



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LACREEK ELECTRIC
OCTOBER 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 6

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Dokken's Dogs

**Training Dogs to
Hunt**

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October is National Co-op Month

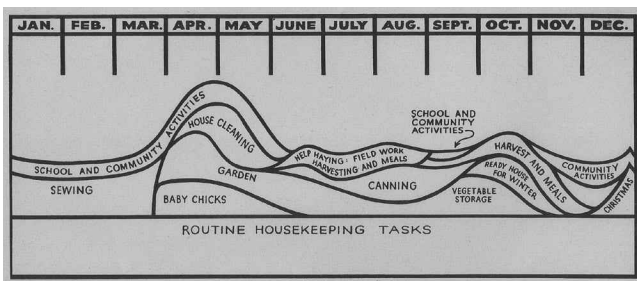
Where did it all start?

Harold D. Wallace, Jr. and Jessica Cook

This year Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. celebrated our 75th year of serving you, the members. October is National Coop Month. As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the member-consumers we serve. But our mission extends beyond that. As a co-op, we strive to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our communities. In honor of this month being National Coop Month, let's take a look back at the events that had to occur in order to build the cooperatives that serve us today.

Imagine your daily life without electricity. Cooking and heating clothes irons on wood stoves, pumping water by hand, reading and working under kerosene lamps. Many people in rural America lived that life until well into the 20th century. Most only received electricity by choosing to work together with their neighbors and participate in electrical cooperatives, or co-ops for short.

Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse and other inventors began introducing practical electric power systems in the 1880s. By the 1920s most cities and towns in America received electricity from either privately owned or municipal utility companies. Running wires into the countryside where there might be only a few people per square mile seemed uneconomical for either investors or taxpayers. By 1932 only about 10% of rural America was electrified, and about half of those people had to buy their own country home power plants. This electrical divide fueled the difference in standards of living between city and farm, hampering rural Americans' ability to participate in the life of their modernizing country.



Electricity would improve the efficiency of work and the comforts of home life in rural areas, encouraging more Americans to stay on family farms. Franklin D. Roosevelt made this issue part of his 1932 presidential campaign and worked with Congress to establish the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Rather than simply build power systems, the REA made loans to electric cooperatives that were repaid over 30 years. Country folk came together, organized cooperatives, and provided labor to build the systems that they ultimately came to own.

World War II interrupted the work of the REA. When President Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Bill in September 1944, Roosevelt said, "From the point of view of raising the living standards of

rural America and providing a more efficient form of farm management, one of the most important projects interrupted by the war is the extension of rural electrification."

President Roosevelt went on to explain that participation in rural electrification must be wide and not limited to areas with greater resources: "It is particularly important that extensions of rural electrification be planned in such a way as to provide service on an area basis. The practice has been too frequent in the past for private utility companies to undertake to serve only the more prosperous and more populous rural sections. As a result, families in less favored and in sparsely settled sections were left unserved. I believe that our postwar rural electrification program should bring modern service of electric power to the farm families in the back country."

The rural communities that established, built, and now own their cooperatives have continued to reap benefits from their participation. In the years after most of rural America was electrified, the REA (now the Rural Utilities Service) continued working to bring telephone lines and later broadband Internet connections to the countryside. Hundreds of rural cooperatives throughout the country continue to provide power and other services for their participating members. It is a legacy that Louisian Mamer and her colleagues would be proud of.

Every October, cooperatives all over the United States celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this half-century-old celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference, honor our heritage, and celebrate our unique spirit.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses, we exist to meet our member's needs not to make a profit. Lacreek Electric Association exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to serve you the energy that powers your life.

As a cooperative, we follow the 7 cooperative principles:

1. **Open and Voluntary Membership** – Anyone can join a co-op, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstance.
2. **Democratic Member Control** – Adhering to the principle of one member, one vote, our members control LEA by deciding who leads it.
3. **Member's Economic Participation** – All members invest in LEA. This means members, not shareholders, benefit from LEA's profits.
4. **Autonomy and Independence** – When making business deals or raising funds, LEA never compromises its autonomy or democratic member control.
5. **Education, Training and Information** – LEA provides education, training, and information so that you can contribute effectively to the success of LEA.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives** – LEA believes cooperatives working together is the best strategy to empower our members and build a stronger co-op economy.
7. **Concern for Community** – LEA is community-minded. We seek to contribute to the sustainable development of our community.

These guiding principles are used by cooperatives around the world and were adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance in 1995. Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

As we evolve with our members always in mind, please know that Lacreek Electric Association will continue with the same commitment as always to our founding principles and the communities we serve.

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:
Jordon 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 – Chayson Schofield –
Carter Vesperman
Warehouseman: Henry Johnson
Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This publication is mailed the 15th of the month prior to the issue date. Layout is at least three weeks prior to mailing. LACREEK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551 for its members. Families subscribe to Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Martin, SD and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551; telephone (605) 685-6581; fax (605) 685-6957

July 2023 Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, S.D., on July 11, 2023, beginning at 4 p.m.

The meeting was then called to order by President Wade Risse and the following Directors were present: Donovan Young Man, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Jerry Sharp, Marion Schultz, Cole Lange, Clifford Lafferty, Troy Kuxhaus, Clarence Allen, Tom Schlack, Scott Larson, and Brent Ireland. Also present were General Manager Josh Fanning, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Member Service/IT Jessica Cook, Work Order/Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley, Finance Manager Anna Haynes, Finance Manager Kasi Harris, Office Manager Tracie Hahn, and Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon. Attending via Webex was Director Neal Livermont.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Wade Risse.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon to record the board minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the June 2023 Board Minutes.

Additions to the agenda were asked for by President Risse. There were no additions to the agenda.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Operating Report for May that was presented by Finance Manager Kasi Harris.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the checks and disbursements for June. The July Check Audit Committee will be (Brent “chairman”, Cole, and Scott).

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the June Analysis of Investments that was presented by Finance Manager Kasi Harris.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the list of new members.

Jessica reported on the shirts available for the Line Patrol Charity Ride; that volunteers are needed for the Bennett County Fair & Rodeo free community meal; that Ag Appreciation Day is Aug 22 at the Central States Fair; and on Lacreek’s 2024 Annual Meeting.

Mike reported on work in progress: work in Nebraska is complete; service upgrades; URD locates and light repairs on a daily basis; line maintenance from storm outages; and vacant service removals. He also reported on equipment and on personnel.

Mike gave the safety report.

Donovan reported on the SDREA Board Meeting he attended.

Josh reported on Grant funds; that Todd Telesz resigned as CEO and general manager of Basin Electric and Todd Brickhouse will serve as their interim CEO and general manager; Pride Grain; that the NREA Board and Committee Meeting is in Scottsbluff August 9-10, 2023 with no one planning to attend at this time; and on new proposed rates. Also, the Safety Committee will meet at 1:00 PM on August 21, 2023.

Discussion was held on the NRECA Region 5-6 Meeting on Sept. 12-14 in Des Moines, IA with the board agreeing to Wade as the voting delegate for Lacreek.

Discussion was held on the SDREA Board Leadership Summit on Aug. 20-21 in Pierre, S.D., with no one planning to attend at this time.

Discussion was held on the Basin Electric Power Annual Meeting being held Aug. 15-16 in Bismarck, N.D., with the board agreeing to Troy as the voting delegate for Lacreek.

Discussion was held on RESCO SD Director-Director Election with the board agreeing to vote for Todd Hettich.

Other information included thank-you notes from the Batesland Volunteer Fire Department, Raptor’s 4-H Club, and the Cooperative Family Fund.

The Staff was excused from the meeting and the General Manager and Board went into executive session from 6:05 to 6:43 PM. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Wage and Salary Committee’s proposed offer of Staff wages.

No further business was brought before the board and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting – Aug. 21, 2023, at 4 p.m.

October is Fire Safety Month

Is your workplace or home fireproof? Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) celebrates National Fire Safety Month in October. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016, there were 88 occupational fatalities as a result of workplace fires or explosions. This is down from 2015, in which there were 121. While the statistics show that the number of fatalities due to fires or explosions in the workplace is on a downward slope, any number other than 0 is unacceptable and demands the attention from management, safety professionals and employees in every company. Not only do fires present a severe life safety hazard, they also can be detrimental to business success due to the possible destruction of business equipment and facilities. This campaign serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of fire safety awareness in both the workplace and our home lives.

The safety reminders communicated in the workplace can be easily translated to fire safety in the home. Establish a family emergency action plan, discuss escape routes with family members, and locate fire extinguishers in your home. Additionally, conduct a mock fire drill with your family members to ensure you and your loved ones know how to get out safely. During this drill, outline meeting places that are at a safe distance from the home. Designate a neighbor to contact for help in the event of an emergency. Simple exercises such as the aforementioned could mean the difference maker in your family making it out alive in the event of a fire in your home.

Below are key components to ensuring your workplace and home are fireproof:

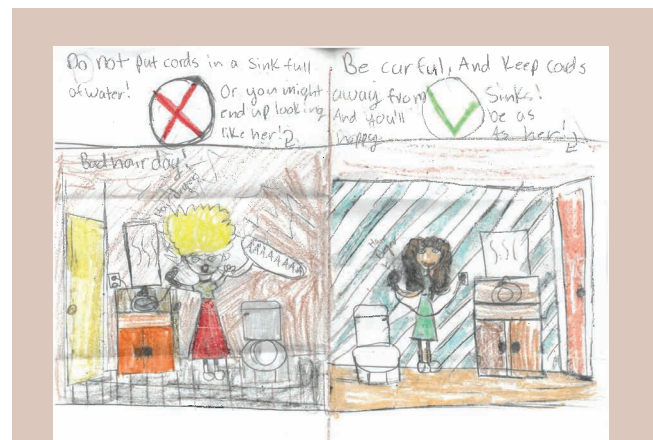
- **Eliminate Clutter** – Exercise good housekeeping. Clutter can easily become a fuel source in the event of a fire, allowing a fire to spread quickly. Furthermore, clutter can restrict access to emergency equipment and exit routes.
- **Fire Extinguishers** – Maintain the appropriate type and number of fire extinguishers. Conduct monthly and annual extinguisher inspections to ensure they are in good, working condition. Provide training for employees on the correct use of fire extinguishers.
- **Chemical Safety** – Use and store chemicals safely. Read hazard warning labels and safety data sheets

to determine flammability and other fire hazards. Ensure your chemical storage areas provide adequate ventilation for the storage of chemical or other hazardous substances.

- **Waste Control and Storage** – Limit the accumulation of flammable or combustible materials and residues as to prevent the risk for such materials contributing to a fire emergency.
- **Exits** – Ensure emergency exit route diagrams are posted and accessible in all areas of the facility for all employees to easily view. Additionally, ensure means of egress are well-lit with regulated exit signs and free from debris or clutter.

Remember it is always better to be proactive rather than reactive and it is best to alleviate hazards or hiccups in times of peace than in times of chaos. Utilize the above tips to reduce the risk for catastrophe or at least minimize the damage.

Source: Safety Resources, Inc.



Keep cords away from water!

Maddy Pannell, Age 12

Maddy Pannell advises people it's not safe to plug in appliances around water. Maddy is the daughter of Scott and Kim Pannell from Sioux Falls, S.D., members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

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.

PASTA PERFECT

ITALIAN SPAGHETTI

Ingredients:

1-8 oz. can tomato sauce
 1-6 oz. can tomato paste
 1 1/2 paste cans water
 1 small onion, chopped
 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
 1 tsp. garlic salt
 1/2 tsp. chili powder
 3 shakes cayenne pepper
 1/8 tsp. black pepper
 1 tsp. basil
 1 tsp. oregano
 1/2 to 1 lb. ground beef

METHOD

Combine all ingredients except ground beef. Cover and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Brown beef and add to sauce. Serve over cooked noodles. May add green peppers or mushrooms.

Gail Keating
Flandreau, S.D.

GARDEN HARVEST PASTA SHELLS

Ingredients:

2 tbsps. vegetable oil
 2 medium zucchini, shredded
 1/2 cup finely shredded carrots
 2 cups chopped fresh broccoli
 1 small onion, chopped
 Salt and pepper
 1 lb part-skim ricotta cheese
 2 cups shredded mozzarella
 1 egg, lightly beaten
 1/4 cup grated parmesan
 1 tbsp. dried basil
 27.5 oz. jar pasta sauce
 12 oz. pkg jumbo pasta shells, cooked and drained

METHOD

Heat oven to 350. In a large skillet heat oil, then saute broccoli, zucchini, carrots, and onions until tender. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine ricotta, mozzarella, egg, parmesan, and basil. Add vegetables and stir to combine. Spread 1 cup of the pasta sauce evenly in a 9" x 13" baking dish. Fill pasta shells with the vegetable and cheese mixture and arrange in the baking dish. Spoon the remaining sauce over the shells. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes or until bubbly.

Faye Chambliss
Murdo, S.D.

CREAMY CHICKEN AND BACON PASTA

Ingredients:

8 oz. spaghetti
 1 1/2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4-inch chunks
 2 tbsps. flour
 4 slices bacon
 1 cup milk
 4 oz. (1/2 package) cream cheese, at room temperature
 1 1/2 tsps. basil leaves
 1 1/2 tsps. garlic powder
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. coarse ground black pepper

METHOD

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, toss chicken with flour. Set aside. Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Set aside. Remove all but 1 tbsp drippings from skillet. Add chicken; cook and stir 4 minutes or until golden brown. Stir in milk, cream cheese and seasonings until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut bacon into bite-size pieces. Add to skillet. Place spaghetti in serving bowl. Add chicken mixture; toss well. Serve immediately.

mccormick.com

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

How to Insulate Your Attic Hatch

Q: I've noticed a draft coming in around my attic hatch, and it makes the room uncomfortable. Can you offer any tips for this?

A: You can eliminate drafts and reduce energy waste by properly sealing and insulating your attic hatch. Attic hatches are often overlooked, even if the rest of the attic is properly insulated. It should be noted if your attic access is located in an area you are not paying to heat or cool, such as your home's exterior or garage, there's no need to insulate it.

For attic access points inside the home, it's important to seal them properly with durability and functionality in mind. Attic hatches should be insulated close to the same R-value as the rest of the attic. (R-value is the insulation's capacity to resist heat flow.)

Attic access types vary, but here are a few tips on how to insulate standard and ladder attic hatches.

Standard Attic Hatches

A standard attic hatch is typically a covered rectangular hole cut into the ceiling. If your hatch is drywall, I recommend replacing it because it is difficult to properly insulate and seal a drywall hatch. They often crumble and crack around the edges, leading to more air leaks.

Ready-made insulated hatches are available online or at home improvement stores, or you can insulate and seal your existing attic hatch. Either way, measure carefully to ensure you create an effective seal.

To improve your existing hatch, replace drywall attic hatches with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood cut to fit. If you have loose-fill insulation in your attic – as opposed to fiberglass batts – install a dam or barrier that extends two inches above the level of insulation to prevent it from spilling into the house when you open the hatch. Use unfaced fiberglass batt insulation or

plywood to hold back the loose fill insulation.

To insulate the hatch, use rigid foam insulation cut slightly smaller than the plywood attic hatch. Use screws and fender washers to secure the first layer of rigid foam to the hatch. Add layers of rigid foam by taping the edges together one at a time using foil tape. Always wear gloves when using foil tape to prevent cuts. Keep layering the rigid foam until you reach the desired R-value.

Remember to seal any gaps between the drywall and trim, using caulk for smaller gaps and foam sealant for larger ones. Finish the job by applying adhesive weatherstripping around the hatch perimeter. Install the weatherstripping on the hatch itself or on the trim supporting the hatch.

Ladder Attic Hatches

For attic hatches with dropdown ladders, you'll follow the same instructions: Install a dam, air seal and insulate. Be sure to account for the space of the folding ladder.

To insulate, build a box to sit in the attic around the hatch. I suggest using wood for the sides tall enough to accommodate the folded ladder. The top of the box will be rigid foam you can remove to get into the attic. Cut the first piece of foam to fit inside the box and the next layer to fit on top of the box. Keep layering until you reach the desired R-value.

To get a good air seal, you may need to remove the existing trim to seal the gap between the drywall and hatch frame. Add weatherstripping to the hatch or the underside of the frame to form a tight seal when closed.

There are several commercially available options for insulating ladder hatches. Remember to check the product's R-value and measure carefully.

If purchasing the required materials to seal and insulate your attic hatch is not in your budget, I recommend weatherstripping the hatch perimeter. While it won't provide the same level of insulation, it's a simple, low-cost option for blocking air drafts.



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Brad Schardin

A Man of Faith, Family, Fast Cars and Community

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Four decades ago, Brad Schardin entered the rural electric cooperative world as the Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc. general manager. His success as a leader is something he credits to having a strong supporting cast. Without the help from others working within the various co-ops over the years, he'd be lost.

Those very same people nominated Schardin to be inducted into the South Dakota Co-op Hall of Fame. Schardin was one of the four inductees honored at this year's award ceremony, which was held Aug. 7 in Sioux Falls.

The award is one of the highest honors bestowed on those who have worked to enhance the cooperative idea, its broader acceptance, or the substantial advancement of cooperatives in South Dakota.

Schardin grew up in De Smet and was beginning his teenage years when his father died, leaving him and his mother on their own. That's when Ed and Bill Wilkinson took Schardin under their wing.

"Those guys really taught me a lot," Schardin recalled.

To this day, he helps out at the Wilkinson Ranch, which is located near Lake Preston.

Schardin also made history as an athlete and was the last Black Hills State University Yellow Jacket in recent history to earn 12 varsity letters in his career.

He participated in football, basketball and track from 1978 to 1982. Schardin was co-captain in basketball his senior year and holds the BHSU high jump record of 6' 10". Schardin was a member of the football conference champions in 1979 and track conference champions all four years. The track team also won the District 12 Championship in 1979 and 1980. Schardin was also named the first Walter Dickey

Scholar Athlete at BHSU, according to information from Black Hills State University's Hall of Fame page.

Schardin was inducted into BHSU's Hall of Fame in 2000.

His career in the co-op industry began in 1983. In 1990, Schardin moved to Marion to take over Turner-Hutchinson Electric. Seven years later, he was hired as shared manager of Turner-Hutchinson and Lincoln-Union Electric Company in Alcester. The two cooperatives would consolidate in 2000 to form Southeastern Electric. Three years later, a shared management agreement was entered with McCook Electric and the two cooperatives merged in January 2006.

Schardin served six years on the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Cooperative board.

There were difficult times Schardin had to persevere through during his career, specifically when an employee made contact with electricity. Schardin didn't elaborate on the details of the electrocution, but he said his faith kept him going and his commitment to his employees grew even stronger. "That's why having good, meaningful relationships with the employees is so important," Schardin said.

Between his involvement with his local church where he mentors young athletes, Schardin likes to race cars, specifically Mopar, and organizes car shows within his local community.

As if Schardin didn't have enough on his plate, he bought the local bowling alley in Marion about four years ago. The owners were struggling to keep the alley open and Schardin didn't want to see the community take the loss. So he invested his time and money into the business.

"Families in the community shouldn't have to travel all the way to Sioux Falls, spend \$200 to celebrate their child's

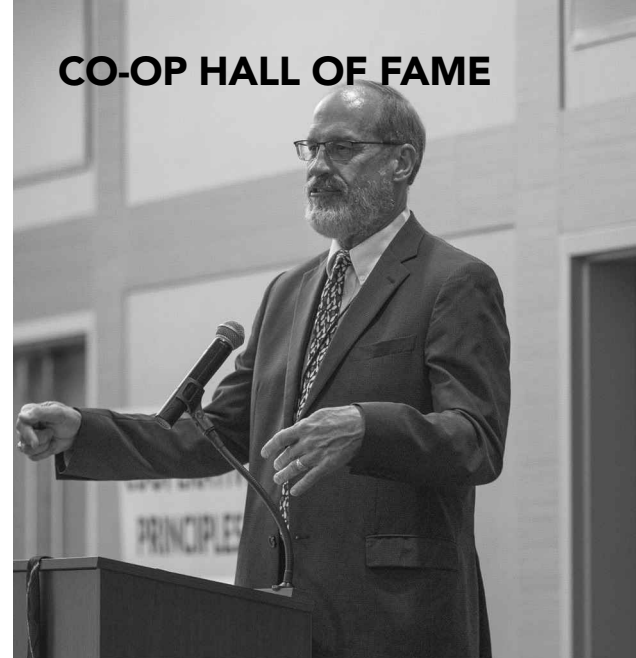
birthday, then drive all the way back to Marion. The bowling alley is a place where people can come have birthday parties or spend time with their family for just a few bucks," Schardin said.

His commitment to community, one of the cooperative principles, is apparent in all aspects of his life.

Chad Kinsley will take over as Southeastern's new general manager. Kinsley graduated from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and has held diverse leadership roles in the manufacturing, medical device, and utility industries. Kinsley previously was the vice president of operations for Black Hills Energy.

Schardin said he believes Kinsley will do a fine job in the role and gave praise to the employees, Southeastern members and the board of directors for their commitment to delivering affordable, reliable energy.

"Brad's main focus is the cooperative member," Schardin's hall of fame biography states. "His greatest concern is how a decision will affect the member at the end of the line, always asking if it will ultimately benefit members with improved reliability and will be worth the cost. Brad holds himself to the highest standards. Having begun his cooperative career at a small co-op, Brad has continued to consider effects on smaller co-ops when collaborating with other distribution cooperative managers, East River, and Basin Electric, and is likely to speak up when he feels it is necessary. Brad lives by the cooperative principle of commitment to community."





FOR THE LOVE OF HUNTING DOGS

Source: Travel South Dakota

A Successful Hunt May Depend on Your Dog

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

With numerous television appearances and A-list clients under his belt, Day County resident and Lake Region Electric Cooperative member Tom Dokken has become one of the premiere hunting dog trainers of our time.

But you won't hear the modest pro brag about himself. Instead, Dokken gives credit to the hard work and the innate capabilities of the dogs themselves.

The 70-year-old Minnesota native has been professionally working with dogs over the last 50 years at his training facility, Dokken Oak Ridge Kennels, Inc. in Northfield, Minnesota.

It's one of the largest gun dog training kennels in the region.

His love for hunting alongside a canine

companion harkens back to his teenage years when he'd tag along to go hunting throughout the country with his friend and his friend's Labrador Retriever, Charlie.

"We were probably 16 years old when we started hunting together. He had a lab and I didn't have one. We hunted with that dog just about every weekend."

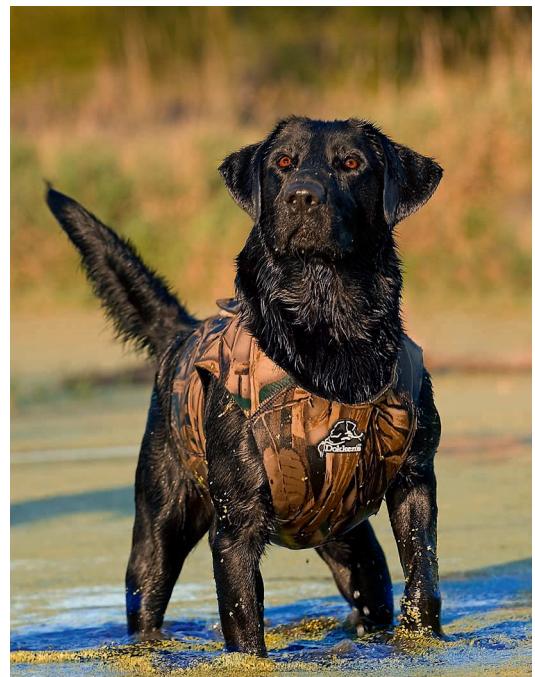
After a few years, Dokken decided it was time to get his own dog.

And to that dog goes all the credit, in Dokken's eyes.

"I started training her then I started running field trials. I did really well, not because of me, but I had a good dog who did

really well on a national level," he recalled.

After that, Dokken was hooked and knew training dogs was what he wanted to do for a living. He's since established



An adult black lab out hunting

himself as one of the top hunting dog trainers in the world, even bolstering a line of dog training products – Dokken Dog Supply – which is carried in sporting good stores across the country.

“That’s just as a result developing products we wanted for training themselves,” Dokken said of his supply company.

Some of the dogs Dokken has trained have hunted under some big names, including President George W. Bush and country music legend Hank Williams, Jr., along with many major professional athletes.

But it takes some prying to get that kind of info out of the humble Dokken, and he’s quick to emphasize that everyone that he does business with is treated the same, no matter what.

“Every customer is important. One person doesn’t get treated different than the other,” Dokken said.

His facility employs four full-time trainers, as well as office staff.

When Dokken isn’t training one of the 350 hunting dogs that come to his Minnesota training facility each year, he’s at home with his wife, Tina, in Day County.

“My wife and I live north of Webster. That’s our connection with the area. I’ve hunted down in the Lily area for years. We’ve had our place here 18 years or better,” Dokken explained.

“My mom’s family homestead is down in the Selby area, so as kids we’d be back on the farm for a good portion of the summer,” he added.

Dokken said his business trains pretty much any of the sporting, pointing and flushing breeds. But in the Upper Midwest, the more popular breed tends to be the Labrador Retriever.

Dokken has a special place in his heart for labs, which he described as a hardy breed able to withstand the punishing winter conditions known to challenge hunters in South Dakota during pheasant season.

And in South Dakota, pheasants are

king, according to Dokken.

“As far as population of pheasant – up in our area the weather sometimes knocks them back a little bit. Last year we had rain in December, which is a little bit of a factor when it comes to pheasant numbers,” Dokken said.

“The further south and west you get, the population changes too. Regardless, South Dakota numbers will always be top in the U.S.”

Hunters who have a dog in their arsenal have a much greater advantage over those who do not. For one, they can flush birds out of thick cover and, unlike the average human, have an absolute blast doing so.

“Without a dog – if you’re a pheasant hunter – you’re not going to have the ability to get the birds up and get them out of higher and denser cover. Finding birds that you’ve shot is going to be a real challenge as well. A dog is a great conservation tool as well,” Dokken said.

From a training standpoint, Dokken advises dog owners to start teaching their hunting partners good habits when they’re really young.

The earlier the training begins, the more success you’re setting the dog up for down the line.



Dokken with two adult labs

“Try to buy the best bloodlines that you can because if you do, in most cases your success rate just gets higher.”

Dokken says it boils down to three things: teaching, repetition and reinforcement. For the human, practicing patience is crucial.

“A majority the time the dog is not in the wrong, it’s that the dog can’t understand what you want,” he said.

The entire job is a dream for Dokken and his team, and one he hopes to continue for decades more to come.

“It’s what we do,” he said. “It’s a labor of love.”



Source: Travel South Dakota

Lacreek Electric Seeking These Members

An electric cooperative operates on an at-cost basis by annually allocating to each member, based upon the member's purchase of electricity, operating revenue remaining at the end of the year; later, as financial condition permits, these allocated amounts – capital credits – are retired. Capital credits represent the most significant source of equity for Lacreek.

Since a cooperative's members are also the people the co-op serves,

capital credits reflect each member's ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative. This differs from dividends investor-owned utilities pay shareholders, who may or may not be customers of the utility. Each year, the Lacreek board of directors makes a decision on whether to retire capital credits based on the financial health of the cooperative. During some years, the co-op may experience high growth in the number of new accounts, or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity, causing the board not to retire capital credits. For this reason, Lacreek's ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative's strength and financial stability. The board alone decides whether to retire capital credits.

Some of the checks issued in 2019 have not been claimed. If you know any of the members listed below and have the ability to contact them, please have them call our office or if you see your name on this list, please contact us at 605-685-6581.

A T & T BOSG	Black Eyes, Sallie Est	Clifford, Maxine Est	Elk Boy, Vestana Est	Good Voice Flute, Gearney	Jacobson, Myron J Est
Adams, Larry	Blacksmith, Sandra	Clifford, Patrick T Est	Elk Looks Back, Emery Est	Grass, Floyd Est	Janis, Christine
Afraid of Bear, Michael Est	Blacksmith, Theresa Est	Coats, George Est	Elk Looks Back, Marceline Est	Grey Fox, Victoria Est	Janis, Isabelle Est
Afraid of Hawk, Martha Est	Blacksmith, Trivian Est	Coats, Robert E Est	Emerick, Marie Est	Grosz, Calvin Est	Janis, Joe L
Albert, James Est	Blare, JD Estate	Collins, Connie Est	Emrick, Patricia A Est	Hahn, Joann Est	Janis, Stella V Est
Aldrich, M Kathryn	Blindman, Collins, Est	Comes, Gina J Est	Engel, David L	Hairy Shirt, Pauline Est	Johnson, Amy
Allen, Martha	Blue Horse, Charlene	Comes Last, Amelia Est	Espinosa, John Est	Hanneman, William Est	Johnston, Jim O Est
Apple, Antoine J Est	Blue Horse, Gerald Est	Conroy, Ben	Farmer, David A Est	Hanson, Stella Est	Jones, Robert
Apple, Dora Estate	Bowman, Ruby Est	Conroy, Cornell L Sr Est	Fast Horse, Rufus Est	Harding, David	Jones, Roberta
Arapahoe, Wilferd	Brave Bird, Cleveland	Cook, Debra	Fawcett, Linetta	Harris, Donald N Est	Jordan, Jacque
Bad Cob, Ione Est	Brave Hawk, Eugene Est	Coomes, Irma Est	Featherman, Delano D Est	Hartley, George	Jumping Eagle, Rebecca Est
Bad Milk, Bruce Est	Brewer, Duane Est	Cornelius, John Est	Ferguson, Laura Est	Has No Horse, Roselyn Est	Jumping Eagle, Tina I
Badlands Ag Spraying	Brings Plenty, Floyd Est	Cottier, Linda S	Ferguson, Leonard Est	Hatchet, Cheryl R Est	Keeler, Christine Est
Bald Eagle Bear, Lorene Est	Brown, David	Cournoyer, Claudia M	Ferguson, Ted Est	Hawk Wing, Virgil Sr Est	Keeler, Norman J
Barrett, Christine	Brown, Fred Sr	Cournoyer, Foster Sr Est	Ferriegel, Jean E Est	Hays, Viola C Est	Keester, Rhoda Est
Bartlett, David	Brown, Pauline Est	Cournoyer, Kimberly	Fetter, James Est	Heath, Mary Est	Kills Crow Indian, Julia Est
Beane, Lou	Brown Bull, Leona Est	Cournoyer, Wayne	Fire Thunder, Ben Est	Heeftle, Jon Est	Kills Enemy, Gerald
Bear Killer, Ralph Sr Est	Brown Eyes, Norman Est	Crazy Bear, Larry	Fire Thunder, Bluch Est	Heitz, Robbie	Kills Enemy, Vivian Est
Bear Runner, Harold Est	Brunsch, Beryl Est	Crossett, Clay	First Body Jesus Christ Church-Norris	Henry, Raymond M Sr Est	Kills In Water, Colleen
Bear Stops, Irma Est	Bryant, Demetria	Crow, Jessie Est	Fool Bull, Ernestine Est	Her Many Horses, Louis Est	Kills In Water, Willard Est
Bearing, Monica Est	Buckman, Wilbur C Est	Crow Good Voice Elk, Eugene W Jr	Foudray, Robert J Est	Herman, Walean Est	Kills Right, Albert Est
Beck, Alverda R Est	Bull Bear, Gwen Est	Cummings, Clarence Est	Fresquez, Shirley Est	Herman, Frances J	Koenig, Harold L Est
Beem, Vida Estate	Bull Bear, Larry J Jr	Curry, Clover Est	Froiland, Eric	Hernandez, Nick Est	Kohle, Kay Estate
Belile, Don Sr	Bullman, Stella Est	Cutt, Mary J Est	Fuerstenau, Gregg	Hesser, Helen Est	Kramp, Kathrine
Bergen, Dorothy Est	Bush, Vincent Est	Daniels, Natalie	Gardner, Don H Est	High Hawk, Elizabeth Est	Kriz, Emmy G
Bettelyoun, Joseph Est	Butler, Mary Est	DeBoer, Carol	Garnier, Will J Est	High Hawk, John A Est	Kunkel, Ron
Bettelyoun, Loretta Est	C W Enterprizes	Deering, Carolyn	Geersen, Neil A Est	High Horse, Marge	Ladeaux, Marion Est
Bettelyoun, Manuel Est	Calico Village Well	Deutscher, Rueben Est	George, Lisa	High Pipe, Jessie M Est	Lakota Wesleyan Mission
Bettelyoun, Terry Est	Cangleska Inc	Dimond, Scott	Ghost Bear, George Est	Hill, Lillian Est	Lamont, Gina Est
Betts, Maxine	Cano, Justin Est	Dithmer Bros	Ghost Bear, Robert Est	Homan, Glen Est	Lamont, Stepheny
Big Crow, Caroline Est	Casey Family Program	Dohse, Kathy	Ghost Bear, Sarah M	Hopkins, Myrnette Est	Landwer, Stace J
Bingham, Ione Est	Chappell, Don Est	Douville, Donald Est	Gibbons, Ivan Est	Horse, Ron	Lang, Ellen Est
Black Bear, Faye Est	Charging Crow, Eleanor Est	Douville, Faith	Gillespie, William Est	Hunter, Carolyn M Est	Larvie, Flora Est
Black Bear, Peter Est	Charging Crow, Eva Est	Dowty, Ernestine Est	Golis, Aleen	Hunter, Paulette Est	Larvie, Gertie Est
Black Bear, Verna Est	Chase, Claudia	Drapeeaux, Brian J Jr	Gomez, Hector C	Ice, Verlean E Est	Larvie, Inez Est
Black Bull, Arnold Est	Chase Alone, Carmen Est	Drechsler, Ellen	Good Crow, Ella Est	Imitates Dog, Jennie Est	Lasalle, Phalena
Black Bull, Harold Est	Chief Bear, Joe Jr Est	Drobny, Norman Est	Good Crow, Lyle Est	Iron Cloud, Eddie Est	Lawrence, Michael A Sr
Black Bull, Mary A Est	Chippis, Charles Est	Dull Knife, Pearl	Good Shot, Jessie Est	Iron Cloud, Patricia Est	Leeper, Helen I Est
Black Elk, Steven	Chippis, Phillip Est	Dupree, Richard	Good Voice Elk, Frank Jr	Iron Shell, Isaac Jr Est	Lehman, Donna M
Black Eyes, Amos M Est	Clifford, David C Sr Est	Eagle Bear, Delphine Est	Good Voice Flute, Colleen Est	Iron Shell, Rita Est	Leui, Dorthy D Est
Black Eyes, Harvey Est	Clifford, Eli Sr Est	Eagle Elk, Diana J		Iron Whiteman, Linda Est	Little Boy, Joe Est
Black Eyes, Jerome H Est	Clifford, Jessie M Est	Elk Boy, Jacqueline Est		Jacobs, Don T	Little Eagle, Stanley Est

Little Hawk, Cecil Sr Est	Miller, Gary	Porcupine, Samuel Est	Sacred Heart Church/ Norris	St. Peter's Episc Church/ Oglala	Wagner, Antoinette K Est
Little Hoop, Peter Jr	Miller, Geraldine L Est	Porter, Terry D	Sacred Heart Church/ Rosebud	Standing Bear, Jay Est	Walking Bull, Lorraine Est
Little Moon, Alice	Miller, Mathew G	Pourier, Justin	Saknikent, Gary Est	Standing Bear, Jim	Walters, Delbert B Est
Little Moon, Victoria Est	Mills, Calvin L Est	Pourier, Lorie Est	Salway, Leon Est	Standing Bear, Pearl Est	Walters, James J
Little Soldier, Phyllis Est	Millsbaugh, John D Est	Price, Jerry	Sanchez, Cy	Standing Crow, Yvonne Est	Wells, Shirley Est
Little Spotted Horse, Sarah Est	Mitchell, Roger Est	Price, Robert Est	Sanchez, June Est	Standing Soldier, Deloris Est	Weslyan Indian Mission
Little Whiteman, Betty Est	Mogan Ranch	Priest, Juanita L	Sargent, Ruth Est	Stands, Arlana L Est	Westover, Margaret Est
Little White Man, Lucy Est	Montileaux, Pauline Est	Pumpkin Seed, Alberta Est	Sasse, Carl W Jr	Stands, Homer, Sr Est	Whidby, Amanda
Loafer, Acey Estate	Moore, Mary Ellen Est	Pumpkin Seed, Bessie Est	Sasse, Velma Est	Stanley, Janelle	Whipple, Harlan J Est
Lone Elk, Belva Est	Morris, Giles	Pumpkin Seed, George Est	Satterfield, Steve	Star, Elliot	Whirlwind, Frederick Est
Lone Elk, Charlotte M Est	Morrison, Clifford Jr Est	QUEST	Scabby Face, Ernest Est	Stellium Corporation	Whirlwind, Vivian Est
Lone Elk, Loretta Estate	Morrison, Gary	Quick Bear, Berlene Est	Schmidt, Margaret M	Stengle, James B	Whirlwind Horse, William Est
Lone Hill, Darcie	Morton, Kenneth D	Quiver, Robert Est	Schneider, Carol	Stephen, Ellen	Whirlwind Horse, Wilma Est
Lone Hill, Sophia M Est	Mousseau, John T Est	Raben, Bernice Est	Schneider-Marshall, Mary Kay	Stewart, Pearl M Est	White, Evelyn Est
Lone Wolf, Rochelle Est	Moves Camp, James Est	Rasmussen, Joann Est	Schultz, Steve	Stone, Gloria J Est	White, Inez Est
Long, Ramona Est	Mueller, Ronald	Rathey, Deborah	Schulz, William	Stoner, Mary Est	White, Lee E
Long Soldier, Mabel Est	Mullins, Molly	Raymond, Karen Est	Schwartz, Steven	Stoner Robert J	White, Tillie E Est
Looking Elk, Barbara Est	Murray, Alvina Est	Red Bird, Patty	Scoresby, Paul H	Street, Parke C	White Calf, Florita Est
Loud Hawk, Russell Est	Neikirk, David E	Red Cloud, Angie Est	Scott, Thurlow Est	Sully, Claudia Est	White Clay Ambulance
Lynn, Eillean Est	Neiss, Tamera A	Red Cloud, Donna M	Scout, Louis Est	Swallow, Elaine P Est	White Dress, Sylvia Est
Lyons, Linda	Nelson, Eden Fred Est	Red Eagle, Margaret Est	Scouts Enemy, Buck	Swallow, Oliver W Est	White Eyes, Juanita Est
Maggard, Bernice Est	Nelson, Frieda H Est	Red Elk, Wilbur Est	Selzler, Tony Est	Swallow, Jefferson Sr	White Face, Helen Est
Malewski, Laura	Nelson, Lillian Est	Red Hail, Katherine Est	Semnole, Rochelle	Swift Bird, Joseph B Est	White Face, Lucille Est
Many Birds, Ann	Neufeld, Katherine H	Red Hair, Cora Est	Severson, Daniel	Swimmer, Emma Est	White Plume, Alexander Jr Est
Marek, Wayne	New Holy, Martha Est	Red Hair, Rose Est	Shangreaux, Pete Est	Tall, Edith Est	White Plume, Roy Est
Marino, Joseph	Nilles, Deann	Red Paint, Ross Est	Sharp, Charles W Est	Tall, Herman Est	Whiting, Dale Est
Marsh, Lucille	Ninas, Rodney L Est	Red Star, Carol Est	Shaving, Irene	Taylor, Brenda	Whiting, Lawrence J Est
Marshall, Clifford Est	Northwest Piping Co	Returns, Kenneth Est	Shellenberger, Lee Est	Ten Fingers, Irma Est	Whiting, Wayne S Est
Marshall, Fred L	Novak, Leonard	Rice, Joe	Shorthorn, Marla Est	Terkildsen, Dahlmond Est	Wichers, May
Marshall, Shirley Est	O'Neill, Jimmie Est	Richard, Alma Est	Shoulders, Cora Est	Thomas, Rudi L	Wiedmann, Terry
Marshall, William Est	O-KOLA Kiciye O-Tipi	Richards, Benjamin D III Est	Shoulders, Irdy Est	Thompson, Helen R	Williams, Lorna
Martin, Adora Est	Oglala Baptist Mission	Richards, Delmar P Sr Est	Sierra, Valentino Est	Thunder Hawk, Elizabeth	Wilson, James J III Est
Martin, Danny C	Oliver, Michael T	Richards, Denzel Est	Sitting Up, Margie Est	Tiede, Paul L	Wilson, James J IV Est
Martin, Nancy R	Olson, Jennifer S	Richards, Leona M	Sleeping Bear, Melvin Est	Tobacco, Archie Est	Witt, Mary A Est
Martinez, Annabelle J	One Feather, Delmar Est	Richardson, Debra	Sleeping Bear, Violet Est	Tobacco, Faith Est	Wittig, Sandra
Martinez, James	Osterbur, Jerrieh	Robertson, Deborah	Slow Bear, Andrew Sr Est	Tobacco, Ida Est	Woepfel, Mary L
Martinez, Julia J Est	Overby, Charles B	Robinson, Terry D	Slow Bear, Annette Est	Todd, Harry V Est	Wooden Knife, Leslie Est
Martinson, Judy	Page, Robert	Robinson, Ann	Slow Bear, Eleanor Est	Tools, Phyllis Est	Wooden Knife, Scott
Maupin, Elizabeth	Palacio, Pansy	Rodriquez, Andy	Slow Bear, Elfreda Est	Treehaven School	Trujillo, Margaret
McCowan, Kathy	Park, Frank D	Rooks, Aloysius R Est	Slow Bear, Margaret Est	Trumbull, William W	Tuttle, Harold F Est
McCrimmon, Marsha	Parkhurst, Carol Est	Rooks, Lorenzo Est	Slow Bear, Mercy Est	Tuttle, Robert	Twiss, Clifford Jr Est
McCue, Steve Est	Pawnee Leggins, Joseph	Rosales, Mable Est	Slow Bear, Steven Est	Twiss, Marie Est	Twiss, Ted Est
McGrady, Tim	Peck, Pamela J	Ross, Beverly	Smith, Joe Est	Two Bulls, Alvina Est	Two Bulls, Lucille Est
Means, Cecil R II	Peneaux, Curtis	Rouillard, Coletius Sr Est	Smith, Mae	Two Bulls, Jack Est	Two Crow, Jack Est
Means, Ruth Est	Peneaux, Earl Est	Rouillard, Darlene	Smith, Maria P	Two Eagle, Dorothy Est	Two Eagle, George C Sr
Means, Veronica Est	Phelps, Lisa	Roupe, Gilbert	Smith, Michael C	Two Two, Elmer	Valandra, Shane
Means, Wesley Est	Phipps, Nancy	Rowland, Clarence Est	Smith, Rena Est	Valandra, David	Vander Wilt, Dina
Medicine, Teresa	Phipps, Nell L Est	Roy, Gerald Jr	Sorensen, Luann	Villarreal, Lisa	Villarreal, Lucette
Menard, Kristine	Pickett, Sheila F Est	Ruff, Corrine J Est	Spann, Curtis D	Villarreal, Ruth Est	
Menzel, Richard P	Pine Ridge Ambulance	Runnels, Gerry Est	Spider, Emerson Sr Est		
Merrival, John C Est	Pine Ridge Christian Academy	Runnels, Nancy L	Spider, Louise		
Mesteth, Rosalyn M Est	Pine Ridge Ministries	Running, Beatrice	Spotted Eagle, Bruce Est		
Mesteth, Roda	Pionk, Deb	Running, Philomine Est	Spotted Elk, Jasper Jr Est		
Metzinger, Lois J Est	Plenty Arrows, Carl Est	Running Horse, Robert Est	Spotted Owl, Barbara Est		
Miles, Harry Est	Plumman, Charlotte Est	Runs Against, Delia Est	Spotted Tail, Arlene		
Miles, Mike Est	Poor Bear, Ladonna Est	Runs Against, Faron A Est	Spotted Tail Wright, Cheryl Est		
Millar, Arnold E Est	Poor Bear, Merle M Est	Ruona, Johanna			
Miller, Floyd Est	Porcupine, Aaron Est	Russ, Gregory			



Touchstone Energy Celebrates 25 Years with Commercial Debut

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is encouraging member electric cooperatives and their member-owners to pop some popcorn, settle in, and join them in celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary on Nov. 29, when they'll debut their

newest line of 2024 commercials.

The historic milestone will commemorate a quarter-century of Touchstone Energy's drive to establish a universal brand – seen on t-shirts, logos, and even soaring hot air balloons – for co-ops nationwide. Select commercials from the lineup, which will feature on the Touchstone Energy website, will highlight the local South

Dakota prairie landscape and local co-op employees with Sioux Valley Energy.

Touchstone Energy Board of Directors President and Sioux Valley CEO Tim McCarthy said he is glad to see South Dakota being represented on a national scope. "We are excited to be celebrating this historic milestone," said McCarthy. "Touchstone Energy continues to be an invaluable resource for co-ops in South Dakota and throughout our nationwide network."

Touchstone Energy's journey began 25 years ago when a group of movers and shakers recognized the need for an outward-facing organization that would connect the image of

co-ops across the nation. Although individually small, cooperatives from all around the nation believed a unified brand would broaden and strengthen their presence. Together, these co-ops owned and operated more distribution lines than any other sector in the electric utility industry and served more than half of the American landmass. On Nov. 26, 1998, 17 founding co-ops established Touchstone Energy, powering through a time of regulatory uncertainty.

“In the late ‘90s, there were some revolutionary things happening in the energy industry,” said Jana Adams, executive director of Touchstone Energy. “The cooperatives really wisely said: as individual entities we are small, but if we come together and create a recognizable brand, we will have a better opportunity to compete in this evolving energy landscape.”

From the start, Touchstone Energy was set on making an impression. By purchasing six iconic Touchstone Energy branded hot air balloons and sponsoring notable events such as the famous NASCAR Talladega 300 race, Touchstone Energy quickly transformed into a nationally recognizable brand.

To date, Touchstone Energy’s membership has grown to nearly 700 co-ops, which now reaches more than 30 million member-owners across 46 states. Along with this remarkable growth, Touchstone Energy has enhanced its services, including advertising, social media management, and web development, among others. Over time, Touchstone Energy’s wide range of services, said Adams, have become a crucial communication resource for their membership.

“Our first national ad was in the early 2000s, and to this day, we run advertisements in every single zip code served by a Touchstone Energy cooperative,” said Adams. “We are

constantly innovating and giving our cooperative members the opportunity to highlight the great work they do and the achievements they have.”

Looking back on the last quarter century, Adams said Touchstone Energy is thrilled to connect to its original roots and celebrate its longstanding service to co-ops across the country.



Touchstone Energy celebrates 25 years while producing new commercials in South Dakota.



“We encourage everybody to join us on Nov. 29 for our 2024 national ad premier and to celebrate the 25 years behind us, but more importantly the many years ahead of us where we continue to work together,” she said.



HOMES OF STEEL

Mike Adolph, left, checks in with an employee during a break from construction on Aug. 22 in Watertown. Photo by Shannon Marvel

REED Fund Helps Finance Summit-Based Manufacturer

Shannon Marvel
shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

On the northwestern edge of Watertown, just east of Jefferson Elementary School, a sea of hard hats, brightly colored safety materials, utility trucks, commercial vans, and lumber piles spans across several blocks.

It's hard to differentiate between the houses under construction as most contractors rarely deviate from the methods they've relied on for years. Especially when framing a house.

But one construction crew's telehandler towers above the rest. The steel trusses and wall panels hoisted into the air are also not typically seen in residential construction, but using steel in lieu of timber is just as effective.

And thanks to financial assistance through the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund, Skyview Construction is able to provide steel

trusses and wall panels to the local home building industry.

Contractors usually use the platform framing method, which allows the use of dimensional lumber pieces instead of the larger, natural wood pieces which are harder to come by in the supply chain.

Lumber used in construction has become more difficult to secure and more expensive.

That's why the owners of Skyview Construction, LLC in Summit decided to manufacture trusses and beams out of steel themselves then use those

products to build homes.

But that required purchasing two very expensive pieces of equipment.

After visiting with American Bank and Trust about ways to finance the new venture, Skyview Construction owners Mike, Jackie, and Gerry Adolph reached out to Dave Eide, the general manager of Codington Clark Electric Cooperative to see if their business qualified for REED funding.

Eide was happy to help.



Gerry Adolph, Mike Adolph, and Jackie Adolph stand in the doorframe of a townhome built with steel members that the family manufactured themselves.

Photo by Shannon Marvel

The REED Fund worked with American Bank and Trust to help secure financing that offered Skyview Construction a loan with more amicable terms.

Codington-Clark Electric provides financing through REED to help business start-ups and expansions, create and retain jobs and assist communities with facilities, services and infrastructure needs.

The Adolphs were able to secure the funds through the REED Fund to purchase the machine that will form the steel members for the rafters, floor trusses, and walls, and the rotating telehandler that will be used to place the components on-site.

That was in January. Within the last month, the Adolphs and their crew of around nine men completed construction of four twin home units using the wall panels and trusses they manufactured right on their own property in Grant County.

Jackie and Mike reflected on their journey into the steel manufacturing and construction industries.

The couple wanted to start a construction business after going through the extensive process of building a group of townhomes and their own home a few years ago.

Mike's mother, Gerry Adolph, is also an owner of Skyview Construction.

The family has been in the seeding and erosion control and real estate investing business together for the last 18 years, and agreed to expand into the housing industry.

They had planned to build with wood, but the soonest the equipment and necessary supplies could be delivered was at least three years down the road. It also would've cost at least \$3 million.

"So how it went down, we were going down the wood side pretty hard. Like we were going to put

in a big fancy factory with robots and everything," Mike said. "And then the equipment cost so much and it would've put us three years out. I didn't want to wait three years. Then someone asked if we had looked into steel. So we looked into the steel and it made sense."

The program the Adolphs use to manufacture the steel wall panels and trusses maps out the design and provides a detailed view of the project.

"It labels each piece and even tells you how many nails or screws to put in each connection and where to put them for that design," Jackie explained.

Their existing employees would also work as laborers for the construction outside of the seeding and soil erosion season.

The software allows the workers to assemble components without any guess work.

"While we have an experienced building supervisor, the guys that are installing it, they really don't have much construction experience. They've never done this. But it's laid out so well by the software," Mike said.

"The biggest thing with steel is they can do this with minimal experience."

The steel parts are manufactured at the Adolphs shop in Grant County.

Once the structure's design has been completed within the software, steel is ran through a machine and manufactured into the proper stud or truss material.

"Our goal right now is to do a whole house in a week or two— print it, assemble the components in the shop, and then send it out to the jobsite and have it up in a couple of days," Jackie said.

"We're hoping when we get to the single-family homes, it's going to be a little bit quicker," Mike added.

Eide noted how the insulation used with steel framework is at a higher rating and uses a Zip system, creating a more energy efficient temperature control system.

"This is just a really cool project and the owners provide the market with a product that no one else had before," Eide said.

To learn more about the REED Fund, go to www.reedfund.coop.



Jackie Adolph points to a label on one of the steel components, which was generated by the design software to ensure the pieces are properly assembled. Photo by Shannon Marvel



Oct. 7-8
Fort Pierre Horse Races
 Stanley County Fairground
 605-223-2178

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.

SEPT 22-23
Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair
 9 a.m.
 Davison County Fairgrounds
 Activity Center
 Mitchell SD
 605-359-2049

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
 Meadow, SD
 605-788-2229

SEPT 23
German Fest
 Webster, SD
 605-380-0588

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
 9 a.m.
 Springfield Community Building
 Springfield, SD

SEPT 24
Annual Bazaar & Fall Fest
 4-7 p.m.
 St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
 Wagner, SD

SEPT 30
Day of Wellness
 10 a.m.
 Sturgis Armory
 Sturgis, SD

SEPT 30
Mission Quilt and Bake Sale
 Zoar Lutheran Church
 Revillo, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

OCT 6-7
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show
 Philip, SD
 605-441-1060

OCT 7
Spirit of Dakota Award
 Huron Event Center
 Huron, SD
 605-352-6073

OCT 12-19
"In Flanders Fields" Art Exhibition & Silent Auction
 Vermillion Public Library
 Vermillion, SD

OCT 14
Oktoberfest
Leo Lonney Polka Band
 6 p.m.
 Menno, SD
 605-660-1839

OCT 19-21
Fall Fundraising Rummage Sale
 Spearfish Senior Center
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-2827

OCT 21
Fall Festival
 11 a.m.
 18473 U.S. HWY 83
 Onida, SD
 605-788-2229

OCT. 28-29
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association
 Ramkota Hotel Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-731-9155

NOV 11
Sisseton Area Merchants & Crafters Holiday Extravaganza
 Sisseton, SD
 605-698-7425

NOV 12
Lutfefisk, Lefse & Meatball
 4-7 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-730-0553

NOV 24
Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Dakota Avenue
 Huron, SD
 605-788-2229

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