



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LACREEK ELECTRIC
MAY 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 1

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Small Town, Big Dreams

**Tucker Kraft's
Road to the NFL**

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**Electrical Safety in
Action**

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Lacreek Electric Association's 2022 Annual Report



Josh Fanning
General Manager



Wade Risse
Board President

We would like to welcome our members to the 75th Lacreek Electric Annual Meeting. As always, our goal at Lacreek Electric Association Inc. is to serve our members as best we can in today's environmental/technology

driven world, and to be able to provide our members with safe, affordable and reliable energy.

We feel strongly that our responsibility to the membership is to continually improve our community's energy infrastructure and implement new technologies as we strive to maximize the efficiency of our operation. Through the planning and foresight of your board of directors and management, a tremendous amount of hard work from your employees and the support of the members, Lacreek showed operating margins of \$300,910, non-operating margins of \$294,494 and G&T margins of \$1,056,038. In 2022, we retired \$1,129,322 in cooperative capital credits, and \$86,916 in estates. In addition, the members received an earned credit on their electric bills totaling \$196,912. At the beginning of this month, we mailed 100% of the 2001 cooperative and G&T capital credit checks in the amount of \$1,103,114.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING OPERATIONS REPORT

The 2022 operating season saw a new four-year Construction Workplan developed with upgrades across the system. Some of the areas benefiting from larger upgrades are Manderson, Wanblee, Merriman, Parmelee, and Denby.

Planning has begun with the South Dakota Department of Transportation as they intend to do more road upgrades in the Batesland and

Vetal areas of Highway 18 which will impact Lacreek Electric Utilities. Just about all Power Lines along the highway in these areas will need adjustments or changes.

In late April of last year, four Lacreek Linemen went to Northern North Dakota to help with Ice Storm restoration. These men traveled to the Burke-Divide Cooperative at Columbus North Dakota with equipment and material to aid in the restoration process and were there for seven days.

On the heels of this storm in early June, West Central Electric headquartered in Murdo, S.D., suffered a wind storm and tornado that devastated some of their system near Philip. Six Lacreek Linemen traveled to that area to assist with restoration and were there for four days.

Ram Utilities started testing poles on July 7 and tested 5,800 poles in the Denby and Oglala service area and found 127 rejects; then, approximately, the third week of July, two fires broke out west of Oglala, S.D., and burned 47 poles badly enough to require immediate replacement.

The rest of the late summer and fall was filled with routine maintenance, pole changeouts, some underground three-phase cable replacement and Line Patrol until the second week of December when we were hit with two weeks of disabling blizzard conditions that halted normal operations and put us on emergency status. We weathered the extreme conditions but ended up having to do some extended maintenance to our Sub-Transmission line between the Martin and Shannon Substations.

In conclusion, I would like to extend the gratitude of Lacreek Electric to all that helped during the storms (especially the blizzard) with a special thanks to the Lacreek employees. Many thanks go out as well to Keller Construction, Rushmore Engineering, and the Lacreek Electric's board of directors for their diligence and hard work and the membership for their patience and support.

Contributors: Lacreek Operations and Finance Manager

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

LACREEK ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-912)

Board of Directors

- Wade Risse – President
- Brent Ireland – Vice President
- Scott Larson – Secretary
- Tom Schlack – Treasurer
- Clarence Allen – Troy Kuxhaus
- Cole Lange – Clifford Lafferty
- Neal Livermont – Marion Schultz
- Jerry Sharp – Connie Whirlwind Horse
- Donovan Young Man

Management Staff

- Josh Fanning – General Manager
- Sherry Bakley – Work Order/Staff Assistant
- Tracie Hahn – Office Manager
- Anna Haynes – Finance Manager
- Kasi Harris – Finance Manager
- Mike Pisha – Operations Manager
- Ashley Turgeon – Administrative Assistant
- Jessica Cook – Member Services/IT

Office Personnel

- Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist
- Cody Larson – Accountant
- Terri Gregg – Member Service/Billing Specialist
- Katrina Fish – Member Service/Billing, Specialist
- Lisa Jensen – Member Service Representative

Operations Personnel

- Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley
- Journeyman Linemen:
- Jordan Bakley – Dane Claussen – Lonny Lesmeister – Garrett Metzinger – Ryan Pettit – Aaron Risse – Trace Scott – Damon Wangerin
- Apprentice Linemen:
- Tee Allen – Les Cuny – Kody Hagen – Matthew Kruid
- Warehouseman: Henry Johnson
- Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Reprint of
Official Notice

of Lacreek Electric Association’s 75th Annual Meeting Thursday, April 27, 2023 Old American Legion Auditorium, Martin, S.D

Dear Member,
Please plan to attend the 75th annual meeting for members of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at the old American Legion auditorium in Martin. Prizes include eight \$50 and one \$300 grand prize. The annual meeting will include a meal served at the American Legion dining room.

The afternoon’s events will include:

- 5:30-6:45 p.m. – Dinner served at the American Legion Dining Room
- 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Member Registration at Old American Legion Auditorium

7:00 p.m. – The business meeting begins

At meeting’s end – Drawing for the eight \$50 and one \$300 Grand Prize

During the meeting, four directors will be elected. The following candidates are running unopposed.

- Zone 1 – City of Martin – Clarence Allen, incumbent
- Zone 5 – Jackson County – Jerry Sharp, incumbent
- Zone 6 – Todd and Mellette County – Clifford Lafferty, incumbent
- Zone 9 – West Oglala Lakota County – Cole Lange, incumbent

Capital credit checks will NOT be given out at the meeting as they will be mailed April 14th.

See you there!
Respectively yours,
Scott Larson, Secretary

75th Annual Meeting Program

Registration Begins.....	5:30 p.m.
Drawing for Early Attendance Prize.....	7 p.m.
Call to Order.....	President Wade Risse
Invocation.....	President Wade Risse
Determination of Quorum.....	President Wade Risse
Introduction of Directors	
Reports	
■ Secretary.....	Scott Larson
▪ Proof of Mailing of Notice of Meeting	
▪ Minutes of Previous Meeting	
■ Treasurer’s Report.....	Tom Schlack
■ Introduction of Guests.....	Josh Fanning
▪ Manager’s Report	
▪ Member Services Report	
■ Election of Directors.....	Robert Schaub, Attorney
Scholarship Presentation	
■ Old Business.....	President Wade Risse
New Business	
Adjournment	

Drawing for Prizes
(All Prize Winners Must Be Present)

Lacreek Electric Association, Annual Report 2022

Workplace Safety: Avoid Common Electrical Hazards

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

Overhead Power Line Contact

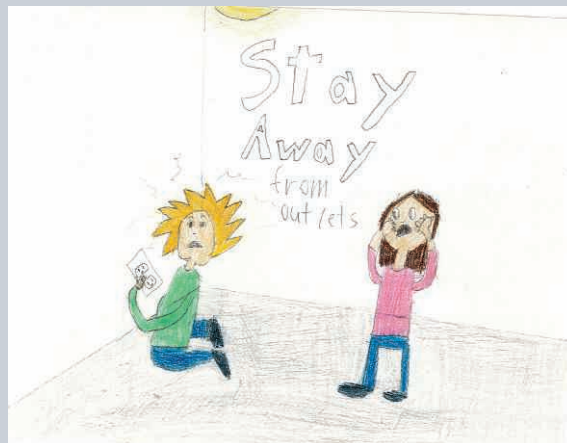
- 46% of all electrical fatalities are caused by contact with overhead power lines
- 57% of overhead power line fatalities were in non-electrical occupations
- Always assume all lines are live and dangerous
- Always look up; be aware of overhead power lines
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet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

Accidental Contact with Energized Conductors or Parts

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

Electrical Safety in the Workplace

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



Power Line Safety

Serena Dekrey, age 9

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

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

COMFORTING CASSEROLES

PHEASANT CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

Gail Klipfel
Ellendale, N.D.

TACO CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

mccormick.com

CHICKEN, BROCCOLI, AND RICE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

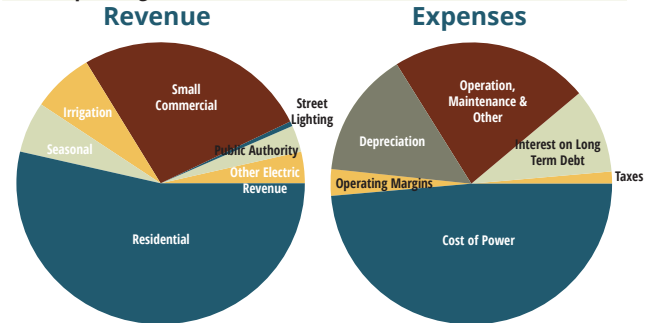
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Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance Sheet (as of December 2022)		
ASSETS	2021	2022
ELECTRIC PLANT:		
In Service	\$72,761,295	\$74,523,037
Under Construction	\$1,072,412	\$757,329
Total Electric Plant	\$73,833,707	\$75,280,366
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$(28,840,577)	\$(30,417,597)
Electric Plant – Net	\$44,993,130	\$44,862,769
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS:		
Investments in associated organizations	\$7,591,883	\$8,229,223
Other Investments	\$164,884	\$155,591
Special Funds	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total Other Property and Investments	\$8,256,767	\$8,884,814
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$367,200	\$1,849,633
Temporary cash investments	\$5,501,314	\$4,916,398
Investment in equity securities	-	-
Account receivable, less allowance for uncollectible accounts	\$1,135,819	\$1,705,850
Material and Supplies	\$966,587	\$4,311,854
Prepayments	\$568,512	\$127,935
Interest receivable	\$8,002	\$6,540
Total current assets	\$8,547,434	\$12,918,210
Deferred Debits	\$998,032	\$812,179
TOTAL ASSETS	\$62,795,363	\$67,477,972
EQUITIES & LIABILITIES:		
EQUITIES		
Patronage capital	\$18,626,862	\$18,279,649
Other Equities	\$5,066,907	\$6,019,991
Total Equities	\$23,693,769	\$24,299,640
LONG-TERM DEBT, Less CURRENT MATURITIES		
	\$34,348,295	\$37,568,165
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Current maturities long-term debt	\$2,158,000	\$2,203,919
Accounts payable	\$845,270	\$1,480,235
Customer deposits	\$470,935	\$445,180
Taxes accrued	\$196,233	\$210,064
Other current liabilities	\$294,760	\$300,449
Total Current Liabilities	\$3,965,198	\$4,639,847
DEFERRED CREDITS		
Members' energy payments	\$288,101	\$470,320
Electric revenue deferral	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total Deferred Credits	\$788,101	\$970,320
TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES	\$62,795,363	\$67,477,972

Statement of Operations (Year Ending December 2022)		
OPERATING REVENUES	2021	2022
Electric	\$14,087,040	\$15,109,227
Other	\$504,145	\$521,706
Total Operating Revenues	\$14,591,185	\$15,630,933



OPERATING EXPENSES	2021	2022
Cost of Power	\$7,271,617	\$8,027,693
Transmission	\$46,765	\$172,032
Distribution – Operations	\$542,655	\$692,665
Distribution – Maintenance	\$917,970	\$947,698
Member Accounts	\$543,357	\$460,037
Member Service & Information	\$61,800	\$123,568
Administrative & General	\$1,278,552	\$1,556,818
Depreciation	\$2,133,023	\$2,206,608
Taxes	\$196,458	\$209,966
Interest on Long-term Debt	\$1,428,954	\$921,267
Other Deductions	\$16,400	\$11,671
Total Operating Expenses	\$14,437,551	\$15,330,023
Operating Margin Before Capital Credits	\$153,634	\$300,910
Generation & Transmission Capital Credits	\$285,851	\$1,056,038
NET OPERATING MARGIN	\$439,485	\$1,356,948
NON-OPERATING MARGIN		
Merchandising, less costs & expenses	\$3,054	\$19,783
Gain on disposal of assets	\$18,838	\$83,520
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$592,958	-
Other Cooperative Capital Credits	\$61,732	\$47,652
Interest Income	\$105,836	\$143,539
Total Non-Operating Margin	\$782,418	\$294,494
NET MARGIN	\$1,221,903	\$1,651,442

2022 Year End Statistics

Year Energized	1948	Number of Active Meters	6,839	Revenue per Kwh Residential	\$0.1089
Plant	\$75,280,366	Average Monthly usage, Residence	1,363	Winter Demand	35,292
Equity	36.04%	Number of Electric Heat Homes	844	Summer Demand	22,391
Service Area	5,174	Number of Irrigation Systems	127	Power Supplier:	
Total Miles of Line	3,186	Number Of Directors	13	Basin Electric	87.53%
Miles Transmission	204	Number of Members	4,265	WAPA	12.47%
Miles Distribution	2,663	Number of Employees	27	Counties Served: Bennett, Jackson, Oglala	
Miles Underground	318	Number of Security Lights	3,974	Lakota, Todd and Mellette in South Dakota	
Meters per Miles	2.15	Kwh Sales	138,341,158	and Cherry in Nebraska.	

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



Explanation of 2022 Dollars Spent

Cost of power – This is paid to Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, our power supplier, who receives 87.53% from Basin Electric (which consists of a blend of coal, hydro, nuclear, natural gas, renewables (wind and waste heat) and 12.47% hydropower.

Taxes – This includes real estate taxes and 2 percent gross revenue taxes in South Dakota and personal property taxes in Nebraska.

Interest – Monies paid to Rural Utilities Service and CoBank for interest on our loans.

Depreciation – The value of the property of the cooperative is set up to decrease annually over a set period of time.

Margins – Revenue over and above the cost of operation. Margins are assigned to the members in the form of patronage capital or capital credits. 800101502

Operations, Maintenance and Other – Includes the cost of maintaining 3,186 miles of line, 3,974 security lights, billing approximately 6,839 meters a month, plus insurance, transmission expense, sales expense, customer service expense, and other costs required to operate the cooperative.

Find Your Account Number: It's Worth \$20!

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before **May 5, 2023**, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your next month's billing.

If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$30 in the next issue.

TUCKER KRAFT



SMALL TOWN, BIG DREAMS

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

Tucker Kraft's Road to the NFL

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tucker Kraft

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

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

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

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

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

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

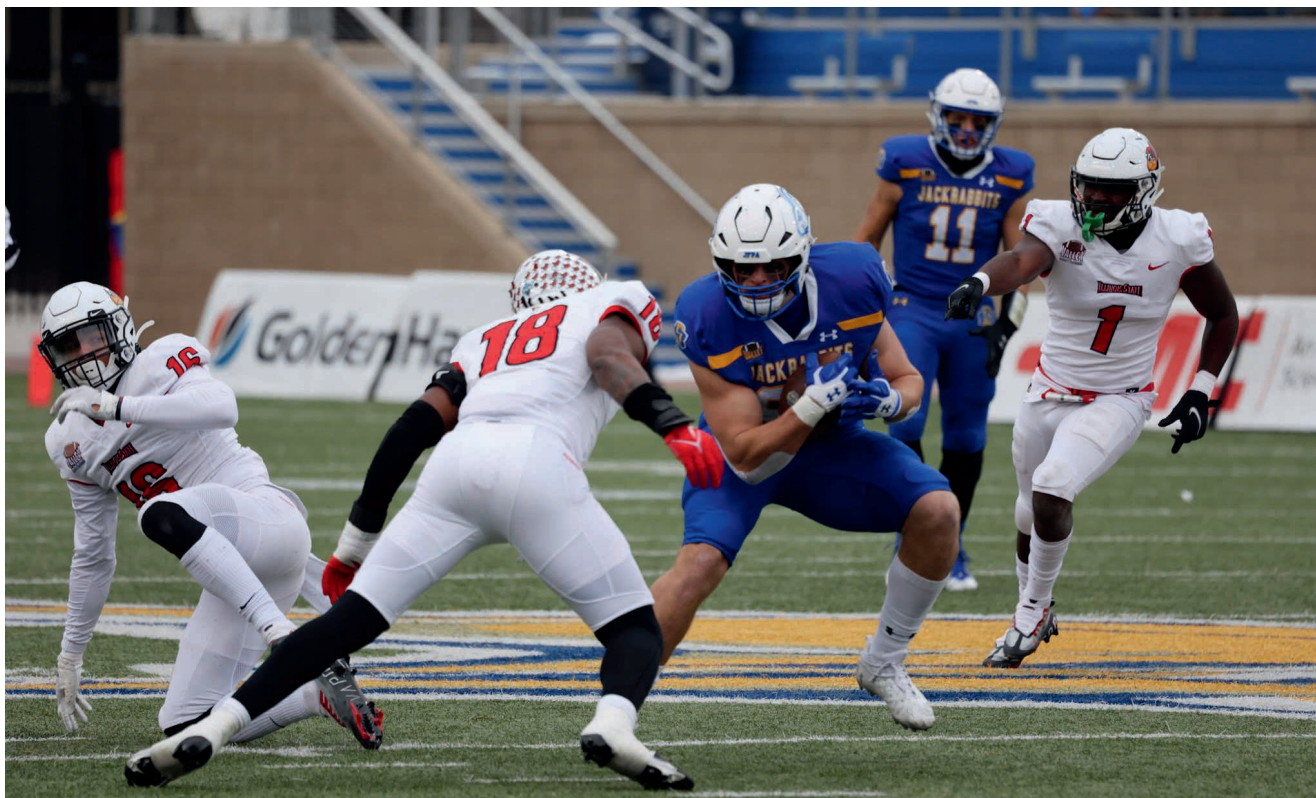
The NFL Combine, however, will

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

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

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

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



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

FOUR MEMBERS SEEK LACREEK DIRECTOR SEATS

Members attending the 2023 Lacreek Electric Association annual meeting will elect directors to represent Zones 1, 5, 6 and 9 for three-year terms. The following individuals have filed petitions to run for these positions. The following is a piece of brief biographical information on each of the candidates.

Zone 1 - City of Martin

Clarence Allen - Clarence was raised northeast of Long Valley, S.D. He came to Bennett County in 1972 and began farming and ranching.



Clarence Allen

Clarence worked for Mueller Feeds and Pride Grain for 23 years while still farming and ranching. He retired from Pride Grain in June of 2012. Clarence still runs cattle and helps others in

the area. Clarence and his late wife Nancy, have four grown children. Clarence has served on Lacreek Electric's board of directors since 2014.

Zone 5 - Jackson County

Jerry Sharp - Jerry graduated from Kadoka High School and continued his education at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, S.D.



Jerry Sharp

He taught school for three years and then returned to the ranch near Long Valley, S.D. Jerry is a member of R-Calf and the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two children and four grandsons. Jerry has served on Lacreek Electric's board of directors since 1994.

Zone 6 - Todd and Mellette County

Clifford Lafferty - Clifford has been a lifelong resident of Todd County. He has been a rancher for the majority of his life. He and his wife Sherry have been married for over 40-years and have two grown children. Clifford currently serves on the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council. Clifford has served on Lacreek Electric's board since November 2019.



Clifford Lafferty

Zone 9 - West Oglala Lakota County

Cole Lange - Cole has lived on his ranch in Oglala his whole life, which he has been running since the age of 18. He is also a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.



Cole Lange

He has served on the FSA Board in Martin and been a Shannon County Representative on the Stockgrowers board of directors. Cole has served on Lacreek's board since June of 2020.

SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

April 21, 2022

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Members of Lacreek Electric Association, Incorporated, was held at the Old American Legion Auditorium, on the afternoon of April 21, 2022, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Member Services/IT Jessica Cook drew for the Early Bird prize and welcomed the members to the meeting. She asked for everyone to rise for the National

Anthem.

An employee video was shown. President Allen called the meeting to order and called upon Director Wade Risse who gave the invocation.

President Allen reported the determination of a quorum was met with 74-members registered.

President Allen introduced the Board of Directors and the

incumbent candidates running unopposed: Zone 1-City of Martin, Scott Larson, Zone 3-West Bennett County, Troy Kuxhaus, Zone 4-East Oglala Lakota County, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Zone 5-Jackson County, Neal Livermont, and Zone 8-At Large, Wade Risse.

An employee video was shown. President Allen called on Secretary Ireland who read the Proof of Mailing of Notice of the Annual Meeting.

Secretary Ireland asked if they could dispense with the reading of the minutes from the April 22, 2021, Annual Meeting and referred to the minutes printed in the program. The

members agreed, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the 2021 minutes were approved.

Secretary Ireland called on Treasurer Kuxhaus for the treasurer's report.

Treasurer Kuxhaus gave an overview of the financial statement and advised the members that the actual full financial report is printed in the program. Treasurer Kuxhaus asked for a motion from the members to approve the treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

An employee video was shown.

General Manager Josh Fanning introduced the following guests: Chad Reisenauer, Director, Community & Member Support Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Mark Hofer, NRECA representative, Tim Grablander, General Manager of Cherry-Todd Electric, and Jerry Fullerton, Cherry Todd Board. He took a moment to duly recognize two Board Members who passed away during the height of Covid; Dean O'Neill, who served on the board for 32 years, and Melvin Cummings, who served on the board for 38 years. Dean and Melvin's families were both presented with plaques.

General Manager Fanning welcomed the membership to the meeting and assured our members of Lacreek Electric's responsibility to continue to improve our community's energy infrastructure and implement new technologies as we strive to maximize the efficiency of our operations. In March of 2021, the unique winter storm Xylia brought Arctic temperatures and affected our entire system. Our lineman, along with outside crews, worked hard to restore services quickly and safely. Our continued system updates allowed us to work more efficiently with minimal outages to our members. He updated the members on several projects completed in 2021 which included: installing and energizing a new school, additional school housing for another school, new street

lighting for several communities, the Shannon Substation underwent a major upgrade, yearly pole testing and tree trimming, the Allen to Batesland underground tie line, the replacement of the North Circuit from the Niobrara Substation, Reinsulating the line on the North Route, American Horse, and Three Mile Creek communities, and numerous other upgrades which completed the 2018-2021 Construction Work Plan. A major project that was completed was the Martin WAPA substation. This project had been in the planning stages for over 5 years. Lacreek built a new sub-transmission line from the Schwarting Switch North of Batesland back to the Martin Rural Substation North of Martin in 2017. With this upgrade to the system, WAPA was able to have one of our main subs down for 2-months to do improvements for future expansion and increased reliability. Covid has had some impacts on Lacreek; such as shortened Annual meetings and time away from work; however, we are all looking forward to getting back to normal operations. Lacreek continues to strive to meet the members' needs by identifying improvements that can be implanted in future work plans to ensure our system remains strong. General Manager Fanning thanked both the members and employees for their patience through this pandemic.

President Allen called upon Lacreek's Attorney Robert Schaub with the Law Firm of Schaub Law Office, P.C. Attorney Schaub advised that all incumbent directors ran unopposed: Zone 1-City of Martin, Scott Larson, Zone 3-West Bennett County, Troy Kuxhaus, Zone 4-East Oglala Lakota County, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Zone 5-Jackson County, Neal Livermont, and Zone 8-At large, Wade Risse. Attorney Schaub asked for a motion to approve the reelection of those Board of Directors. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the reelection of those unopposed directors. They will all

serve a 3-year term.

An employee video was shown.

Treasurer Kuxhaus announced that the Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Lacreek Electric scholarship winner was Grace Jager. Grace is the daughter of Jessica and Michael Jager. The Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and Lacreek Electric scholarship winner was Baily May. Baily is the daughter of Jennifer and Richard May. The two Lacreek Electric scholarship winners are Jade Byrne and Maxwell Zickrick. Jade is the son of Melissa and Trent Byrne and Maxwell is the son of Jennifer and Thomas Zickrick. The winner of the Lacreek Electric Employee Scholarship was Eden Fanning. Eden is the daughter of Tara and Josh Fanning. President Allen presented the winners with a certificate. The second-year 2022 scholarship winner was Crystal Livermont. Crystal is the daughter of Dana and Neal Livermont.

Treasurer Kuxhaus announced that each year Lacreek Electric sponsors a South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion, however, with Covid the past few years the trip has been canceled.

President Allen asked for any old business. There was none.

President Allen again called upon Robert Schaub, Lacreek's Attorney who asked for a motion to approve the actions taken by the Board of Directors of the Association since the last Annual Meeting of the Members; with a motion made, seconded, and carried to approve the Board's actions.

President Allen called for any new business. There was none.

President Allen thanked Todd Eliason with Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative for the PowerPoint presentation and Stuart Livermont for the sound system.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

The Grand prize of \$300.00 cash was won by Kathy Kocourek.



ELECTRIC SAFETY IN ACTION

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

Empowering the Public to Stay Safe

Frank Turner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These demonstrations not only

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

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



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



SEWING MEMORIES

The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum is located in Vermillion, S.D.

Take a Stitch Back in Time

Jocelyn Johnson

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A stitch in time saves family memories and sews history together at The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum just outside of Vermillion, S.D. A mom and five daughters hold a passion for sewing and for the history of household sewing machines.

Collecting domestic vintage sewing machines began more than 20 years ago for Sally Abild who visited

auctions with her mom, Evelyn Hanson. There, they found various vintage sewing machines and began collecting them.

"I would see these vintage machines that were being sold for little or nothing," Sally said. "I hurt, in a way, for the families because I thought, 'These are a part of their history.' If I had my grandmother's or my mother's sewing machine, I would be extremely happy to have it."

She purchased 20 machines, not

knowing what to do with them, but wanting to preserve them. They were first stored in an old farmhouse before eventually moving to a milking barn, which was homesteaded by Sally's husband – Dick Abild's great grandfather. The barn was renovated and opened as a museum in 2017.

The museum's collection of sewing machines grew with contributions from her sisters.

"They would come across machines I had never seen in the Midwest," Sally said. "In the bigger cities, there was more money in the mid-1800s when sewing machines started to pop up. You would find a bigger selection in those areas that you didn't find in rural areas."

Sally and her sisters, Gloria, Marie, Linda and Geri, carefully researched the history of each machine they owned, putting them in order and fixing them up. Today, visitors to The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum are able to view more than 120 vintage machines along with treasured family mementos. Sally's family has a legacy of sewing their own clothes. She remembers her great grandmother making dresses from feed sacks and her mother, Evelyn, would sew clothes for the family on her treadle machine, since electricity wasn't available on the farm until the 1950s.

"I had to learn how to sew growing up," Sally said. "If I wanted something new, I had to learn how to make it for myself."

The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum is one of three vintage sewing museums in the United States. "We collect domestic vintage machines – meaning our machines were the first to be used by families in the home and were made of all metal," Sally said. "A machine that has



Sally Abild and her family pose outside of the Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum.

plastic in it is not a vintage machine."

One of the oldest domestic, vintage machines on display at the museum is one by Elias Howe, who made the first official patented and manufactured sewing machine in 1846.

"We also have a Singer Model 12, which came out after the Civil War," she said. "Isaac Singer sold them door-to-door to families and was credited with coming up with the first payment plan – allowing up to 10 years to pay for this machine. It's said that Singer's Model 12 was the machine that clothed a nation."

The most unique machine that Sally favors, however, is a Wilcox and Gibbs that came about it the mid-1800s.

"It's a small, chain-stitch machine that was loved by many women back then," Sally said. "They could easily take it

from house to house, and it was easy to use. It's also the symbol we use for our museum."

Most vintage sewing machines tended to be family heirlooms, which were passed down from generation to generation.

"Many women who visit the museum have a machine that was passed down to them by their mothers or grandmothers and want to find out more information on them," Sally said. "Men love to visit too to learn more about the mechanics of these machines."

Sally revealed the transition from vintage sewing machines, made with metal, to newer sewing machines, made with plastic, began when America gave Japan two Singer patents after World War II. Japan capitalized on this and managed to perfect a design that they sold in America for a third of the cost. To compete with this, Singer began to put plastic parts into their machines and before eventually going out of business in 1988. Consequently, the age of vintage sewing machines ended when the convenience and affordability of plastic was introduced.



Evelyn Hanson instilled the love of sewing and vintage machines in her five daughters.



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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