electrical wiring and equipment have been submerged in water.

In the aftermath of a flood, there may be hidden electrical hazards. Before beginning the cleanup effort, have a qualified electrician check the house wiring, assess other damages and proceed with repair work. Then, follow these important safety tips:

- Follow any directives to turn off utilities. If you're advised to switch off the main power source to your home, flip each breaker and THEN turn off the main breaker. You may also need to shut off the main valve for your home's gas and water.
- DO NOT go near any downed power lines especially if there is standing water nearby.
- Take care when stepping into a flooded area. Be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, posing a potentially lethal trap.
- Have an electrician inspect electrical appliances that have been wet and do not turn on or plug in appliances unless an electrician tells you it is safe.
- A qualified service repair dealer should examine all electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require replacement, while a trained professional may be able to recondition other devices.
- Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface. Use a dry plastic- or rubber-insulated tool to reset breakers and use only one hand. If using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or pressure washer, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

#### Replace or Recondition?

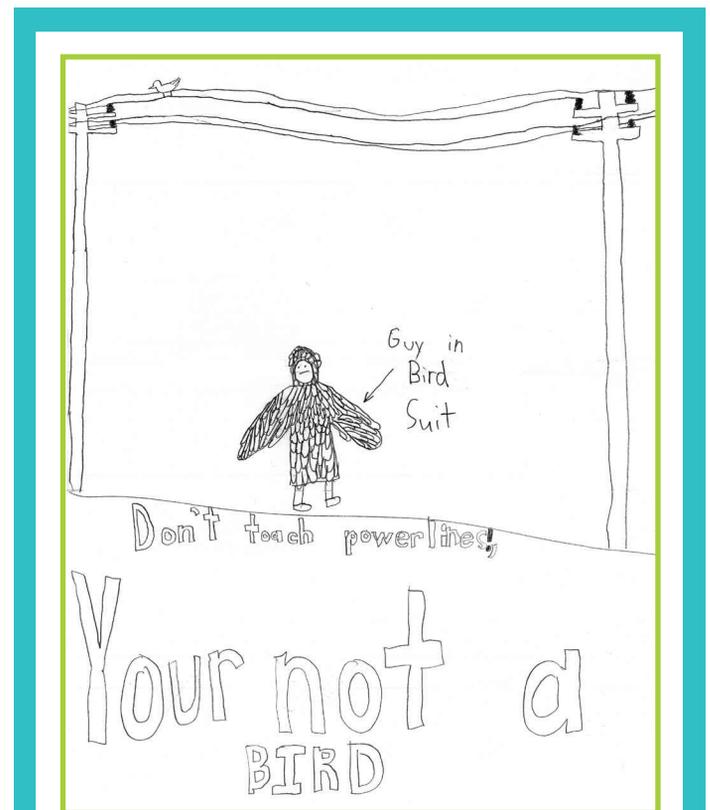
After a serious flood, some items may be reconditioned, while others will need to be completely replaced to protect you and your family. It is recommended that you allow an electrician or electrical inspector to guide the restoration or replacement of any electrical wiring or equipment. Corrosion and insulation damage can occur when water and silt get inside electrical devices and products. Water can also damage the motors in electrical appliances. Therefore, you should be prepared to replace:

- Circuit breakers and fuses
- All electrical wiring systems
- Light switches, thermostats, outlets, light fixtures, electric heaters and ceiling fans
- Furnace burner and blower motors, ignition transformers, elements and relays for furnaces and hot water tanks
- Washing machines, dryers, furnaces, heat pumps, freezers, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, vacuums, power tools, exercise equipment and similar appliances
- Electronic equipment, including computers and home entertainment systems

Source: esfi.org



### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Don't touch power lines! You're not a bird."**

**Jack Bartscher, 11 years old**

Jack is the son of Jon and Tanya Bartscher, Mitchell, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell.

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

## Turkey Noodle Bake

1 T. oil	Seasoning Mix, Original
1 cup chopped onion	3 cups uncooked wide egg noodles
2 (14.5 oz. each) cans diced tomatoes, undrained	2 cups shredded cooked turkey
2 cups water	1 (4 oz.) package cream cheese, cubed
1 (4.5 oz.) can chopped green chiles, undrained	2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend, divided
1 package McCormick® Chili	

Heat oil in large saucepan on medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir 3 minutes or until tender. Stir in tomatoes, water, chiles and Seasoning Mix. Bring to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in egg noodles, turkey, cream cheese and 1 cup of the shredded cheese. Pour mixture into 9x13-inch baking dish. Cover with foil. Bake at 375°F. for 15 minutes. Remove foil. Stir mixture and sprinkle with remaining 1 cup shredded cheese. Bake, uncovered, 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serve with assorted toppings such as sour cream and guacamole, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 325, Total Fat 17g, Saturated Fat 9g, Sodium 530mg, Cholesterol 93mg, Carbohydrates 23g, Protein 20g, Dietary Fiber 3g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Chili Pheasant Casserole

8 to 10 oz. egg noodles	1 to 2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 cup chopped raw onion	1 tsp. smoked paprika
1/2 cup chopped celery (optional)	1 cut-up cooked pheasant
1 can cream of chicken soup	1/2 cup of sour cream
1 T. fresh or dried parsley flakes	1/2 lb. of white Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, grated

Cook noodles in boiling water 8 minutes; drain. Combine all ingredients in a greased 3- to 4-quart casserole; stir together. Pour 1/2 cup hot water over casserole before baking. Bake at 350°F. for 40 minutes.

**Laurie Wernke, Lennox, SD**

## Wonder Tot Casserole

3/4 lb. salmon	1/2 cup chopped celery
3/4 lb. tater rounds	1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/4 lb. American cheese	3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup chopped onion	

Put salmon and tater tots in a greased casserole, reserving a few tots for topping. In a saucepan, combine cheese, onions, celery, soup and milk; heat until cheese is melted. Pour over salmon and tater tots. Bake at 325°F. for 1 hour. Season with salt and pepper.

**Deb Merkwan, Yankton, SD**

## Crescent-topped Cheeseburger Casserole

1 lb. lean ground beef	1/8 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup chopped onion	1-1/2 cups shredded American cheese
1/4 cup chopped dill pickles	1 (8 oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls
1/2 cup water	1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup ketchup	1 T. sesame seed
1 T. yellow mustard	

In a 10-inch nonstick skillet, cook beef and onion over medium-high heat 5 to 7 minutes until thoroughly cooked; drain. Stir in pickles, water, ketchup, mustard and pepper. Spoon beef mixture into an 11x7-inch glass baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese. Unroll crescent dough; press into 12x8-inch rectangle. Cut into 6 squares; place on top of cheese. Brush with egg; sprinkle with sesame seed. Bake at 375°F. for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or vegetarian 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, telephone number and cooperative name.



Renville-Sibley Crew Chief Brad Braulick hands Donald Lee his annual meeting prize.

# RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Lenae Wordes

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

Renville-Sibley’s 81st annual meeting was held on Thursday, March 28th at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island. Drawings for early bird prizes were held at 5:45 pm. Board Chairman Roger Manthei presided over the meeting. Former director Stan Prokosch gave the invocation. Alan Neyers read the notice of the meeting. CEO DeeAnne Newville and Alan Neyers gave the Leadership Report. The information shared in the Leadership Report can be found in DeeAnne’s article on Page 2. Information on the district elections was presented by Gary Peterson.

Gary Peterson and Whitey Hinderman presented the scholarship awards. Scholarships selected by the committee were Beth Albrecht for the \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship and Pamela Winzenburg as the \$1,000 Renville-Sibley scholarship. A random drawing was held from the remaining scholarship applications for two \$1,000 scholarships. The winners were Rebekah Muench and Avery Elfering

The guest speaker for the evening was Curt Burns. Curt is a member of the Operation Round Up® Trustee Board at McLeod Cooperative. He shared information on their Operation Round Up program and the positive difference the funds from this program have made on people’s lives. He emphasized that the small round up contribution made by each member each month can make a difference and encouraged all members to participate.

Roger Manthei announced the results of the elections. They are

as follows: District 1 – Whitey Hinderman, District 2 – Wayland Zaske and District 3 – Gary Eekhoff. Drawings were held for the remaining prizes before the meal was served. Thank you to all who took the time to attend Renville-Sibley’s 81st annual meeting.

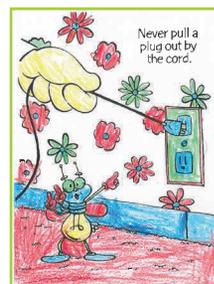
Coloring contest winners were as follows:

- 0-4 years old: Killian Serbus with help from Great Grandma Martha Serbus
- 5-8 years old: Jackson Hebrink
- 9-12 years old: Jordan Ellingson

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



0-4 years old  
Killian Serbus



5-8 years old:  
Jackson Hebrink



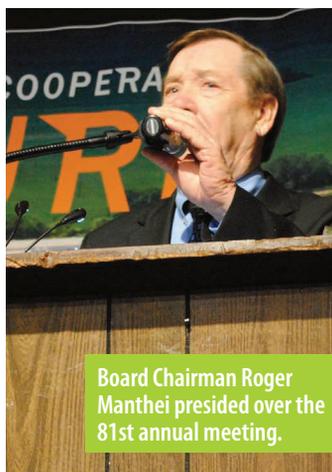
9-12 years old:  
Jordan Ellingson



Members in attendance wait for their name to be drawn during the final prize drawings.



Beth Albrecht, winner of the \$1,000 Basin Electric scholarship selected by Renville-Sibley's scholarship committee, is pictured next to Scholarship Committee Member Whitey Hinderman.



Board Chairman Roger Manthei presided over the 81st annual meeting.



Guest speaker Curt Burns is passionate about the benefits of the Operation Round Up program. Curt is a member of the Operation Round Up® Board of Trustees at McLeod Cooperative.



Renville-Sibley Line Superintendent Gene Alex receives a desk clock in celebration of his 25 years of service to our cooperative.



A delicious meal of beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, coleslaw and apple crisp was enjoyed by all.

## Prize winners were as follows:

(Children's gifts listed in red.)

- Garage Parking Sensor – Arlene Lippert
- Portable Work Light – Gene Wolling
- **Phlat Ball V3 – Harrison Hennager**
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Delano Anderson
- Lizard Cam – Doug Krause
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Agnes Wendinger
- Dust Daddy – Jerry Schneider
- Perfect Egg Maker – Steve/Chris Hettig
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Martin Shockley
- Kitchen Fire Extinguisher – Joel/Cassandra Hannager
- Party Pal – Donald Lee
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Dave Lang
- \$25 Cenex Gift Card – Thomas Schuerer Jr.
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Robert Muench
- Leaf Blower – Scott Refsland
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Jim Peterson
- **Supper Wubble Brite – Zach Swanson**
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Mark Chan
- Copper Casserole Pan – Victor Serbus
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Davis Biebl
- OdorGrab Air Cleaner – Gilbert Borth
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Mary Dummer
- **Uno Attack – Jacob Ellingson**
- \$25 Cenex Gift Card – Jerry Agre
- Fresh Feet – Bruce/Sandy Feldman
- George Foreman – Gary Eekhoff
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Doug Johnson
- \$25 Cenex Gift Card – Dwayne Lee
- **Lite-Brite – Riley Broberg**
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Stan Prokosch
- Patio Shield – Harvey Mathiowetz
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Ramona Warner
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – John Sietsema
- Chill It Tray – Paul/Brenda Holm
- **Simon – Andrew Broberg**
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Kolyn Prodoehl
- Horseshoe Set – Harvey Dahms
- \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Mike Jakel
- East River Electric Gift – Wi-Fi Smart Bulb Adapter – Clay Bryan
- East River Electric Gift – Power Bar – Robert Fredrickson



SKYWARN® weather spotter training aids volunteers in providing first-hand information to the National Weather Service.

# AN EYE ON THE SKY

## Spotters Play A Role in Weather Alert Process

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Trained volunteers form a network of weather observers providing critical first-hand information for National Weather Service.

The spotters give first-hand accounts of what they are observing at ground level, an area often times obscured from what radar can detect. (Depending on the distance from the radar, that gap can extend from several hundred feet to nearly two miles.)

“Spotter reports add credibility to our warnings,” said Kelly Serr, who was conducting a training in Pierre in March. “We’re never sampling the lowest level of the storm.”

Serr kicked off the training with some basics: “This is weather spotter training, not weather chasing training. Never risk the safety of yourself or others and do your observation from a safe location.”

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning caused hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. In South Dakota, several hundred volunteers attend training throughout the spring each year.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information



Clouds form a backdrop to a power line in northeastern South Dakota.

Photo by: Northern Electric Cooperative member C.J. Lane

for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

### Who is eligible and how do I get started?

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Training is free and typically lasts about two hours. Volunteers learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

## Weather Spotter Class

While many training classes were held in March and April, a few are still being offered in South Dakota through May:

**Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.** – Bon Homme County Spotter Class, Avon Fire Hall, 106 E 1st Ave.

**Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.** – Lebanon, S.D. Community Center

**Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.** – Clay County, S.D., Spotter Class, Vermillion, S.D., High School

**Friday, April 19, 1 p.m.** – Custer Highlands/Elk Mountain, Elk Mountain School, 10222 Valley Rd, Dewey, S.D.

**Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.** – Clark, S.D., Community Center, 120 N Commercial St

**Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.** – Douglas County Spotter Class, 4-H Building, 408 9th St, Armour, S.D.

**Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.** – Lake/Moody County Spotter Class, East River Electric Power Cooperative, 211 Harth Ave S, Madison, S.D.

**Monday, April 29, 7 p.m.** – Minnehaha County Spotter Class, Washington Pavilion, 301 S Main Ave, Sioux Falls

**Wednesday, May 1, 6 p.m.**, Murdo, S.D., Ambulance Shed, 101 N Main

**Wednesday, May 1, 7 p.m.** – Yankton County Spotter Class, 201 W 23rd St, Yankton, S.D.

**Online spotter training available:** The Cooperative Operational Meteorology Education and Training (COMET) offers an online Skywarn® Spotter Training course in two sections: "Role of the Skywarn® Spotter" and "Skywarn® Spotter Convective Basics". The course is designed for people interested in becoming storm spotters. The course is free and each section takes one to two hours to complete.

## Weather Ready

### Aberdeen Weather Team Aims to Improve Preparedness and Response

by Ben Dunsmoor

The Aberdeen office of the National Weather Service is bringing together emergency managers, broadcast media, transportation officials, and private sector organizations – including electric cooperatives – to prepare for severe weather events. Officials with the office in Aberdeen held the second annual Integrated Weather Team (IWT) workshop on March 20 to improve communication and coordination between these groups.

"The IWT is an ad-hoc 'team' of people and entities who are involved in the preparedness and response to high-impact weather events," NWS Aberdeen Warning Coordination Meteorologist Kelly Serr said.

The goal of the annual one-day workshop is to meet with organizations and discuss best practices and methods to improve communication with the public before, during, and after a severe or high-impact weather event.

According to Serr, the IWT is a nationwide initiative led by the National Weather Service. The weather service offices in Sioux Falls and Rapid City have held similar events, but the Aberdeen office is the first in South Dakota that is meeting every year.

"The IWT philosophy was born out of the desire to bring together those involved in the weather warning and public safety process," Serr said. "The vision of the workshop is to better understand each group's role in public safety, expectations, and how each IWT member can work together toward mutual goals."

Northern Electric Cooperative Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor and retired Operations Manager Mike Kelly presented information during the March 20 workshop about a mid-October winter storm that caused widespread power outages. The information was intended to help the National Weather Service, emergency managers, and those attending the workshop understand the weather conditions that cause power outages.

"My hope is that we continue to learn from each other, understand each other's strengths and weaknesses and make central and northeast South Dakota as ready, responsive and resilient as possible," Serr said.

More than 30 people attended the March 20 workshop.



About 30 people attended Integrated Weather Training in Aberdeen in March.

# March Board Meeting Highlights

The March board meeting was held on Monday, March 25, at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Newville, Cindy Mertens, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

## The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the February board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of February
- Capital credits to an estate
- Safety report for March
- CFC Officer's Certificate of Compliance
- CRC Voting Delegate for Board of Director Election
- 2019 Budget
- 2019 rate increase
- Policy 425 – Cogeneration and Small Power Production

## 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 – YTD through February (unaudited)
  - Organization activities
  - East River update
  - Basin 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

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

## 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

## Notice:

**The April board meeting will be held Monday, April 29, at 8 a.m.**

**The May board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30 at 8 a.m.**

## Outage Report

affecting 10 members or more

Date: 3-8-19  
 Time off: 2:30 p.m.  
 Time on: 2:58 p.m.  
 Substation: Kingman  
 Cause: Scheduled

Date: 3-9-19  
 Time off: 11:27 a.m.  
 Time on: 1:08 p.m.  
 Substation: Kingman and Birch Cooley  
 Cause: Power supply

Date: 3-9-19  
 Time off: 11:27 a.m.  
 Time on: 1:35 p.m.  
 Substation: Kingman  
 Cause: Power supply

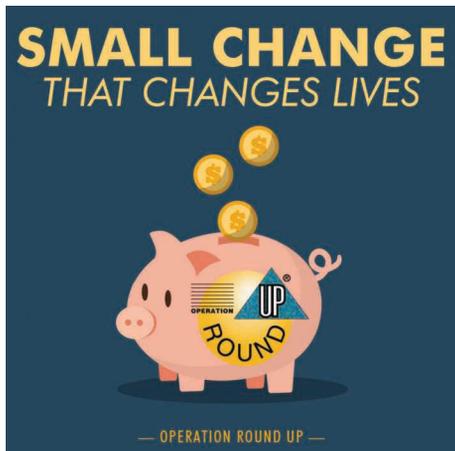
Date: 03-09-19  
 Time off: 11:27 a.m.  
 Time on: 1:15 p.m.  
 Substation: Kingman  
 Cause: Power supply

Date: 3-18-19  
 Time off: 9:40 a.m.  
 Time on: 10:46 a.m.  
 Substation: Crooks  
 Cause: Scheduled

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

# Operation Round Up®

Members who attended Renville-Sibley's annual meeting on March 28 heard our guest speaker Curt Burns talk about the Operations Round Up® program at McLeod Cooperative Power. Curt serves on their Operation Round Up Board of Trustees. One could hear the enthusiasm in Curt's voice as he shared information about the organizations the funds from the Operation Round Up program have supported. Many volunteers from these organizations often thank Curt and McLeod Cooperative Power for the donations expressing how this money, no matter the amount, helps the community and the people their organization supports.



McLeod Cooperative started the Operation Round Up program in 2005, distributing a total of \$2,800 that first year. In 2019, they distributed \$19,950. In total, \$105,975 has been distributed to organizations such as the Tim Orth Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Lion's Clubs and 4-H Clubs. These organizations and others have benefited from this program.

Renville-Sibley will be implementing the Operation Round Up program on the statement members will receive in June of 2019. All members will automatically be enrolled in the program. However, if you do not wish to participate you may contact the office at 320-826-2593 or at [renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop](mailto:renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop).

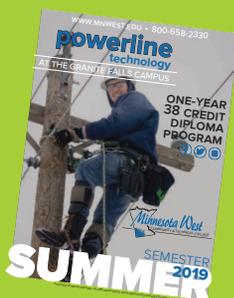
Together, we can make a positive difference in people's lives by participating in the Operation Round Up program.

## Comparative Report

	Current YTD through Feb. 28, 2019	1 Year Ago YTD through Feb. 28, 2018	10 Years Ago YTD through Feb. 28, 2009
<b>Average Number of Consumers</b>	1,882	1,882	1,957
<b>kWhs Purchased</b>	38,411,309	39,537,865	38,003,102
<b>Cost of Purchased Power</b>	\$2,198,854.67	\$2,453,278.66	\$1,410,877.78

## Get Climbing Close to Home

The Granite Falls campus of Minnesota West Community & Technical College will be offering a one year power line technician program. For more information, visit [www.mnwest.edu](http://www.mnwest.edu).



# Mission Statement

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



# CALL OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

Call 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) at least two to three business days before you start digging. Professional locators will mark underground utility lines so you can work safely—and save you from possible injury or property damage.

Together we're  
**RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY**



# Fun Rolls into Huron

Wheel Jam Celebrates Two, Four and 18 Wheels – and more

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdra.coop

**More than 40 competitors are also expected for the South Dakota BBQ Championships.**

Whether two wheels, four wheels or 18 wheels, vehicles of all types will be rolling into Huron May 31-June 2 for the 16th annual Wheel Jam.

The celebration of transportation takes place on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds and will include the 13th annual Original South Dakota BBQ Championships cook off as well as musical entertainment.

Organizers of the event note, “When semi-trucks, classic cars, motorcycles, stock car races, and a few rock and roll bands all get together, it means one awesome weekend for the state of South Dakota!”

Between the concurrent shows for big rigs, cars and pickups and motorcycles, visitors to Wheel Jam will see thousands of gleaming wheels. They can also watch (or be in) the BIG RIGS run in the Dynamic Engine Brake Competition, listen to



A truck in the 2017 Wheel Jam Dynamic Engine Brake Competition gives the course a run.



classic rock bands in South Dakota or just sit back and enjoy the weekend on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds.

Smokin’ hot wheels won’t be the only

## Wheel Jam Schedule

### Poker Run

**Friday, May 31** • 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Registration: 5 p.m. at Red Arrow Bar – A free will offering meal will be served during registration. The poker run is open to all vehicles. Entry fee: \$10. The entry fee includes admission into the Big Jim Jam Fest.

### Pick-Up Party

**Saturday, June 1** • Registration from 9 a.m. to noon; show from noon to 4 p.m. • Awards at 4 p.m.

Come to Wheel Jam and bring your 25+ year old pickup – in any stage of repair or dis-repair. No fee to park in designated area! We will be giving trophies for the pickup that is the ugliest, best of show, and came the furthest. Come park your pickup, set up your camper/lawn chair and set back and enjoy the fun!

### Make It Mine Show-n-Shine (Classic cars/motorcycles)

**Saturday, June 1** • Registration from 9 a.m. to noon; show from noon to 4 p.m. • Awards at 4 p.m.

There is no entry fee to participate in the Make it Mine Show n' Shine. Vehicles do not have to be in a "judged car show" condition. Winners are chosen by trophy sponsors. Each sponsor will choose from cars and bikes to award its trophy to. There is no criteria to follow. The winner is chosen based on the sponsor's preference.

### 11th Annual Midwest SPL Sound Competition

**Saturday, June 1** • Registration from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. • Qualifying Time: 11 a.m.

JM & TEAM FLEXICUTION presents the 11th annual Midwest SPL Sound Competition located in the Hippodrome.

### Wheel Jam Parade

**Saturday, June 1** • 10:30 a.m. • Participants line-up on Market Street starting at 9 a.m. – All wheels are welcome to participate!

Parade route: Market St. east to Dakota Ave. south to 21st St. and back around to the fairgrounds.

### Dynamic Engine Brake Competition

**Saturday, June 1** • 1 p.m. • Located on Nevada Ave. between Market St. and Gate 3

### Biker Games

**Saturday, June 1** • 6 p.m. • East side of carnival mat

### Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show

**Saturday, June 1** • Dusk • Located in West Machinery

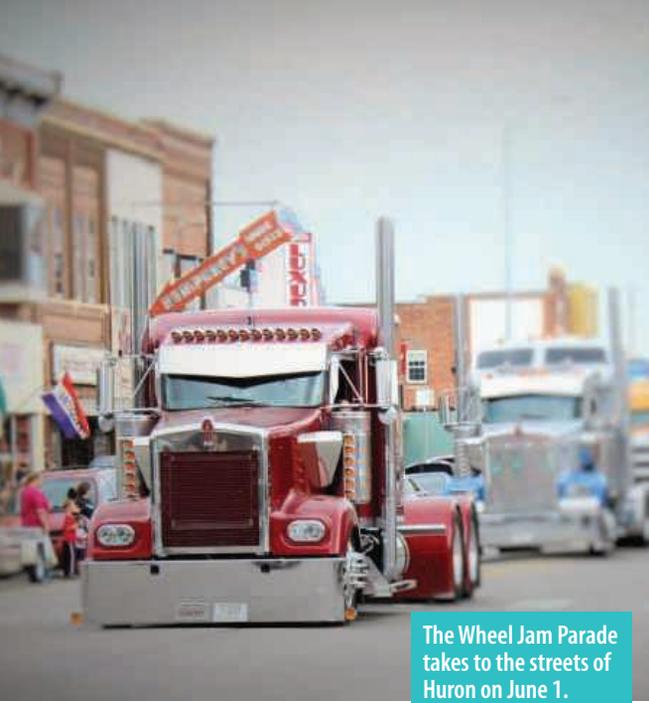
Trucks will tune into Big Jim 93.3 from 10 pm - 11 pm for Saturday Night Rockin' Lights w/ Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show.

### Backstreet Cruisers Car Show

**Sunday, June 2** • Registration Time: 9 a.m. to noon • Show Time: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Windriders ABATE Motorcycle Show

**Sunday, June 2** • Registration: 9 a.m. to noon • Show from noon to 4 p.m. • Family Living Center



The Wheel Jam Parade takes to the streets of Huron on June 1.

feature of the weekend as grilling maestros light up their grills to compete in the Original SD BBQ Championships. The event began in 2007 and is a Kansas City BBQ Society sanctioned event. Each year, more than 40 teams compete in the event, which offers more than \$14,000 in total KCBS purse. The grand champion wins \$2,500 as well as an invitation to compete at the prestigious American Royal in Kansas City, Mo. The Reserve Grand Champion pockets \$2,000 in the competition.

The event also features the Backyard BBQ People's Choice Competition, which is open to anyone. Participants do not have to compete in the KCBS portion of the event to register for the Backyard BBQ Competition.

And for chili lovers, there's the F.A.T. Friday Chili Challenge on Friday, May 31. The people's choice public tasting is held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information on the BBQ, visit <http://www.sdbbqchampionships.com/>

Learn more about Wheel Jam at <http://www.wheeljam.com/> or by calling the South Dakota State Fair office at 800-529-0900 or 605-353-7340.



Above: The Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show illuminates the evening on Saturday. Right: Cars of all types will be on display during Wheel Jam.



# Travel to Alaska with Me!



**Lenae Wordes**

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

I have enjoyed the member tours I have escorted to Basin Electric, East River Electric and even a few other one-day tours throughout the years. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to take our members on an extended tour in 2020.

Members who attended the 81st annual meeting learned about the member tour to Alaska scheduled for July 12-25, 2020. Larry Alvey, from 4 Seasons Vacations, has taken members from other electric cooperatives on this trip numerous times and he will be escorting our trip as well.

A few of the places we will be going include Fairbanks, Denali National Park, Anchorage, Hubbard Glacier, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Inside Passage and Vancouver. This is a land and cruise trip. Anyone not able to be gone for the extended time frame can join us for the cruise only portion of this trip. 772401

Rates for 2020 will not be available until after September of 2019. For comparison purposes, per person rates in 2019 varied from just over \$5,000 to just over \$6,100 depending on the type of room selected. Included in the tour rates are the following:



- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis
- Accommodations at Superior and Deluxe Hotels
- All sightseeing/entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary (contact the office for a copy of the itinerary)
- A 7-night southbound cruise on the Royal Princess
- All sumptuous meals and lavish entertainment while aboard the Royal Princess
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- Onboard ship gratuities
- Luggage handling at the hotel and on the ship (1 suitcase per person)

If you are interested in this trip, I have a flier available and can mail you a copy or you may stop in the office to pick it up. Anyone wanting more detailed information, please call the 4 Seasons Vacation reservation hotline at 800-328-4298.

What fun it will be to take this trip with family, friends and neighbors of Renville-Sibley Co-op!

## Scholar Recognized

Congratulations to Cera Cordova from Renville County West High School for being selected as the March Scholar of the Month. She was nominated because she demonstrates outstanding academic and character leadership. Cera is involved in NHS, TADA, student council as well as a coordinator for RCW's Bloodmobiles while also holding down a job after school. Because of her mature approach to her responsibilities, she is a great example to all students.



**Cera Cordova**  
Renville County West  
High School

More information on the Scholar of the Month program can be found on our website [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop) under the Customer Service tab.

## Where's the Number?



Last month Claudia Kokesch did not find her member number in the newsletter. The credit will continue to grow for a value of \$60. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by May 3, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.



Source: energy.gov

# STAY SAFE

**Look up and look out**  
for overhead power lines



## Reap What You Sow

### Stay Safe During Planting Season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head.

Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Safe Electricity offers farmers the following reminders:

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a “pathway to ground” and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump or arc so keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times.
- Remember, non-metallic materials (such as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt accumulation.

- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 9-1-1 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines.
- When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.

According to American Family Insurance, “know your PTO.” To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.

For more information on electrical safety, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



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**April 27**

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

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**April 27-28**

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

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**May 1-5**

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

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**May 17-19**

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

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**May 17-19**

Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

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**May 24-26**

Annual Off Road Rally, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

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**May 24-26**

South Dakota Kayak Challenge, Yankton, SD, 605-864-9011

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**May 25-26**

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

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**May 30-June 1**

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

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**May 31-June 1**

South Dakota BBQ Championships, Huron, SD, 605-353-7354

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**May 31-June 1**

Pork Palooza, Sioux Falls, SD, garrett@agemedia.pub

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**May 31-June 2**

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

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**May 31-June 3**

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD, 605-487-7694



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**June 1**

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539

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**June 1**

Annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-494-1094

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**June 1-2**

Spring Volksmarch, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

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**June 2**

Mickelson Trail Marathon, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**June 2-8**

Ride Across South Dakota (RASDAK), Rapid City, SD, rasdakbiketour@gmail.com

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**June 2-August 11**

Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show, Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8257

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**June 6-9**

South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Vermillion, SD, 605-622-0423

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**June 7**

East of Westville with Kenny Putnam Kiwanis Club Concert, 7 p.m., Riggs Theatre, Pierre, SD, 605-280-0818

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**June 7-8**

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterkus at 605-722-1430

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**June 7-9**

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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**June 8**

Train Day, Redfield, SD, 605-472-4566

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**June 8-9**

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 1-866-489-9241

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**June 13-15**

Czech Days, Tabor, SD, 605-463-2478, www.taborczechdays.com, taborczechdays@gmail.com

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**June 21**

Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575

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**June 29**

Rhubarb Festival, Leola, SD, 605-824-0014

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**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.