



Cooperative Connections

**Veterans
Sought:
America's
Co-ops' Hiring
Program**

Page 8



Find Your Account Number

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find **YOUR account number**, call the office before Nov. 30 and you will receive a \$60 credit on your next month's billing. If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$70 in the next issue. Happy searching!



Holiday Closing

Lacreek Electric will be closed
Nov. 22 and 23 for Thanksgiving.

Why Do Winter Electric Bills Go Up?

It's a good question. Even if you don't use electric heat, you may notice that your bills are higher during the coldest months. Several factors can contribute to those higher bills, including the following:

- Winter brings holidays, which often mean additional cooking and baking and those bright holiday lights, all of which can raise your usage of electricity.
- Shorter days and longer nights mean lights stay on longer both inside and out.
- Most heating systems use electricity for some functions, such as operating the fan and many run almost continuously when it's very cold.
- You may be using space heaters in garages, basements or other unheated spaces.
- That electric blanket or heating pad that feels so cozy on cold nights can cost another dollar or so to operate.
- Clothes dryers are used more often in the winter.
- You may be using engine block heaters on your cars or equipment.
- Electric water pumps and tank heaters for watering livestock are used more often in winter.
- More work is done inside barns, shops and other out buildings during the winter months meaning more energy consumed by lights inside these buildings.



IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

1ST: Check the fuses or breakers in your home or building in which you do not have power.

2ND: Check meter for display and readings. If the meter is blank, you are probably experiencing an outage and need to call our office immediately.

3RD: If your meter has a display, check your breaker below your meter on the yard pole.

4TH: Please contact your neighbor to see if they are experiencing a power outage because it would be helpful to know if other members in the area are also out of power.

5TH: Make sure you have the name the bill is in, the meter number and/or the account number.

6TH: Call Lacreek Electric at 605-685-6581 or if you are calling long distance dial 1-800-655-9324. We now have a 24 hour answering service. First, you will hear an automated message, "Thank you for calling Lacreek Electric. Your call may be recorded or monitored for quality assurance." You will then hear the following menu:

- If you're calling to report an electrical outage, press 1.
- If you have a billing question, press 2.
- If you're calling to report a meter reading, press 3.
- For all other calls, press 0.

Office Hours: 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MDT Open over noon hour.

Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

Board of Directors

Tom Schlack – President
Jerry Sharp – Vice President
Troy Kuxhaus – Secretary
Clarence Allen – Treasurer
Melvin Cummings – Ellis Rae Hicks –
Brent Ireland – Neal Livermont –
Dean O'Neill – Wade Risse – Marion
Schultz – Connie Whirlwind Horse –
Donovon Young Man

Management Staff

Derek Sorley – General Manager
Sherry Bakley – Executive Assistant
Josh Fanning – Member Services
and Procurement Manager
Anna Haynes – Finance and
Administration Manager
Mike Pisha – Operations Manager

Office Personnel

Tracie Hahn – Accountant II
Stacey Robinson – Administration
Assistant and Editor
Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist
Kasi Harris – Benefits Specialist
Terri Gregg – Billing Specialist
Jessica Cook – Billing Specialist
Lisa Jensen –
Member Service Representative
Ashley Turgeon –
Member Service Representative

Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley
Journeyman Linemen:
Dane Claussen – Ryan Pettit – Aaron
Risse – Lonny Lesmeister
Apprentice Linemen:
Aarin Ainsworth – Jordon Bakley –
Tyler Brown – Alex Christensen –
Garrett Metzinger – Brad Hahn
Glenn Smith – Maintenance Man
Cody Larson – Warehouse Man

**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



Stop in and see us for cookies
and your 2019 Calendar!

Cookie Days

Lacreek employees will be in the surrounding communities during the month of December serving cookies and giving away our 2019 calendars. We look forward to visiting with our members during the Christmas holiday season.

MEMBER APPRECIATION COOKIE DAYS 2018

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Lakota Federal Credit Union, Kyle – Dec. 3
- OSHA Office, Pine Ridge – Dec. 4
- Wanblee Mart – Dec. 4
- Oglala Service Center – Dec. 5
- Common Cents – Dec. 6
- Kary's Store – Dec. 6
- Dec. 17-21 we will have Member Appreciation in the front office.

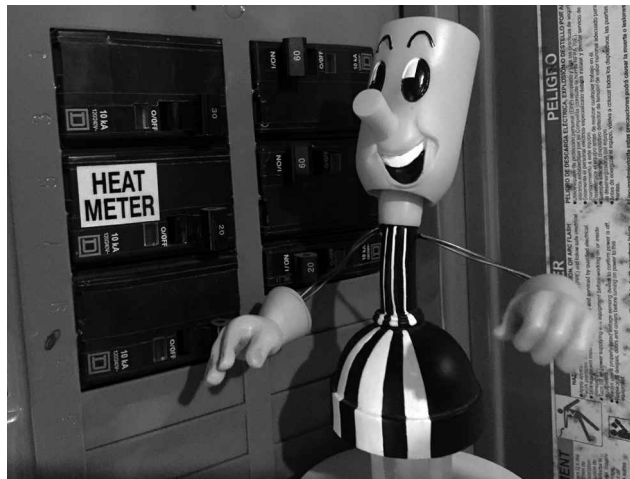
Heat Meters Give Credit

Just a reminder, if you have a heat meter, please read it each month starting in October through April. 1222200210

These readings are used to determine the amount of credit you will receive on any kilowatt hours used for heating.

Electric heat homes that have separately metered electric heat receive a credit of 2 cents on every kilowatt hour used for heating.

If you are heating more than 75 percent of your home with electric heat and do not have a separate heat meter, please contact our office to see if you can start saving today.



Halloween Safety Tips

Are your Halloween traditions a trick or a treat? The following helpful tips will let you know if real danger is lurking in your Halloween décor.

Trick:

- Costumes can catch fire! Avoid costumes with billowing or long trailing fabric. If you are making your own costumes, choose fire-resistant materials.
- Never use electrical products outdoors that are marked "for indoor use." You could get shocked – or worse!
- Avoid using dried flowers, corn stalks, hay or crepe paper in your festive decorations. These items are highly flammable and could even be ignited by heat from a nearby light bulb or heater.
- Never block exits or escape routes.

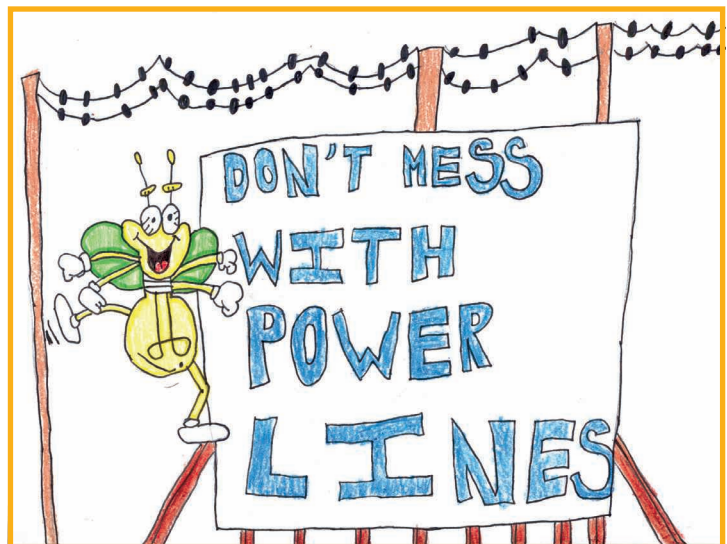
Treat:

- Inspect all electrical decorations and extension cords before use. Discard any that have cracked, frayed or exposed wiring.
- Outdoor electrical decorations are increasingly popular. To reduce your risk of shocks, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) should be used wherever water may come into contact with electrical products. Replace traditional receptacles with GFCIs or use a portable one.
- Use only electrical lights and decorations that are approved for safe use by a nationally tested laboratory such as UL, Intertek (ETL) or CSA.
- Always turn off electrical decorations and extinguish any open flames before leaving home or going to bed.
- Use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you must use a real candle, use extreme caution as it can start a fire or burn someone.
- Curiosity leads to many things, not all of them safe. Protect children by installing tamper resistant receptacles in your home. This permanent, cost-effective solution prevents injuries and deaths caused by the insertion of foreign objects into outlets.

Source: esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't mess with power lines."

Jackson Baumgarn, 8 years old

Jackson is the son of Casey and Anne Baumgarn, Webster, S.D.

They are members of Lake Region Electric Association, Webster.

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.

Crock Pot Creations

3-Bean Crockpot Casserole

1/2 lb. bacon	1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 lb. hamburger	1/2 cup ketchup
1 cup chopped onions	1 can pork and beans
1/2 tsp. salt	1 can lima beans
2 T. vinegar	1 can kidney beans
1 T. prepared mustard	

Brown bacon until crispy. Brown hamburger with the onions. Combine all ingredients in a crock pot. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours.

Mary Ellen Luikens, Tea, SD

Triple Chocolate Surprise

1 (18 oz.) chocolate cake mix	3/4 cup oil
8 oz. sour cream	4 eggs
1 pkg. instant chocolate pudding	1 cup water
	1 cup chocolate chips

Combine all ingredients. Spray crock pot with no stick cooking spray. Pour mixture into pot. Cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours.

Betty Klingbile, Wall, SD

Juanita's Crockpot Peanut Clusters

1 (16 oz.) jar salted peanuts	4 oz. German chocolate bar, broken into pieces
1 (16 oz.) jar unsalted peanuts	3 lbs. almond bark, broken into pieces
1 (12 oz.) bag semi-sweet chocolate chips	

Layer ingredients in crock pot in order given. Cook on LOW for 3 hours. DO NOT OPEN. After 3 hours, stir and cook an additional 5 minutes. Turn off crock pot and let cool at least 15 minutes. Stir and spoon heaping spoonfuls onto waxed or parchment paper. Let sit until set.

Marcia Broone, Rapid City, SD

Slow Cooker Chicken Rice Curry

4 bone-in chicken breasts, halves (about 2 lbs.), skin removed	1 medium Golden Delicious apple, unpeeled, cored and coarsely chopped
1 T. McCormick® Curry Powder	1/4 cup raisins
1 pkg. McCormick® Chicken Gravy Mix	1/4 cup McCormick® Onions, Chopped
1 (14.5 oz.) can chicken broth	2 McCormick® Bay Leaves, broken in half
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch pieces	1/2 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder
	1 cup instant rice

Rinse chicken and pat dry. Cut each breast half into 2 pieces. Sprinkle chicken with curry powder. Gradually stir gravy mix into broth in slow cooker until well blended. Add seasoned chicken and remaining ingredients except rice; stir well. Cover. Cook 8 hours on LOW or 4 hours on HIGH. Gently stir in rice. Cover. Cook 15 to 20 minutes longer on HIGH or until rice is tender. Remove bay leaves before serving. Makes 6 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 296, Total Fat 4g, Cholesterol 78mg, Sodium 600mg, Protein 35g, Carbohydrates 30g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Crockpot French Dip Sandwiches

3 lb. roast, beef or pork	1 (10 oz.) can beef broth
1 (10 oz.) can French onion soup	1 (12 oz.) can beer
	Swiss cheese

Cook above ingredients in crock pot on LOW for 7 hours. Shred meat with fork. Let set 30 minutes. Fill buns (I use steak buns). Top with Swiss cheese. Use the juice in crock pot for dipping, if desired.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Please send your favorite holiday, soup or brunch 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Efficient Holiday Lighting



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

**Innovative
decorating
ideas can make
your display
more dynamic
and interesting,
which might
help you
get by with
fewer lights.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Dear Pat: My husband and I love decorating our home with holiday lights every year, but I feel guilty about the higher energy bill we get in January. How can we light up the holidays without wasting electricity? – Jessica

Dear Jessica: It's a shame that holiday lighting can lead to higher energy bills, but the good news is, there are strategies that can save you money without dampening your holiday spirit!

One of the best ways to save energy is LED lights, which use about 80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. The amount of money you can save depends on a lot of factors, including your electric rate and how many hours your holiday lights are turned on.

We've seen a number of savings estimates in energy costs. One report said that replacing five strings of traditional incandescent outdoor lights with LED bulbs could lower your bill from about \$14 to 22 cents. Another report said that replacing incandescent lights on a typical indoor tree with LED bulbs could lower your monthly cost from \$15 to \$2.

The reason incandescent bulbs are so inefficient is that at least 90 percent of their energy is converted into heat, not light. LEDs, by contrast, convert virtually all their energy to light. This means up to 20 strings of LED lights can be linked together, whereas incandescent sets are typically limited to between three and five strings in a chain. The efficiency of LED lights also makes them safer because they generate so much less heat.

Aside from their energy efficiency, LED lights can last longer – around 200,000 hours or more, which is about 25 times longer than incandescent lights. The bulb is more durable because it is made of an epoxy instead of glass.

But not all LEDs are created equal. An LED that is not designed properly can flicker, change color or draw power even when it's turned off. To avoid these problems, purchase ENERGY STAR®-rated LEDs. To qualify for the ENERGY STAR rating, LED products must use 75 percent less energy than incandescent lighting and pass a number of additional tests.

The drawback of switching over to LED lights is the upfront cost. Incandescent bulbs can be purchased for 19 to 50 cents each, while a replacement LED will likely cost \$1 or more. But one estimate we ran across showed the estimated cost of buying and operating standard C-9 lights for 10 seasons is \$122 for incandescent bulbs and \$18 for LEDs. Plus, the LED lighting is more likely to last the full 10 seasons, meaning less trips to the store!

There are other ways to cut energy expenses. You can use decorative solar light sets, which store energy during the day and release light during the night. Timers are also a good idea because they can reduce energy use, especially if you don't always remember to turn the lights off before bedtime.

Innovative decorating ideas can make your display more dynamic and interesting, which might help you get by with fewer lights. This could reduce energy costs and still keep your holidays bright:

- Color-changing LED lights can cycle through the colors in sequence and can even be set to change colors in response to music.
- A laser light projector sits on the ground or other flat surface and projects multi-colored patterns onto the wall of your house. Most include a timer function and may come with a remote control and additional features. They come in a range of prices from \$20 up to \$150 or more.
- You can recreate the excitement of a laser light show (using LED lights) by installing a smart lighting system that creates pre-set or programmable light shows through your smart phone or other smart devices.
- For maximum effect with the smallest amount of energy use, try distributing the lighting across a broader space. In the spaces between light, add reflective ornaments and decorations to increase the effect of the lights and add interest.

I hope these tips help raise your holiday spirits without giving you the budget blues in January!

Basin Electric Employee Testifies at EPA hearing

Tyler Hamman, Basin Electric senior legislative representative, presented comments at the Environmental Protection Agency's public hearing on the proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule (ACE) Oct. 1 in Chicago, Ill.



Tyler Hamman
Basin Electric
Power Cooperative
Senior Legislative
Representative

"Basin Electric supports the proposed ACE rule," Hamman said during the hearing. "It is consistent with the plain reading of the Clean Air Act that demonstrates that Congress envisioned a 'standard of performance' that applies to specific sources based on adequately demonstrated technology. In addition, the proposed rule recognizes the Clean Air Act's cooperative federalism and gives states the authority to develop a standard of performance consistent with EPA's guidance, yet recognizing the unique characteristics of electric generating units within a state."

Hamman was one of approximately 200 people that testified during the hearing. A representative of Basin Electric member Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association also testified.

While this was the only hearing that will be held concerning the proposed ACE rule, the deadline to submit written comments is Oct. 31.

Basin Electric will submit in-depth written comments in addition to Hamman's oral testimony.



Basin Electric's generation dispatch center is now located at the control room at Deer Creek Station.

S.D. Power Plant Adds Dispatch Role

A move to base the gas-peaking generation dispatch center at the Deer Creek Station, located in Brookings County near Elkton, S.D., was a result of the recent realigning of business needs at Basin Electric.

With 24-hour coverage available, Distributed Generation Manager Kevin Tschosik said the move made sense and he had the staff available who were happy to cover the need.

Tschosik said within a week's time, Basin Electric Information Services and Telecommunications and Deer Creek employees worked to set up the dispatch center, which is now located within the Deer Creek control room.

Joe Fiedler, North Dakota/Wyoming/Montana operations superintendent, spent a week at Deer Creek training the operation technicians tasked with dispatching responsibilities. "The technicians worked hard to prepare for their new roles," Tschosik said. "It was a lot of training in a short period of time, including working with Basin Electric's real-time traders, who call the station for self-commitments, based on market prices."

On Sept. 3, operation technicians at Deer Creek took on responsibility of recognizing the daily generation awards and ensuring the engines are online without missing the window of opportunity for selling power.

Generation is now dispatched from Deer Creek for power generated at Culbertson Station, Deer Creek Station, Groton Generation Station, Lonesome Creek Station, Pioneer Generation Station, Spirit Mound Station, Wyoming Distributed Generation, PrairieWinds 1 and Crow Lake Wind. These facilities produce a combined 1,512 megawatts of electricity that can be readily dispatched.

During normal business hours, each facility's technician run the engines, observing real-time operating conditions. "The technicians can react to equipment problems and quickly make corrections or adjustments for better efficiency and availability to meet market requirements," Tschosik said.

The change requires that there is always one person in the control room monitoring dispatch needs. After normal business hours, equipment startup and shutdown is solely controlled from the Deer Creek Station.

"Communication is key," Tschosik said. "It is important to properly communicate at the beginning and end of each day as the controls get passed from one site to another. We can now track closure and online times closely and with optimum control, as well as better protect our assets as we continue to run the stations to meet environmental compliance."

Tschosik said he believes the move allows the distributed generation employees a chance to better understand what is happening within the fleet on a day-to-day basis, spreading the knowledge base within the department. "There will be some challenges going forward, but we have great employees who have taken ownership in this business change," he said.



Military veterans meet with electric co-op leaders at a Veterans in Energy event. Veterans in Energy is a professional development group that was formed through NRECA's Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country initiative to help veterans transition into the energy workforce after they've been hired at electric cooperatives.

An Electric Co-op Mission to **HIRE VETERANS**

Paul Wesslund

NRECA

Electric cooperatives are working to make even better use of a powerful source of energy – military veterans.

“Veterans, active military and their spouses are some of our greatest assets as employees,” says Michelle Rostom, director of workforce development for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). “They are mission-driven. When we think about providing safe, reliable and affordable power, we know our veterans – whatever their job – are focused on making sure we are operating safely and that we are creating a reliable electric network for co-op members.”

Rostom spends a lot of her time getting more veterans hired by electric co-ops in her role as program manager for NRECA's initiative called “Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country.”

The program launched in January 2016 “to honor and employ veterans,” said Rostom.

Since then, the program has been forming a coalition of co-ops and other groups to focus attention on the benefits of hiring veterans and to actually hire more veterans.

In announcing the program, Jim Matheson, CEO of NRECA,



An NRECA Commemorative Coin Recognizes veterans hired through the Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country program.
On the Cover: A statue of South Dakota Gov. Leslie Jensen, who was governor in 1937-1939, stands in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building in Pierre. Jensen served in both WWI and WWII.

said, “Our military veterans deserve our unending gratitude for their service to our country, on Veterans Day and every day. Veterans possess many of the qualities sought by electric co-ops, including a deep commitment to service and an uncompromising work ethic. More than 200,000 service members transition out of the military to civilian life each year and we’d like to tap into that talent to help fill the thousands of co-op jobs opening up.”

Hiring veterans is certainly a decent thing to do, but Rostom lists why it makes business sense as well.

“They understand their role and they go out and execute it,” she says. “They bring leadership skills, they work in teams and look out for each other in that kind of ‘brotherhood.’ They work in all types of weather. They are disciplined. They show up on time. Those are professional competencies that not every job applicant brings with them, but you find them in the military.”

The initiative grew out of broader strategic planning by NRECA. That plan envisioned that 25,000 jobs at electric co-ops would need to be filled in the next few years.

“We are racing to make sure we have the right talent applying for our jobs,” says Rostom.

Part of that work has been developing and distributing information to bring attention and advice aimed at connecting veterans with co-op jobs. A series of three checklists published by the program helps guide electric co-ops in setting up a veteran hiring effort. The checklists show co-ops how to recognize veterans, contact groups in their communities for broad-based effectiveness and bring attention to the skills and abilities veterans offer.

Some of those skills and abilities might not be immediately obvious, says Rostom, like what they learn by having to change their job and their residence every few years.

“They are trained to learn,” she says. “They change jobs every couple of years, so they learn to adapt.”

Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country also started a group called “Veterans in Energy,” a professional organization to go

beyond hiring, by helping veterans transition into the energy workforce.

Military spouses make up another often-overlooked resource, says Rostom.

“You’ll get resumés for a spouse and they will have big gaps in their experience,” she says. “They’ve put their career path

Our military veterans deserve our unending gratitude for their service to our country, on Veterans Day and every day.

on hold to follow their spouse around the world with the military, so don’t just discount that resumé.”

Rostom says, “They’ve had to move their family probably 10 times over the past 15 years, so they have to plan, they have to find housing, find schools, medical care – and they’re doing that without their spouse there, who is deployed somewhere. Often, they are volunteering, so they are community-focused, which is what we look for in the co-ops. In working with

groups of volunteers, they are managing people, they are probably managing a budget, they are securing vendors for events. There are a lot of skill sets that they bring.”

Rostom continues, “Many are working on a degree while they are moving around the world. They are a phenomenal group of untapped talent we should consider. When you see that resumé, it doesn’t say military spouse, but I think it should. It totally changes the game – it shows the potential employer why their career has been put on hold. They are smart, educated, they are project managers, they work with diverse groups of people. They’re an untapped group of talent that we don’t always think about.”

Through Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country, electric co-ops are better positioned to increase their veteran workforce and support local veteran communities. To learn more about the program, visit www.servevets.coop.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation’s landscape.



August Board Meeting

Also present were General Manager Derek Sorley, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Member Services & Procurement Manager Josh Fanning, Finance & Administration Manager Anna Haynes, Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley and Administration Assistant Stacey Robinson.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as mailed.

There were no additions to the agenda.

The Operating Report for June and the List of Disbursements and Investments for July were presented by Office Manager Anna Haynes and reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the check audit committee's review of the list of July checks and disbursements. The September Check Audit Committee will be (Troy "chairman", Tom and Jerry).

Anna presented the July Analysis of Investments. The investments were reviewed by the board.

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

Anna reported she met with Tom Jones with RUS who performed our Civil Rights Review; that Doc Vault is a hit with the office; reviewed the 2019 Benefit Cost; that retirement and Security decreased by -0.18 percent, that we passed our security scan last week; and the Rushmore IT department tests all of the Rushmore co-ops periodically with email penetration testing to ensure employees are paying attention.

Mike reported on work in progress: (transition from 7.2kv to 14.4 kv from the new Wanblee Substation to the Kyle North Step Transformer – Maintenance in the Oglala area due to the past storms – WAPA replacing the 115kv breakers at the Martin WAPA Substation – Cable Communication Services will begin construction of burying the new Wanblee underground exit feeder to Long Valley and Norris – Ram Utility Pole Testing currently working in our Nebraska service territory and has completed 77 miles with 35 miles left and tested 1,020 poles with 49 rejects -

Asplundh Tree Service will begin clearing ROW North of Porcupine, Manderson, Cuny Table and Allen in September – Construction meeting with Engineers on the new Wolf Creek School – continuing locates in the town of Martin for Golden West); that the Honda four-wheeler was purchased and picked up at Bauerkempers in Chadron; Jesse is working on the side by side quotes; Altec presented the new truck via a web conference; that the Northwest Lineman College apprentice program has been implemented for upcoming lineman and has started to develop a more organized apprenticeship committee.

In addition, Mike gave a presentation on the 2018 July Storm jobs with Donovan giving appreciation thanking the line crews for responding to the storms very quickly and restoring electricity timely.

Mike also reported the equipment committee met before the board meeting and approved the purchase of a 2018 Honda Pioneer 1000 three seat w/tracks.

The safety report was presented by Mike and Anna.

Josh reported that he did not buy a calf at fair; on irrigation load control; that the new heating and AC unit for the back office has been ordered and should be installed by the end of the month; about meter issues related to the storms in the Oglala area; on the TWACS system support issues; the Line Patrol Charity Ride is Sept. 7; that the summer help has left; the material for the Wanblee East jobs arrived, have been kitted and ready to send out and will keep moving forward with cleaning and organizing to make the warehouse more efficient. He also presented the new billboard picture for the board to review.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the new billboard advertisement.

Derek reported on an article about Basin Electric in the *Bismarck Tribune* and Basin Electric's Reduction in Force Program; asked the board for approval to attend the NRECA Cooperative University-655.1 Cooperative Finance and Accounting

for the Non-Accountant Course Oct. 31 in Nashville, Tenn.; that he attended the following meetings: the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Utility Commission meeting, the Bennett County Incident Management Exercise and the SDREA Communications and Member Relations Committee Meeting; went over the SDREA Training and Education overview for 2019; about legal issues; about FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding and asked the board to change the current Lacreek logo because feels it is a safety issue with a hand holding a lightning bolt and said will have an employee contest to see who comes up with the best design. The board said to bring new ideas to the table and they will decide if they want to change the logo.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve sending General Manager Derek Sorley to the NRECA Cooperative University-655.1 Cooperative Finance and Accounting for the Non-Accountant Course in Nashville, Tenn.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the revisions to Employee Policy #1 and Policy #40.

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 7 with no one planning to attend at this time. This will be brought up again at the September board meeting. The Midwest Annual Meeting will be held in Denver, Colo., with no one planning to attend at this time.

The SDAC Annual Co-op Month Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on Sept. 11 at The Lodge in Deadwood with Tom and Marion planning to attend.

Discussion was held on the Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce with a motion being made, seconded and carried to pay the annual membership.

The Staff and Administration Assistant were excused and the board and General Manager went into executive session from 6:20 p.m. – 6:24 p.m.

Next Board Meeting – Sept. 13, 2018 at 4 p.m.



Are You On Facebook?

Check out @lacreekelectric

As a reminder Lacreek Electric has a Facebook Page. Please find us on Facebook and like/follow our page to be notified of outages, electricity tips and other important information.

While we love to hear from you on Facebook, remember to CALL IN any outage reports; do not send a Facebook message or make a post about the outage. The page is not monitored around the clock.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.



Source:
U.S. Department of Energy

Official Notice of Publication

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

1. Publication Title:	Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections	
2. Publication No.: 018-912	3. Filing Date Oct. 1, 2018	4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
5. No of Issues Published Annually:	12	
6. Annual Subscription Price:	\$6 Non-Member \$12	
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication:	Lacreek Electric, PO Box 220, 121 N. Harold St., Martin, SD 57551-0200	
8. Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher:	Lacreek Electric, PO Box 220, 121 N. Harold St., Martin, SD 57551-0200	
9. Complete mailing address of publisher, editor & managing editor:		
Publisher:	Lacreek Electric, PO Box 220, 121 N. Harold St., Martin, SD 57551-0200	
Editor:	Josh Fanning, PO Box 220, 121 N. Harold St., Martin, SD 57551-0200	
Editor:	Stacey L. Robinson, PO Box 220, 121 N. Harold St., Martin, SD 57551-0200	
Managing Editor:	Josh Fanning, PO Box 220, 121 N. Harold St., Martin, SD 57551-0200	
10. Owner:	Lacreek Electric, PO Box 220, 121 N. Harold St., Martin, SD 57551-0200	
11. Known bondholders/mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1% or more of Total Amount of Bonds. Mortgages or Other Securities:	Rural Utilities Services, USDA, S. Bldg. 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1566	
12. Tax Status: Purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt Status for federal income tax purposes	Has Not Changed during preceding 12 months.	
13. Publication Title:	Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections	
14. Issue date of circulation Below:	Oct. 1, 2018	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulations:		
A. Total number of copies (net press run)	Ave. no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Single issue nearest to filing date
B. Paid and/or requested circulation		
1. Paid requested outside country mail subscriptions	0	0
2. Paid In-Country Subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales through Dealers, Carriers, Street Vendors & Counter Sales	0	0
4. Other classes mailed through the USPS	0	0
C. Total paid and/or requested circulation	3850	3735
D. Free distribution by mail	0	0
E. Free distribution outside the mail	5	5
F. Total free distribution	3855	3740
G. Total distribution	3855	3740
H. Copies not distributed	0	0
I. Total	3855	3740
Percent paid and/or requested circulation	100%	100%
16. Total circulation includes electronic copies. Report circulation on PS Form 3526-X worksheet.		

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation as of October 1, 2018



Campaign buttons advocating a no vote on Amendment W are pictured.

ELECTRIC CO-OPS JOIN FIGHT AGAINST W

Brenda Kleinjan

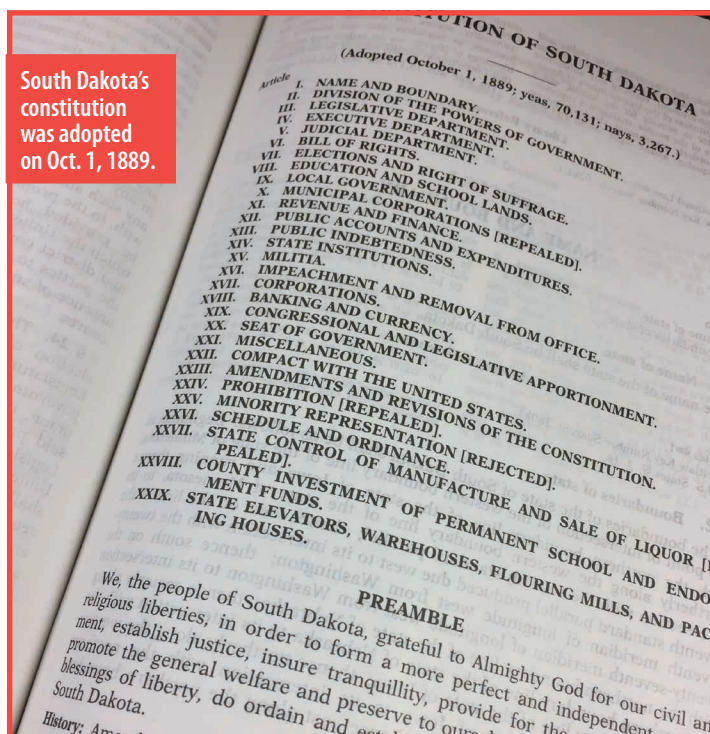
brenda.kleinjan@sdrea.coop

South Dakota's electric cooperatives, through their statewide association, the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, have joined with more than 30 other South Dakota-based groups and individuals opposing an amendment to the South Dakota constitution.

Voters in November will decide the fate of Amendment W, which is titled "An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution changing campaign finance and lobbying laws, creating a government accountability board, and changing certain initiative and referendum provisions." A "yes" vote would change South Dakota's constitution. A "no" vote leaves the constitution as is.

"Amendment W creates an entirely new article of the South Dakota Constitution and declares that the new article is superior to all other sections of the constitution. It creates a non-elected tribunal called "The State Government Accountability Board," forces the

South Dakota's
constitution
was adopted
on Oct. 1, 1889.



legislature and Governor to fund it and allows that board to go to court for more money,” said David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Owen is the head of a coalition of South Dakota groups that have formed the “W is Wrong” statewide Ballot Question Committee opposing the amendment.

“No other state has anything like Amendment W,” Owen said. “Only two other states even mention an ethics board in their constitution and neither of them overrides the legislative process for funding and oversight.”

The SDREA board – comprised of local South Dakotans elected by their neighbors to serve on their local electric cooperative board and then elected to serve on the statewide board – has historically been engaged on advocating on behalf of their member-owners. SDREA was formed in 1942 to help cooperatives bring electricity to the state and continues to work to give voice to the 120,000 co-op members in the state. In Minnesota, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association does similar work on behalf of Minnesota electric cooperatives. The SDREA board consists of members of multiple political ideologies and parties.

“In reaching their conclusion to oppose Amendment W, the SDREA board walked through the proposed language thoughtfully and considered its potential ramifications carefully,” said Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. “With any proposed initiated measure or constitutional amendment this complex, a thoughtful, reasoned consideration of all possible effects is the only responsible approach to take and I applaud them for their effort.”

To see the amendment in its entirety, along with other measures voters will be deciding on in November, go to <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/general-information/2018-ballot-questions.aspx>

Who Backs W?

Promoters of Amendment W claim to be a South Dakota group calling themselves “Represent South Dakota.” Financial reports from 2017 and from this year’s pre-primary report show that the effort has been funded from a Massachusetts organization known as “Represent US.”

For calendar year 2017, the Amendment W campaign reported to have raised \$369,588; and spent \$362,348 – leaving a balance of \$7,240

2017 notable contributions were:

- Represent US – Florence, MA – \$121,000
- End Citizens United Non-Federal – \$15,000 (in-kind)
- Donated by Represent US – \$47,238

Plus a supplemental report that is 191 pages of individual contributions – many multiple \$1, \$3, \$5 listings – totaling \$233,588 and not one from South Dakota. The last eight donations were responsible for 50 percent of the total. This report sets the stage of a deceptive claim that there are thousands of supporters of Amendment W who gave small contributions.

Right before the primary election the Amendment W campaign reported they had raised an additional \$26,681 and spent \$33,084 – with a new balance of \$837.40.

Why is W Wrong?

- Amendment W creates an entirely new Article of the South Dakota Constitution and declares that the new article is superior to all others sections of the constitution and all other provisions of law.
- The Amendment bluntly states that **“if there are any conflicts with any other provisions of the constitution and the new article, this article shall control.”** Amendment W gives the new article control over the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the constitution. To further secure this power the amendment uses the phrase **“notwithstanding any other provision of the constitution”** four times including a specific reference to Article II – which states **“The powers of the government of the state are divided into three distinct departments, the legislative, executive and judicial; and the powers and duties of each are prescribed by this Constitution.”**
- Amendment W creates an inquisition style board called “The State Government Accountability Board” and gives it unprecedented powers including taking anonymous complaints about campaign violations and a long list of other powers including (but not limited to): **(I) Investigate any allegation of bribery, theft, or embezzlement of public funds, or any violation of this Article, ethics rule, or state law related to government ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, government contracts, or corruption by any elected or appointed official, judge, or employee of any state or local government and to issue subpoenas related to the investigation;**
- This inquisitorial board will have authority over all “non-federal elected officials” starting with the Governor and ending with members of road districts and irrigation districts and political precinct chairmen and chairwomen. The reach of the new board includes every public employee working for state, county and local governments including townships.
- The members of the board are required to disclose the conflicts of interest and are expected to recuse themselves from participating in any investigation that deals with those conflicts unless **“the board member’s vote is necessary to resolve the matter”**...meaning that a member of the board with a conflict of interest will only vote when it matters most.
- The Amendment uses the constitution to appropriate and annual budget for the new board of \$389,000 (increasing with inflation) which is in direct conflict with the other provisions of the Constitution that require that appropriations be in the annual budget or a separate spending bill and passed with a 2/3rds majority of both the Senate and House of Representatives. The new board is also empowered to intervene in any civil lawsuit. **“The board may intervene as a matter of right in any civil action involving any government entity, agency, or instrumentality alleged to be in violation of any mandate or prohibition under this Article and to and in any civil action relating to the board’s powers or the sufficiency of resources provided for the board’s implementation and operation.”**

Source: <http://www.wiswrong.com/amendment-w.html>

Lend Your Voice to Rural America

In 2016, rural America played a big part in our national elections – 500,000 MORE rural voters went to the polls than in 2012. This is an incredible story, as many in small towns and communities across our country went to the polls to ensure their voices were heard and elected officials took notice. But, elections matter EVERY year.

2018 will be no different and electric cooperatives have the opportunity to play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter most to us. This year, we must build on the momentum we started in 2016, to join with 42 million members of electric cooperatives around the country and remind our elected officials that rural issues matter.

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit energy providers that are owned by the members they serve. They provide coverage for 88 percent of our nation's counties. They are a foundation in their communities and their members can make a difference in lending their voices to issues like rural infrastructure and broadband and maintaining access to affordable, reliable electricity.

To ensure that all electric co-op members do continue the

drumbeat that started in 2016, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) will continue the successful Co-ops Vote program. This is a non-partisan initiative that remains quite simple at its core: to ensure that members are registered to vote and they go to the polls for every election and to ensure rural issues remain part of the national discussion.

By participating in the Co-ops Vote program in 2018, co-op members continue to send a resounding message that all candidates – at all levels – will need to put rural America's concerns front and center in order to earn our vote. We proved in 2016 that with millions of electric co-op members speaking out with one voice, we can have a major impact in making our top issues part of the national conversation.

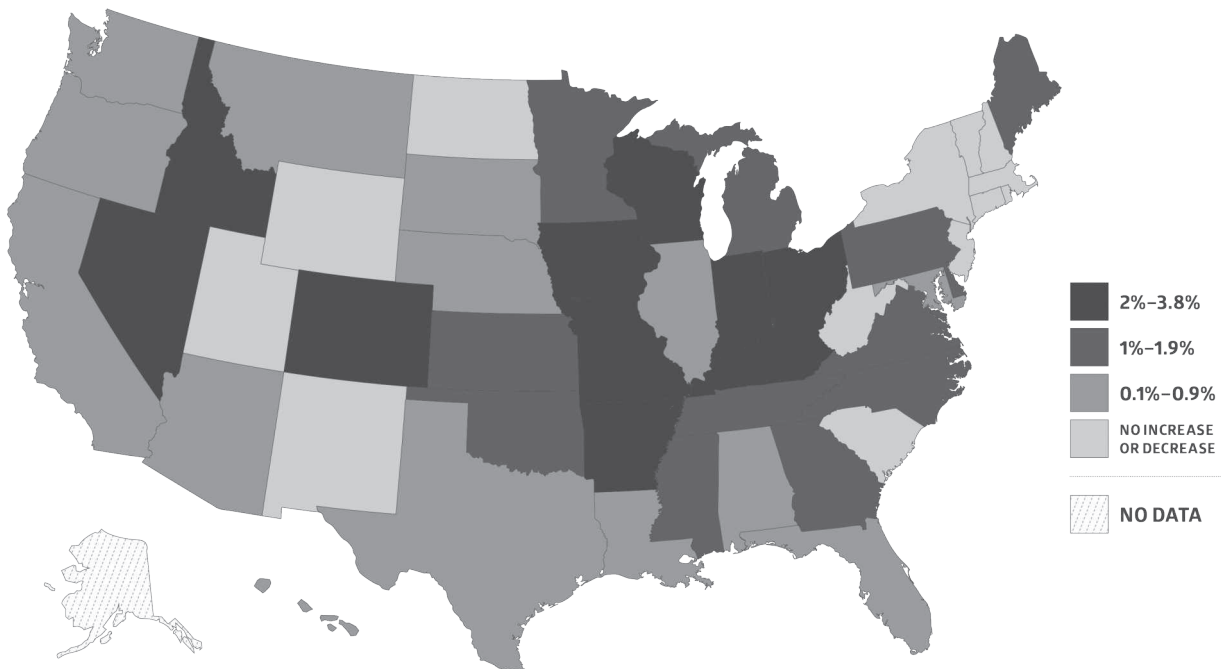
Everyone, regardless of their political beliefs, are encouraged to join America's electric cooperatives in this national effort. Let's continue to stand up for the priorities of the rural electric co-op community – it's more important now than ever. Learn more at www.vote.coop.

CO-OPS VOTE 2016 RURAL TURNOUT



RURAL VOTE vs. URBAN VOTE

This data demonstrates where rural counties had a higher voter percentage turnout in 2016 than their urban and suburban counterparts.



CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
VOTE.COOP



America's Electric Cooperatives understand what's important to our homes and our communities, and we understand that registering to vote and voting in every

election is vital to protecting our way of life. So is building relationships with elected officials, so they understand the unique issues we face.

Co-ops Vote is designed to boost voter turnout, develop relationships with candidates and elected officials, and ensure that issues that matter in rural America are heard everywhere, from local councils all the way up to the U.S. Capitol.

Co-ops Vote provides the tools to help build those relationships and educate co-op employees, directors and consumer members prior to hitting the polls for every election.

Please join us, and make sure our elected leaders know that we expect them to represent all the people electric cooperatives serve. Learn more at vote.coop.

Follow **CO-OPS VOTE** on social media and stay updated



@CoopsVote

WHAT IS CO-OPS VOTE?

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan campaign focused on enhancing the political strength of electric cooperatives through relationship building and voter engagement. The main goal of the campaign is to boost voter turnout in cooperative areas, making sure that our members exercise one of their most basic rights - the right to vote. Working in collaboration with states and local co-ops, this effort will educate and engage candidates and voters on important issues like:

- Expanding broadband coverage throughout rural America.
- Ensuring continued access to reliable electricity.
- Promoting the work of co-ops within the communities they serve.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- ✓ **833** distribution and **62** G&T cooperatives, a total of **905** co-op members.
- ✓ Serve a total of **42 million** people in **47 states**.
- ✓ Generate 5% of the total electricity in the United States.
- ✓ Own and maintain **2.6 million miles** or **42%** of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering **56%** of the U.S. landmass.
- ✓ Serve **19 million**, businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in **88% of US counties**.



WHY IS THE CO-OPS VOTE PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

- We must elect public officials who identify with America's Electric Cooperatives and will vote to support the issues important to 42 million electric cooperative members across the nation.
- Electric cooperatives are a trusted resource in the communities we serve. Voters want to hear from community leaders (like electric co-ops) about important issues.

For more information on **Co-ops Vote** please visit vote.coop or cooperative.com/coopsvote.

October 20

SD State High School Boys and Girls Cross Country Meet, Yankton Trail Park, Sioux Falls, SD

October 20-21

South Dakota State and National Corn Husking Contest, State is on the 20th and National on the 21st, 9 a.m., Flandreau, SD

October 26-27

Harvest Halloween, Yankton, SD, info@harvesthalloween.com

October 26-27

Deadweird, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

October 26-28

ZooBoo, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

October 26-28

Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

October 27

Scare in the Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

October 27

ZOO BOO, Watertown, SD, 605-882-6269

October 27-28

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Davison County 4-H Grounds, Mitchell, SD, 605-630-2199

November 1-3

South Dakota Local Foods Conference, Brookings, SD, Contact 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

November 8-10

Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

October 20-January 6:
Pheasant Hunting Season,
Statewide, Pierre, SD,
605-223-7660

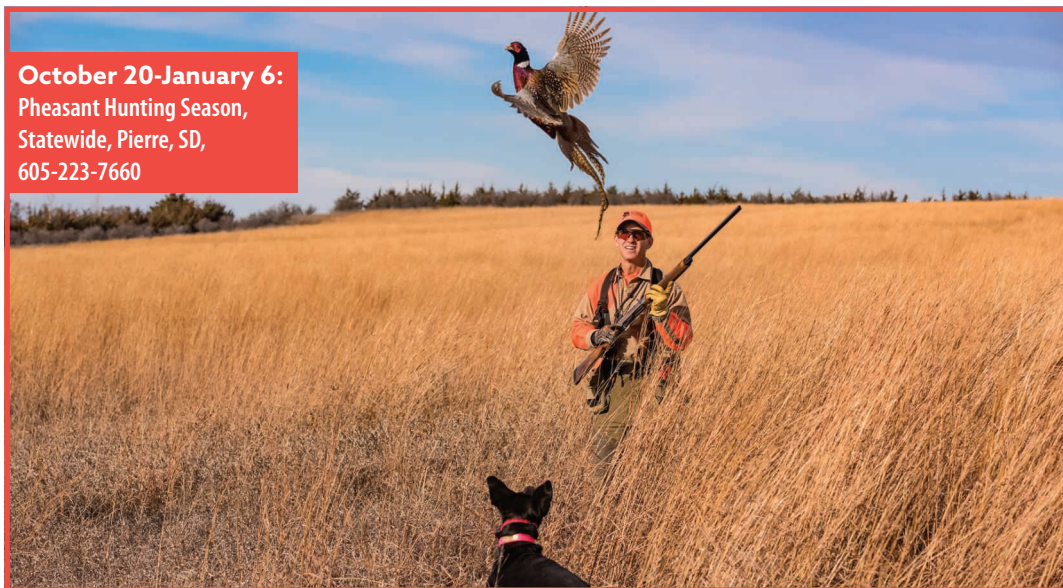


Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

November 9

Hairball, Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

November 10

Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters 21st Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 10

Mountain West Beer Fest, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-6161

November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

November 16-17

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

November 17-18

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, Aberdeen, SD, artscouncil@nvc.net

November 20-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

November 23-24, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

November 29-30

Festival of Trees, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 1

Christmas Stroll and Holidazzle Parade, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

December 1-2

Living Christmas Tree, Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-6349

Dec. 1, 7-8, 13-15, 20-21

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

December 8

Community Christmas Musicale, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2161

December 8

Frontier Christmas, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

December 8-9

Black Hills Cowboy Christmas, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 9

REO Speedwagon, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

December 14

A Green Dolphin Jazzy Christmas Concert, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

December 15-March 31

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

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.