



### Lacreek Electric Association, Inc.

## 2019 Annual Report



Josh Fanning

General Manager josh@lacreek.com



Clarence Allen

LEA Board President

# Find Your Account #

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before Oct. 5, 2020, and you will receive a \$40 credit on your next month's billing.

If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$50 in the next issue. We would like to welcome our members to Lacreek Electric's 72nd annual meeting. As always, our goal at Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., is to serve our members as best we can in today's environmental/technology driven world, and to be able to provide our members with safe, affordable and reliable energy.

We feel strongly that our responsibility to the membership is to continually improve our community's energy infrastructure and implement new technologies as we strive to maximize the efficiency of our operation.

Through the planning and foresight of your board of directors and management, a tremendous amount of hard work from your employees and the support of the members, Lacreek showed operating margins of \$583,248, non-operating margins of \$470,871 and G&T margins of \$350,989. In 2019, we paid out \$31,688 in cooperative capital credits, \$307,748 in G&T capital credits, and \$112,093 in estates. In April, we mailed capital credit checks in the amount of \$753,122 for the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and 2000, and we allocated the 2019 Coop Capital Credits in the amount of \$583,248 and the G&T Capital Credits in the amount of \$350,989. We continue to work hard to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity through long-term investments and sound business practices.

The 2019 construction season included crews completing the Wanblee East circuit project in December of last year. The scope of this project which, in addition to installing 27 miles of underground, included reinsulating over 100 miles of single-phase power line and installing overload protection equipment, reactors and switches. Another addition to this project was 5.5 miles of 3-phase underground from Wanblee to the Long Pine Substation and reinsulating of the taps.

Work for the Oglala Lakota County Schools at Wolf Creek started with the addition of a New Bus Barn; followed by renovation of the Elementary and Junior High and last but not least, an extraordinary new High School.

Other significant projects for OST include a Fine Arts Center and Business Incubator facility and a Victims Help Service Center both near Kyle. OST Water Construction added service Vaults in Oglala and Sharps Corner, Oglala Lakota College rebuilt their Satellite facility in Kyle and Little Wound School added a Concession Building to its sports complex.

Three new cell tower sites were added in the area; two in Bennett County and one south of Merriman in Nebraska. Upgrades were done at the Allen, Vetal and Niobrara Substations with more modernization work to take place at Merriman and Norris Subs in the near future.

Thanks again to all the Lacreek employees for their hard work and the membership for their continued patience and support.

The board, management and employees are dedicated to work each day to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your homes, farms and businesses. Thank you for your support.

### Lacreek Electric

### Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

#### **Board of Directors**

Clarence Allen - President

Wade Risse - Vice President

Brent Ireland - Secretary

Troy Kuxhaus - Treasurer

Ćlifford Lafferty - Scott Larson

Neal Livermont - Tom Schlack

Marion Schultz - Jerry Sharp

Connie Whirlwind Horse

Donovon Young Man - Cole Lange

### **Management Staff**

Josh Fanning -

General Manager

Sherry Bakley -

Work Order and Billing Manager

Anna Haynes -

Finance and Benefits Manager

Mike Pisha - Operations Manager

Stacey Robinson - Member Service Representative Manager and Editor

#### Office Personnel

Tracie Hahn- Accountant II

Amy Pisha - Right of Way Specialist

Kasi Harris - Benefits Specialist

Terri Gregg - Billing Specialist

Terri Gregg Dilling 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 -

Jordon Bakley - Garrett Metzinger

Apprentice Linemen:

Tyler Brown - Alex Christensen -

Brad Hahn - Trace Scott

Journeyman Electrician: Roy Guptill

Warehouse Man: Cody Larson

Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

### This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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### Reprint of

### **Official Notice**

of Lacreek Electric Association's 72nd Annual Meeting Friday, September 25, 2020

### Bennett County High School Auditorium, Martin, S.D.

Dear Member,

Please plan to attend the 72nd annual meeting of members of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020 at 1 p.m. at the Bennett County High School Auditorium in Martin. There will be no meal or prizes at this meeting. Due to COVID-19, we ask that you stay six feet away from others and face masks are optional. If you have been exposed to or may have the virus, please stay home.

#### The afternoon's events will include:

Noon to 1 p.m. – Member Registration at Bennett County High School Auditorium

1 p.m. - The business meeting begins

During the meeting, those in attendance will vote on three amendments to the bylaws. The proposed amendments are enclosed on the following pages.

In addition, four directors will be elected.

■ Candidates for Zone 5 – Jackson County – Jerry Sharp and Floyd Wilcox Jr.

Running unopposed are:

- Zone 1 City of Martin Clarence Allen, incumbent
- Zone 6 Todd and Mellette Counties Clifford Lafferty, incumbent
- Zone 9 West Oglala Lakota County Cole Lange, incumbent

Enclosed you will find your registration card. Please bring your registration card with you to the meeting. Capital credit checks were mailed in April, so we will not be giving them out at the meeting.

Respectively yours, Brent Ireland, Secretary

### 72nd Annual Meeting

### **PROGRAM**

September 25, 2020

### Agenda

Adjournment

Call to Order1 p	.m. President Clarence Allen
Voting will cease in five minutes	
Invocation	Wade Risse
Washington, D.C., Youth Tour 2019	
Determination of Quorum	
Voting has ceased	
Tallying of votes	
Reports	
Secretary	Brent Ireland
<ul> <li>Proof of Mailing of Notice of Meeting</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Minutes of Previous Meeting</li> </ul>	
■ Treasurer's Report	Trov Kuxhaus
Manager's Report	
Bylaw Voting	President Clarence Allen
Report of Election	
Old Business	
New Business	
INCW DUSINGSS	

Registration Begins.....noon

## Use Safety as Your Guide When Planting Trees

If the trees in your yard have grown so tall that they touch overhead power lines, they can cause all kinds of trouble. Branches that sway in the wind and rain can snap an electric line, sending a live wire to the ground, where it can electrocute anyone who touches it.

Plus, power lines that are broken by fallen trees will cause you and your neighbors to lose electricity and require a costly trip from your electric cooperative.

That's why any tree that poses a danger—even an old or favorite tree—could be slated for removal by your electric cooperative.

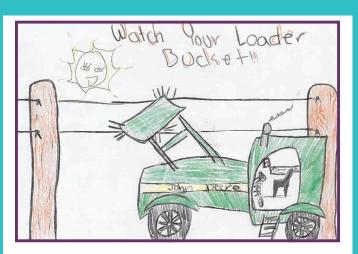
You can prevent problems on the front end by planting smart.

### Here are a few tips:

- Do some research and learn all you can about the particular type of tree you want to plant. Learn how tall it will grow when it matures and how wide the full span of its mature branches will become. Use those dimensions to determine how far away from an existing power line you should plant it. Some trees are safe only when they grow 30 feet or more away from a line.
- If the landscape design you like requires you to plant trees in close proximity to electric lines, choose a low-growing variety that will never be tall enough to pose a hazard.
- Before digging any holes to plant trees, call 811, the state's "call before you dig" service. If you don't call and hit underground utility lines, you could be liable for damages.
- Avoid planting in the right-of-way on the edge of your yard or personal property. Your local electric cooperative and other utility companies must maintain that space and could wind up trimming trees out of the way of power lines, possibly leaving the tree looking lopsided.
- Don't plant shrubs too close to your home's outdoor air conditioning unit. AC units require breathing room and should never be crowded by shrubbery or debris.
- If your yard is already home to trees that are close to power lines, keep the trees trimmed so they don't touch any overhead wires. Hire a professional tree trimmer with the proper tools and training to provide this service for you. Don't risk doing it yourself.



### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Watch Your Loader Bucket!"

### Adalin Homola, 11 years old

Adalin Homola is the daughter of Joe and Sonja Homola from Lake Nordin. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

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 Florentine**

16 oz. penne pasta 1 zucchini, cut in thin strips

2 cans mushrooms, drained 1 red pepper, thin cut

1 onion, chopped 1/8 cup butter

1 cup tomatoes, chopped 1/4 cup flour

1 cup skim milk 1 cup chicken broth

1/2 tsp. nutmeg 1/2 tsp. pepper

1 pkg. frozen spinach, 1/4 cup Parmesan

thawed, drained

Prepare pasta, cooking 7 minutes. Drain. Spoon into greased 9x13 baking dish. Cook and stir zucchini, peppers, mushrooms, and onions for 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in tomatoes. Spoon mixture over pasta and gently mix. Whisk flour with drippings in skillet. Whisk in milk. Add broth, nutmeg and pepper. Cook over medium heat and stir until mixture comes to boil and thickens. Add spinach and cheese. Pour sauce over casserole. Cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes.

Glen and Linda Erickson, Chester, SD

### One Pan Chicken Alfredo

3 tablespoons olive oil

1/4 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 c. low sodium chicken broth

1 c. heavy cream or half and

1/2 lb. penne pasta, or any bite-sized shape pasta, uncooked

2 c. freshly shredded real parmesan cheese

Salt and pepper

Flat leaf parsley for garnish

Cut chicken breasts into half-inch and 1-inch pieces. Season with salt/pepper. Brown chicken in olive oil over medium heat. It will finish cooking as it simmers. Add minced garlic and saute for 1 minute. Add broth, cream or half and half and uncooked pasta and stir. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce to a simmer. Keep pan covered while simmering. Simmer for 15-20 minutes or until pasta is tender. Remove from heat, stir in shredded parmesan cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

Judy Mendel, Doland, SD

### Pizza Hot Dish

2 lb. hamburger - brown, sprinkle with onion and garlic salt

18-oz, can tomato sauce

1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

1/2 cup water

1 10-oz. can pizza sauce

1 tsp. oregano

Simmer above ingredients 20 minutes. Add 1-1/2 cup grated American cheese (Velveeta) and 8-oz. package of wide noodles, cooked. Put 1/2 of sauce in 9x13 cake pan. Top with noodles. Add rest of sauce. Top with mozzarella cheese and sprinkle generously

with parmesan cheese. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees.

### Shrimp Scampi

Shirley Miller, Winfred, SD

8 ounces pasta linguine

2 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

4 garlic cloves, minced

1/2 cup dry white wine or seafood broth

3/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

1 dash crushed red pepper flakes

1-1/2 pounds large or extralarge Aqua Star shrimp, shelled

1/3 cup parsley, chopped

1/2 lemon, juice only

Cook pasta according to package directions. In large skillet, melt butter and oil. Add garlic and saute until fragrant. Add wine or broth, salt, red pepper flakes and black pepper. Bring to simmer and reduce by half. Add shrimp and saute until shrimp turn pink and opaque, approximately 2-4 minutes depending on size. Stir in parsley, lemon juice and cooked pasta. Provided by www.aquastar.com.

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

## 71st Annual Meeting of Members

April 25, 2019

The 71st Annual Meeting of the Members of Lacreek Electric Association, Incorporated, was held at the Bennett County High School Auditorium the evening of April 25, 2019, beginning at 7 p.m. Member Service Representative Manager Stacey Robinson drew for the Early Bird prize and employee videos were shown. Interim General Manager and Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning asked for the members to rise for the National Anthem which Cameron Good played on his trumpet. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Schlack.

President Schlack called on Director Wade Risse who asked for a moment of silence for War Veterans, former board member Ellis Rae Hicks and then he gave the invocation.

Director Wade Risse along with Board President Tom Schlack presented a Clock Plaque to Scott Hicks on behalf of his mother (Dorothy) and wife to the late past board member Ellis Rae Hicks.

President Schlack reported the determination of a quorum. He also introduced the Board of Directors and said that the

following zones are up for election this year. Zone 1 City of Martin, Scott Larson – Zone 3 West Bennett County, Troy Kuxhaus (incumbent) – Zone 4 East Oglala Lakota County, Connie Whirlwind Horse (incumbent) – Zone 5 Jackson County, Neal Livermont (incumbent) - Zone 8 At Large, Wade Risse (incumbent).

President Schlack called on Secretary Kuxhaus who read the Proof of Mailing of Notice of the Annual Meeting.

Secretary Kuxhaus asked if we could dispense with the reading of the minutes from the April 26, 2018, Annual Meeting and referred to the minutes printed in the program. The members agreed, and upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the 2018 minutes were approved.

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

Treasurer Allen gave an overview of the financial statement and stated that the actual full financial report is printed in the program. Treasurer Allen asked for a motion and second from the members to

approve the treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Treasurer Allen called on Interim General Manager and Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning to give his report. Josh introduced the following guests: Vic Simmons, General Manager of Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Todd Eliason, Asst. General Manager of Rushmore Electric; Tim Grablander, General Manager of Cherry-Todd Electric; Bo Westover, Member Services Advisor of Cherry-Todd Electric; Tony Rogers of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Utilities Office; Robert Schaub, Lacreek's Attorney. He also introduced past director Roy Ireland and retired employee Larry Heath.

Interim General Manager and Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning welcomed the membership to the meeting and explained the board appointed him at the Interim General Manager in February, due to the prior Manager leaving. He advised that he has maintained business as usual for the co-op and continues to also serve as Member Services and Procurement Manager during this transition. Updated the membership on the growth of Lacreek and in the past five years, Lacreek has seen major updates to the system. The upgrades proved beneficial when experiencing outages which has in some cases eliminated or shorted outages for our members. Further, load control for irrigations and water heaters has been beneficial and still continues to be cost effective in maintaining a lower power bill to Lacreek. Several projects were completed in 2018 including: Energizing the new 115kv Wanblee Tap and Substation, which was updated to increase the reliability in the Wanblee and surrounding areas which proved beneficial with minimal outages during the "Ulmer" storm in February 2019; added a 27-mile high capacity underground feeder system to replace the aging overhead transmission line that feeds from Wanblee to Norris which will be completed by the end of 2019; and a new large power member grain elevator was established West of town



Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors: Back row: Clifford Lafferty, Tom Schlack, Marion Schultz, Clarence Allen, Troy Kuxhaus, Brent Ireland, Jerry Sharp. Front Row: Donovan Young Man, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Neal Livermont, Scott Larson and Wade Risse.

### **Elected by You to Serve You**

Clarence Allen , President	Zone 1 2017-2020	Jerry Sharp	Zone 5 2017-2020
Wade Risse, Vice President	Zone 8 2019-2022	Neal Livermont	Zone 5 2019-2022
Troy Kuxhaus, Treasurer	Zone 3 2019-2022	Clifford Lafferty	Zone 6 2019-2020
Brent Ireland, Secretary	Zone 2 2018-2021	Tom Schlack	Zone 7 2018-2021
Scott Larson	Zone 1 2019-2022	Cole Lange	Zone 9 2020
Marion Schultz	Zone 4 2018-2021	Donovan Young Man	Zone 9 2018-2021
Connie Whirlwind Horse	Zone 4 2019-2022		







Operations Personnel: Back row: Brad Hahn, Ryan Pettit, Jordon Bakley, Roy Guptill, Aaron Risse, Lonny Lesmeister, Alex Christensen, Trace Scott and Jesse Byerley. Front row: Dane Claussen, Tyler Brown, Justin Smokov, Cody Larson and Garrett Metzinger.

tit, Jordon Bakley, Roy Guptill, Aaron Risse, Lonny erley. Front row: Dane Claussen, Tyler Brown, Justin

membership that all board candidates ran

Pettit. Grace is the

which will be an asset to the Ag community. Golden West kept the crews busy for several months doing locates for the new fiber optics that was installed for the city of Martin. Summer thunderstorms/high winds/hail/tornados hit hard in our western territory resulting in damage to not only our equipment but to our member's homes. The line crew worked hard to replace broken meters, security lights and poles in a timely manner but more importantly we felt for our member's devastation to their homes during these horrific storms. Ram Utilities out of Moorhead, Minn., was brought in to do pole testing in our southern territory and they will be back to continue pole testing in 2019. Asplundh Tree Service worked in the Porcupine and Manderson area clearing trees from our power lines and will continue in 2019. Lacreek continues to do day-to-day work maintaining the lines to provide safe reliable power. He ended by telling the membership he will continue to work hard for Lacreek. 1072004201

Interim General Manager and Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning introduced the management staff and employees.

Additional employee videos were shown.

President Schlack called upon Robert Schaub, Lacreek's Attorney advising the

membership that all board candidates ran unopposed and would serve a three-year term.

President Schlack announced the 2019 winner of the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour is Weston Ireland, son of Brent and Tauna Ireland. Last year's winner was Gage Jager. Gage is the son of Mike and Jessica Jager. A video was shown which gave a video overview of his 2018 trip.

Treasurer Allen announced that the Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Lacreek Electric scholarship winner was Cameron Good. Cameron is the son of James and Jennifer Good. The Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and Lacreek Electric scholarship winner was Jessica Begeman. Jessica is the daughter of James and Jenny Begeman. The two Lacreek Electric scholarship winners are Erica Bakley and Tee Allen. Erica is the daughter of Mike and Sherry Bakley and Tee is the son of Cody and Stacy Allen. President Schlack presented the winners with a certificate. The second year 2018 scholarship winner was Shane Boomer. Shane is the son of Scott and

President Schlack announced that each year Lacreek Electric sponsors a South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion and this year's winners are Grace Jager and Paige



### Lacreek Electric Association

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Pettit. Grace is the daughter of Mike and Jessica Jager and Paige is the daughter of Ryan and Tiffany Pettit.

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

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

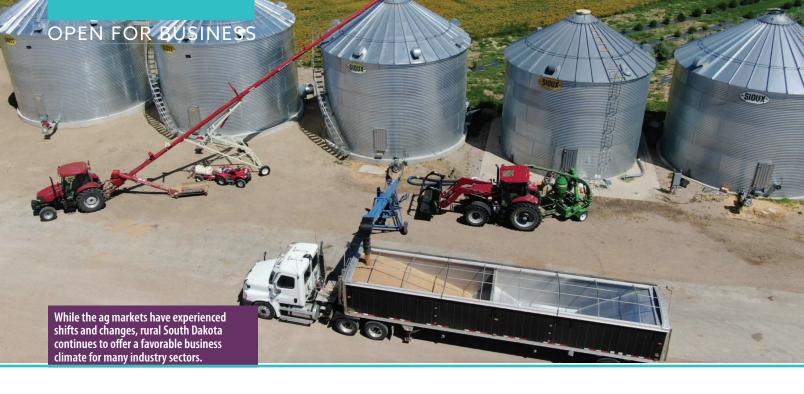
President Schlack called for any new business. There was none.

President Schlack thanked Todd Eliason with Rushmore for the power point presentation, Stuart Livermont for the sound system and Summer Bustin for the meal.

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

The Lacreek employees handed out prizes won by the members present at the meeting and the \$300 grand prize cash winner was Mike Jager.

APPROVED: President Secretary



## S.D. IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

### REED Fund supports business growth in rural areas

**Billy Gibson** 

editor@sdrea.coop

The old adage about making hay while the sun is shining is not lost on the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

During the summer months, the department launched an aggressive regional advertising campaign called "South Dakota Means Business," aimed at encouraging companies from surrounding states to relocate to a more business-friendly environment.

The timing of this marketing strategy was intended to take advantage of the favorable national publicity the state has received for its response to COVID-19 and also to lure disaffected businesses weary of increasingly onerous and burdensome regulatory policies in other states.

The promotional initiative was based on a long list of advantages that make it easier in South Dakota for companies to maximize positive margins and plan for future growth.

The campaign featured Gov. Kristi Noem emphasizing the fact that South Dakota has been ranked best in the nation in several categories: lowest business costs; most accessible financing; two-year college graduation rates; lowest regulatory restrictions; lowest state tax revenue volatility; and more.

"We hear over and over from business owners in other states that increased government regulations are making it difficult to earn a profit and plan for growth," said Commissioner Steve Westra. "We want to get the word out that it doesn't have to be this way."

"As out-of-state businesses become more frustrated with



overreach by their state governments, they're turning to South Dakota," said Gov. Noem. "The number of new businesses interested in moving to South Dakota has increased dramatically. We're ready to show these businesses what South Dakota can do for them."

While Gov. Noem pushes to attract more businesses to South Dakota, the state's rural electric cooperatives continue to be engaged in efforts to spark community development. Twenty of the state's electric cooperatives collaborate with five western-Minnesota co-ops to support local business growth through the Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund. The non-profit corporation provides financing in all or parts of roughly 70 counties in the two states.

The REED Fund was created in 1997 to boost business growth in small communities and has issued nearly 400 loans totaling more

than \$102 million. That financial support has resulted in more than 9,000 jobs.

While the fund is used by rural electric cooperatives to boost economic activity in their service areas, it is not restricted to co-ops. Many loans have gone to retail entities, manufacturing facilities, agriculture processing and marketing and support services. The fund has also been used to support rural health care, education, recreation, arts, public safety, community infrastructure, housing and office space.

The fund is supported by state and federal government entities, including the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, and also private groups such as Dakota Resources, Basin Electric Cooperative and banking institutions.

The REED Fund had a record year in 2019, with \$12.8 million in new loans. REED and Avera Health also signed a new workforce housing development financing partnership as Avera committed to a \$2 million investment in the fund. This investment, along with an additional \$1 million pledge from SDN Communications and another \$1 million from First Bank & Trust, will expand efforts to finance workforce housing.

Two loans issued in August went to Lesterville Fire and Rescue from Bon Homme Yankton Electric, and to 605 Sires, LLC, from Southeastern Electric.

Bon Homme Electric Manager Stephanie Horst said the money would go toward the purchase of new air packs and a new building addition for the local volunteer fire department.

"A big part of our guiding principles as locally-owned, locally-controlled electric cooperatives is to do whatever we can to improve the quality of life in our service areas and to expand the range of economic opportunities available to our members and our communities," Horst said. "It's very gratifying for us to know we're making a positive impact."

She noted that more than 80 percent of the REED Fund's lending is established in communities of fewer than 4,000 people and 98 percent of REED-financed projects have local ownership.

At Southeastern Electric, General Manager Brad Schardin said 605 Sires, LLC, used its financing to expand its family-owned, full-service bull collection and donor facility. The company opened in 2017 and delivers its products to customers both domestically and internationally.

According to Schardin, "Delivering electrical power that is safe, affordable, reliable and accessible is a tall order in itself. But our commitment goes beyond providing electricity. We also have an obligation to enhance and improve the communities we serve. The REED Fund is an excellent resource to help us fulfill that commitment."

For more information on the REED Fund, visit www. reedfund.coop or call 605-256-8015.

### **Future of Energy Storage**

Energy storage technology is extremely versatile - it's small enough to fit in your phone, or large enough to power your entire home.

Many people are familiar with small-scale batteries for handheld devices, but utility-scale batteries take energy storage to a whole new level. The ability to store energy helps to ensure that energy demand meets supply at any given time, making electricity available when you need it.

The most widespread form of energy storage in the U.S. is through pumped hydropower, a form of mechanical energy storage. Pumped hydropower has been used for several decades now, and currently makes up about 97 percent of the

country's utility storage capacity.

Energy is stored by pumping water uphill from a lower elevation reservoir to store in an upper water basin. When energy is needed, the water is allowed



to flow through an electric turbine to generate energy, the same way it flows through a hydroelectric dam. This method is largely dependent on surrounding geography and any potential resulting ecosystem issues.

Battery technology is also gaining a lot of ground. In 2018, the power capacity from battery storage systems more than doubled from 2010. The most common type of battery chemistry is lithium-ion because of a high-cycle efficiency and fast response time. Some less-common battery types for utility storage include lead acid batteries, nickel-based batteries and sodium-based batteries. However, each chemistry has varying limitations. Beyond pumped hydropower and batteries, there are a few other forms of energy storage used at the utility scale: thermal, hydrogen and compressed air.

Energy storage currently plays a crucial role in incorporating renewable energy into our electric grid. Solar and wind energy are weather-dependent, so when energy demand is low but energy supply is high from the sun or wind, storing the excess energy makes it possible to use it later when demand is higher. As renewable energy becomes more prevalent, energy storage will help to create a more resilient grid.

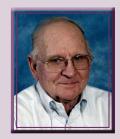
Although battery prices have been decreasing steadily over the last several years, energy storage can be expensive to attain. Currently, there are 25 gigawatts of electrical energy storage capacity in the U.S., and many experts expect capacity to grow.

### Melvin Cummings

December 30, 1936-March 27, 2020

Melvin Cummings of Manderson, S.D., passed away March 27, 2020. Melvin served as a board director (Zone 9-Oglala Lakota County) for Lacreek Electric Association Inc., for 38 years. During that time, he served as the Treasurer 1990-1993, Vice-President 1995-1997, 2010-2013 and President 1998-2001. His time served on the board was one of loyalty and dedication to the success of Lacreek. He was appreciated and will be missed.

Melvin Nicholas Cummings was born Dec. 30, 1936, to Mary Ann Larvie Smith and LeRoy Cummings at Pine Ridge, S.D. He made his journey to the spirit world on March 27, 2020, at



Winner Regional Hospital, Winner, S.D., at the age of 83.

Melvin is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ruth Ann Horton Cummings, children: Nicholas (Patty), James, Lori (Bob) Bolzer and Janet Weaver; grandchildren Tammy (Wes) Bailey, Tommy, Bailey and Nicholas Cummings Jr, Melvin Blaine Cummings, Krista Cummings, Jill Bolzer, Mollie Toman, Bryan Cummings, and Cody Weaver. Also survived by Beau Fry and Jamie Fry and seven great-grandchildren. Melvin was so proud of his kids, grandkids and great grandkids. Melvin is also survived by brothers Doug Cummings, Arnold Cummings, Frank Cummings, Delbert Cummings and Ben Cummings.

Melvin served the people of Pine Ridge Reservation all of his life. He was a OST Council representative from Wounded Knee District, a district officer, member of Oglala Lakota Livestock Grower and Land Owner Association, Lacreek Electric Board of Directors, Shannon County School Board member, OST Allocation Committee member, OST Partnership for Housing Board member, Mazaska Board member, Lakota Federal Credit Union Board member, Lakota Fund Board member, OST Honor Farm and Ranch Board member and Wounded Knee Electronics Board member. He was also a successful rancher near Manderson for 59 years and appreciated his children and wife for their work to keep the ranch going. He will be missed by many.

# Five Seek Lacreek Director Seats

Members attending the 2020 Lacreek Electric Association annual meeting will elect directors to represent Zones 1, 5, 6, and 9 for three-year terms. The following individuals have filed petitions to run for these positions. The following are brief biographical profiles on each of the candidates.

### **Zone 5 - Jackson County**

Jerry Sharp – Jerry graduated from Kadoka High School and continued his education at Black Hills State University in Spearfish. He taught school for three years and then returned to ranch near Long Valley, S.D. Jerry is active in the South Dakota Rodeo Association, a member of R-Calf, a member of South Dakota Stock Growers Association and a director for the Western Jr. Livestock Show. Jerry has served on Lacreek's board since 1994.



**Jerry Sharp** Zone 5

### **Zone 5 - Jackson County**

Floyd (Chili) Wilcox Jr – Floyd aka Chili Wilcox lives in Wanblee; the Eagle Nest District. He served in law enforcement for more than 27 years before retiring. In addition, he has been on several boards such as The Gaming Commission for eight years, holding positions of Vice Chairman (four years) and Chairman (four years); Parks and Recreations for eight years; a supervisor in the Public Safety Commission for several years and was President of the Wilcox Rodeo Committee for 25 years.



Floyd (Chili) Wilcox Zone 5

### The following candidates will be running unopposed:

### **Zone 1 - City of Martin**

Clarence Allen – Clarence was raised northeast of Long Valley, S.D. He came to Bennett County in 1972 and began farming and ranching. Clarence worked for Mueller Feeds and Pride Grain for 23 years while still farming and ranching. He retired from Pride Grain in June of 2012. Clarence still runs cattle and helps others in the area. Clarence and late wife Nancy, have four grown children. Clarence has served on Lacreek's board since 2014.



Clarence Allen

### Zone 6 - Todd and Mellette Counties

Clifford Lafferty – Clifford has been a lifelong resident of Todd County. He has been a rancher for the majority of his life. He and his wife Sherry have been married for 37 years and have two grown children. Clifford currently is serving a three-year term on the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council. Clifford has served on Lacreek's board since November 2019.



Zone 6

### Zone 9 - West Oglala Lakota County

Cole Lange – Cole has lived on his ranch in Oglala his whole life, which he has been running since the age of 18. He is also a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He has served on the FSA Board in Martin and been a Shannon County Representative on the Stock Growers Board. Cole has served on Lacreek's board since June of 2020.



**Cole Lange** Zone 9

### PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to action of the board of directors, the following proposed bylaw amendment will be presented at and voted upon at the annual membership meeting:

It is proposed that Article IV, Section 4, which currently reads as follows:

SECTION 4. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold any position in the Association who is not a member and bona fide resident of the area served or to be served by the Association, and in the case of a director, a resident of the zone from which elected. No person who is a close relative of an existing director, as the term "close relative" is defined by Section 9, may be elected to serve on the board of directors during the term of such close relative then serving. No person is eligible to become or remain a director who has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under Federal or State law within the 24 months before their election as a director or during their term(s) as a director. No person is eligible to become a director who is or has been an employee of the Association within the prior three years.

be amended to read as follows:

**SECTION 4. Qualifications.** No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold any position in the Association who is not a member and bona fide resident of the area served or to be served by the Association, and in the case of a director, a resident of the zone from which elected. No person who is a close relative of an existing director, as the term "close relative" is defined by Section 9, may be elected to serve on the board of directors during the term of such close relative then serving. No person is eligible to become or remain a director who has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under Federal or State law within the 24 months before their election as a director or during their term(s) as a director. No person is eligible to become a director who is or has been an employee of the Association within the prior three years. No person may become a new director of the Association if they refuse to take or if they fail a drug test administered by the same Association's staff that also administers drug testing of the Association's employees.

**Explanation by Legal Counsel:** The proposed change would disqualify any member from serving as a director if they refuse to take or fail a drug test administered by the Association's staff before taking office as a director of the Association.

Vote YES to adopt the amendment. Vote NO to reject the amendment.

### PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to action of the board of directors, the following proposed bylaw amendment will be presented at and voted upon at the annual membership meeting:

It is proposed that Article VI, Section 2, which currently reads as follows:

SECTION 2. Election and Term of Office. The officers shall be elected by ballot, annually by and from the Board of Directors at the meeting of the Board held immediately after the annual meeting of the members. If the election of such officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until his successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of

be amended to read as follows:

**SECTION 2. Election and Term of** Office. The officers shall be elected by ballot, annually by and from the Board of Directors at the meeting of the Board held immediately after the annual meeting of the members. If the election of such officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until his successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. The tenure of office for each officer of the Board of Directors shall be limited to three one year successive terms. After an officer has been replaced for one year he or she may then be eligible again for the same office. An officer of the Board of Directors may serve three years in one office and then be eligible for another office. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Explanation by Legal Counsel: The proposed amendment would make the Board's current Policy on terms of office a Bylaw provision.

Vote YES to adopt the amendment. Vote NO to reject the amendment.

### PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT NUMBER THREE

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to action of the board of directors, the following proposed bylaw amendment will be presented at and voted upon at the annual membership meeting:

It is proposed that, Section 2a be added to ARTICLE VII, as follows:

SECTION 2a. Debt Setoff. The Cooperative has a priority security interest in the Capital Credits or Affiliated Capital Credits of every Member or Patron to the extent of any debt due and owing the Cooperative. After perfection in a manner allowed under the Uniform Commercial Code, the Cooperative may enforce the security interest and set off the debt from the accrued Capital Credits or Affiliated Capital Credits of the Member or Patron. The debt secured by such Capital Credits includes the unpaid bill, any interest thereon at the South Dakota legal rate on judgments in effect when such amount became overdue, compounded annually, and late payment fee as determined by the Board of Directors. Before retiring and refunding any Capital Credits or Affiliated Capital Credits, the Cooperative shall deduct from the Capital Credits or Affiliated Capital Credits any amounts owed to the Cooperative by the Member or Patron, including any interest thereon at the South Dakota legal rate on judgments in effect when such amount became overdue, compounded annually and late payment fee as determined by the Board of Directors. The Cooperative shall have a first lien upon all certificates of interest, membership, patronage capital, or other interest standing on its books for all indebtedness of the respective holders or owners thereof to the Cooperative. A Member or Patron is deemed to have consented to the security interest of the Cooperative at the time the electric service was provided and initially billed to the Member or

Explanation by Legal Counsel: The proposed change allows the Cooperative to offset Member or Patron's debts against Capital Credits that are being retired or refunded.

Vote YES to adopt the amendment. Vote NO to reject the amendment.



## **CO-OP HISTORY**

### Co-op legacy provides a road map to success

### Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

On Nov. 29, 1935, a handful of local farmers huddled together in a nondescript general store near Vermillion.

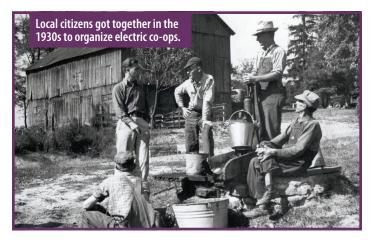
They knew that six months earlier President Franklin Roosevelt had signed an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). They knew the purpose of this new federal entity was to provide low-interest loans so that small communities all across the nation could build the power delivery infrastructures required to bring power to the countryside. And they knew this would be their best opportunity to accomplish something for themselves that the for-profit corporate utilities were unwilling to do: energize rural America. They were all in.

While there were a few fits-and-starts along the way, what emerged out of that meeting was South Dakota's first rural electric cooperative, Clay-Union Electric Corp.

Meanwhile, this exact scenario was being replicated in other small towns and villages from coast-to-coast as the rural electrification movement gained momentum and transformed the lives of millions. From those humble beginnings, the movement has swelled to more than 900 locally-owned and locally-controlled cooperatives serving 42 million Americans in 47 states.

The improbable feat of individuals coming together, organizing, planning and building such a vast power delivery system through the most sparsely populated and inhospitable landscapes has been recognized as one of the country's crowning achievements.

America's electric cooperatives take a great deal of pride in their legacy of service, their spirit of independence, their ability to work together for a common purpose and their democratic system of control and decision-making. It's a system rooted in the



very ideals that made the country great.

So why should today's generation care about this legacy?

Dan Lindblom thinks he knows. Lindblom, along with his fellow co-op leader Verdon Lamb, recently received the South Dakota Rural Electric Association's (SDREA) Legacy of Leadership Award for 2020. He said the rich history of the cooperative movement is important because it provides a model for success that both current and future generations can use to overcome obstacles and challenges, to help navigate through difficult and seemingly intractable situations.

Having served 27 years on the board at Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer and 23 years on the SDREA board, Lindblom certainly knows about how to approach difficult dilemmas. As a statewide board officer, Lindblom found himself in the middle of many imbroglios and political squabbles over the decades.

Whether the battleground was in Pierre or Washington, Lindblom fought to protect the interests of electric cooperative



members through a wide range of issues such as service territory disputes, state and federal environmental regulations, taxation, transportation and more.

In the process, he learned the art of compromise and the virtue of demonstrating mutual respect. He recalls the not-too-distant past when political



opponents maintained personal, respectful relationships despite any ideological or policy differences they may have had. He also learned the meaning of the old axiom, "United we stand, divided we fall."

"Speaking with one voice pays off, especially in the political arena," Lindblom said. "We had situations where an issue may impact one or two co-ops, but we all had to stand together to provide the strength we needed to win. It's a difficult decision to engage in a fight when you think you don't have a dog in the hunt, but it's necessary if you're going to do what's good for co-op members across the state. The next time, it may be your issue that comes up and you'll need the support."

Lindblom said the secret sauce of success is adopting a posture of give-and-take while standing in solidarity behind a set of shared values.

Verdon Lamb, the other 2020 Legacy of Leadership recipient, served 40 years on the board at Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative in Watertown and also served on the SDREA board. He said the history of the electric co-op movement is a prime example of what can be accomplished when people work together.

"It's about leadership, sacrifice and working in harmony to do something that's worth doing for other people," Lamb said. "I always felt it was worth the sacrifice of giving up my personal time and my farming time to represent the members who put their faith in me and elected me to serve on the board."

While some say the sense of community, sacrifice and selflessness are lost on the current generation, Lamb said he has hope that young adults will come to understand those ideals exemplified by electric co-ops.

"You know, people said the same things about us when we were kids," said Lamb, who graduated from high school in 1953. "They said we weren't going to amount to much, but we turned out okay."

Chris Larson is manager at Clay-Union Electric Corp., where South Dakota's electric cooperative system began. He pointed out that the legacy of electric cooperatives is rooted in friends, family and the community. Because cooperatives have always been owned, operated and controlled independently, and have always been geared for local service, they demonstrate the power of human connections and the strength that comes with

teamwork. He said this is especially clear to see as cooperatives and their members deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

"When times get tough, you look to your family and friends, and those are the people who make up our cooperative," Larson said. "Cooperative communities work together to accomplish things that would be impossible to do alone. That's what the cooperative legacy is all about, and we see how it lifts us up and sustains us through troubling times."

Larson said electric co-op history points back to a time in the 1930s when the country was racked by a slumping economy. Co-op organizers went door-to-door to rally support and ask for a membership fee. It was money that many households simply didn't have. He noted that the first attempt at forming the co-op failed because the start-up funds weren't there. But by working together and staying focused on the goal, the community accomplished the mission of energizing homes, farms, schools and businesses.

"Friends and families in the Clay County area pulled together and found a way to improve the quality of life for all," Larson said. "The result is that today we provide power to water districts, banks, grocery stores, elevators, hotels, ag supply stores and more. Electricity is the life blood that makes our local economy run. That's why our history is so important – it shows the possibilities of what can be done. It's a road map for achieving what some think is impossible. That's a message we can all learn from and has no expiration date."

Larson said that by being attentive to the legacy of electric cooperatives, members of the younger generation can make a real difference in the future of the country.

#### **Balance Sheet** (as of December 2019) **ASSETS** 2018 2019 **ELECTRIC PLANT:** \$66,172,739 \$63,384,639 In Service \$3,443,898 \$3,570,935 **Under Construction** \$66,828,537 \$69,743,674 Total Electric Plant Less Accumulated Depreciation \$(25,427,070) <u>\$(27,145,782)</u> **Electric Plant - Net** \$41,401,467 \$42,597,892 OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS: Investments in \$7,506,617 \$7,544,545 associated organizations Other Investments \$149,684 \$161,323 \$-<u>\$-</u> Special Funds **Total Other Property** \$7,656,301 \$7,705,868 and Investments **CURRENT ASSETS:** \$1,022,395 \$738,753 Cash and cash equivalents \$2,500,000 \$914,404 Temporary cash investments Account receivable, less allowance for \$1,422,134 \$1,478,030 uncollectible accounts \$841,314 \$942,401 Material and Supplies Prepayments \$69,606 \$76,103 Interest receivable \$3,994 \$7,571 Total current assets \$5,859,443 \$4,157,262 \$393,151 \$289,233 **Deferred Debits TOTAL ASSETS** \$55,310,362 \$54,750,255 **EQUITIES & LIABILITIES:** 2018 2019 **EQUITIES** \$18,450,323 \$19,017,827 Patronage capital \$3,462,607 \$3,925,663 Other Equities \$21,912,930 \$22,943,490 **Total Equities LONG-TERM DEBT, Less** \$29,927,454 \$28,285,646 **CURRENT MATURITIES CURRENT LIABILITIES:** Current maturities \$1,275,000 \$1,349,300 long-term debt Accounts payable \$898,103 \$870,661 Customer deposits \$490,110 \$494,110 Taxes accrued \$190,915 \$193,731 Other current liabilities \$253,382 \$255,944 **Total Current Liabilities** \$3,107,510 \$3,163,746 **DEFERRED CREDITS** Members' energy payments \$112,468 \$107,373 Electric revenue deferral \$250,000 \$250,000 **Total Deferred Credits** \$362,468 \$357,373 **TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES** \$55,310,362 \$54,750,255

#### Statement of Operations (Year Ending December 2018) **OPERATING REVENUES** 2018 2019 \$13,495,613 \$14,283,954 Electric Other \$625,428 \$601,224 **Total Operating Revenues** \$14,121,041 \$14,885,178



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ļ	OPERATING EXPENSES		
	Cost of Power	\$7,391,819	\$7,543,893
)	Transmission	\$60,257	\$64,732
	Distribution - Operations	\$711,928	\$648,655
3	Distribution - Maintenance	\$822,162	\$819,311
2	Member Accounts	\$522,026	\$503,180
3	Member Service & Information	\$93,629	\$84,955
)	Administrative & General	\$1,243,280	\$1,223,649
	Depreciation	\$1,807,261	\$1,990,087
,	Taxes	\$191,564	\$194,380
)	Interest on Long-term Debt	\$1,120,830	\$1,220,641
	Other Deductions	<u>\$20,396</u>	\$8,447
•	Total Operating Expenses	\$13,985,152	\$14,301,930
	Operating Margin Before Capital Credits	\$135,889	\$583,248
)	Generation & Transmission Capital Credits	\$1,184,640	\$350,989
)	NET OPERATING MARGIN	\$1,320,529	\$934,237
NON-OPERATING MARGIN			
	Merchandising, less costs & expenses	\$9,024	\$7,168
	Gain on disposal of assets	\$17,642	\$23,810
	Other Cooperative Capital Credits	\$85,341	\$63,742
	Interest Income	<u>\$271,698</u>	\$376,151
	<b>Total Non-Operating Margin</b>	<u>\$383,705</u>	\$470,871
	NET MARGIN	\$1,704,234	\$1,405,108

### 2019 Year End Statistics

Year Energized		Number of Active Meters6,708
Plant	\$69,743,674	Average Monthly usage, Residence
Equity	41.91%	1,363
Service Area	5,174	Number of Electric Heat Homes907
Total Miles of Line	3,146	Number of Irrigation Systems 132
Miles Transmission	204	Number Of Directors13
Miles Distribution	2,667	Number of Members4,160
Miles Underground	276	Number of Employees27
Meters per Miles	2.13	Number of Security Lights3,682

Kwh Sales...... 126,783,874 Revenue per Kwh Residential ... \$0.1089 Summer Demand ...... 19,797 Power Supplier:.....

Counties Served: Bennett, Jackson, Oglala Lakota, Todd and Mellette in South Dakota and Cherry in Nebraska.

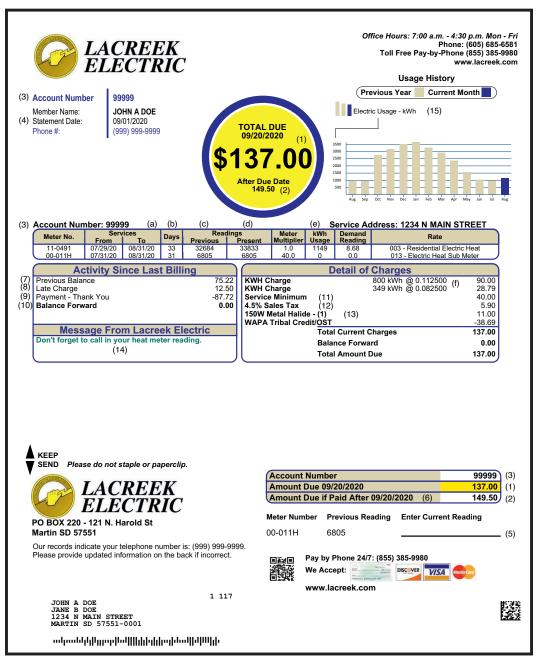
### Lacreek Electric's

## **New Billing Statement**

A new look to the billing statement will be mailed to our members in October. Please review the new bill statement. We have numbered each item on the statement to correspond with the following:

- 1. The yellow circle indicates the amount due before the due date.
- 2. In the yellow circle in the bottom is the <u>amount due after the due date.</u>
- 3. These lines are your account number plus:
  - **a.** The reading dates.
  - **b.** The number of days between reading.
  - c. Previous reading 32684.
  - **d.** Present reading 33833; this is the meter reading which was last reported.
  - e. This line indicates the kWh used 1149; this is the difference between the previous reading and current reading. This is the amount due \$118.79; this represents the charge for the kWh.
  - **f.** This is the total \$90.00 + \$28.79 = \$118.79 for the kWh.
- 4. Statement date
- 5. Enter heat meter reading here (if you do not have a co-op read meter). This represents your present heat meter reading. You must report all digits as shown on your meter. If you would like a co-op read heat meter there is a \$25.00 charge to install this type of meter.
- 6. This line shows the date the bill becomes delinquent on.
- 7. This line shows the previous balance.
- 8. This line shows the late charge.

- 9. This line shows the previous month's payment.
- 10. This line shows the balance forward into billing.
- 11. This line indicates the service minimum charge.
- 12. This line represents the sales tax.
- 13. This line indicates you have a security light (example: 150-watt Metal Halide and the "1" indicates billing for "1" security light)
- 14. This area allows for special information.
- 15. This line shows usage history month.



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

### September 24-26

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival, Custer, SD, 605-255-4515

### September 25-27

Coal Springs Threshing Bee Featuring Massey Harris Tractors, Meadow, SD 605-788-2229

### September 26

Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival, 526 Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

### September 26

Chamberlain/Oacoma Harvest Festival, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-4416

### September 26-27

Menno Pioneer Power Show, 616 N Fifth Street, Menno, SD

### September 26

Wheelin' to Wall, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD

### October 2-3

First United Methodist Church Rummage Sale, 629 Kansas City St, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-4294

### October 2-3

Oktoberfest, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

### October 3

Cruiser Car Show & Street Fair, Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

### October 3

Cowboys, Cowgirls and Cowcatchers Soiree, 6 p.m., South Dakota State Railroad Museum, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9000



### October 3-4

Marshall Area Gun Show, Red Baron Arena, 1651 Victory Dr., Marshall, MN, 507-401-6227

### October 3-4

Harvest Festival, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

### October 3-18

Pumpkin Festival, Canton, SD, 605-987-5171

#### October 10

Annual Fall Festival, 4-6 p.m., Fairburn United Methodist Church, Fairburn, SD 605-255-4329

#### October 10

Groton's 5th Annual Pumpkin Fest, Groton City Park, Groton, SD, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch Served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### October 10-11

Pumpkin Festival, 27249 SD Hwy 115, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

### October 24

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### October 29-30

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

### October 31-November 1

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

#### November 7

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### November 7

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to Register Your Team

#### November 14

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

#### November 21-22

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S Washington Street, Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

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.