

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Keeping the Lights On

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Community Outreach**  
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Public Safety**  
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# Powering the Possibilities of Tomorrow



**Bob Sahr**  
CEO of East River  
Electric Power  
Cooperative

For over seven decades, East River has stood alongside our member systems, including Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, in delivering safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our communities. Together, we are powering the possibilities of tomorrow. We are proud to stand side-by-side with Renville-Sibley to face numerous challenges and celebrate significant milestones, all while upholding the principles of cooperation that form the bedrock of our organization.

The past year has been no exception to our collective resilience and dedication. Despite facing economic impacts and supply chain disruptions, we have remained steadfast in our mission to provide dependable power to our members.

We have continued to invest in the enhancement of our infrastructure through projects such as the Transmission System Upgrade Plan. The plan is strategically designed to bolster and upgrade our infrastructure. It undergoes yearly reviews as part of each year's budgeting cycle, allowing adjustments for emerging technologies, load growth needs, supply costs and other changes. As we execute the plan we are ensuring the reliability, efficiency, and sustainability of our transmission system for years to come. We have also embraced a diverse generation strategy, incorporating renewable energy sources like solar into our power mix, advancing our goal of providing affordable, reliable energy while mitigating environmental impact.

At East River, community engagement is not merely a responsibility but a privilege. Through initiatives like the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund, East River and our member systems have made significant contributions to regional economic development,

empowering growth and prosperity in our communities. Additionally, we have fostered partnerships with various organizations to support charitable causes and youth outreach programs, embodying the cooperative principle of commitment to community.

As we look to the future, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for the dedication and support of our members, including the leadership of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association. Together, we have built a foundation for success rooted in cooperation, resilience, and mutual support. I express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your engagement and participation in our cooperative family.

I extend my appreciation to General Manager DeeAnne Norris and your East River board representative Whitey Hinderman for their exemplary leadership and steadfast commitment to our shared mission. Together, we will continue to power possibilities and shape a brighter future for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support.



# Notice:

The March board meeting will be held on  
Thursday, March 21 at 8 a.m.

The April board meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, April 23 at 8 a.m.

**SUBMIT A LOCATE REQUEST**

Twin Cities Metro: (651)454-0002 Greater MN Area: (800)252-1166

...or go online at [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

# Get the Dirt

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW ABOUT EXCAVATION SAFETY

Welcome to the Excavator Safety Guide, Minnesota edition! 2016 brings a number of changes to Gopher State One Call (GSOC) that will provide excavators with new and easy-to-use technology for excavation ticket processing. These changes are intended to keep the basic goal of damage prevention in clear focus. See the custom pages in this guide for important information about both the new electronic ticket system and basic facts that will help you dig safely in Minnesota, this time and every time.

**Inside You'll Find...**

- An Overview of GSOC's Technology Suite
- Who Should Call 811? Don't Forget, Farmers!
- The Process for Safe Excavation
- What Doesn't Get Marked: Private Lines
- Get the Scoop on the GSOC Team

**811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.**

Gopher State One Call is the nonprofit corporation formed in 1987 by the enacting of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216D. GSOC ensures the safety of all Minnesotans by receiving notices of intent to excavate from any person engaged in excavation activity and notifying underground facility operators who have requested notification in the areas of excavation.

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

#### Board of Directors

Roger Manthei – Chair  
Whitey Hinderman – Vice Chair  
Wayland Zaske – Secretary/Treasurer  
Jeff Boersma  
Gary Eekhoff  
Vicky Firl  
Alan Neyers  
Gary Peterson  
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Brian Athmann – Journeyman Lineman  
Shawn Beckler – Crew Chief  
Mike Benson – Journeyman Lineman  
Brad Braulick – Crew Chief  
Nick Bruns – Technology Manager  
Anthony Carruth – Journeyman Lineman  
Amy Ervin – Member and Board Services Representative  
Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman  
DeeAnne Norris – CEO  
Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman  
Kathy Ridl – Accounting Clerk  
Marc Snyder – Business Finance & Accounting  
Shane Suess – PT Janitor

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Web site: [www.rscpa.coop](http://www.rscpa.coop)

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# Break Dirt Without Breaking the Law

As the warmer spring temperatures cause the ground to thaw, contractors and homeowners alike are likely to begin on projects that require some sort of digging.

By law, anyone who is digging in South Dakota needs to call 811 and have a locate ticket in their hand before moving any ground. If you're not the one that's digging and you've hired a landscaper to do the work instead, that landscaper should have a ticket in their name.

When someone calls 811, the call goes through a center in Dallas, Texas. That call center then notifies utilities in the area, according to South Dakota 811 Executive Director Codi Gregg.

An excavator or digger has to allow 48 hours for the utilities in the area they plan to dig into to come on site and mark the location of those underground utilities. On average, there are five to eight utilities notified per call.

If there's a potential loss of life or property, the allowed response time is shortened to a maximum of two hours during normal business hours.

"When the ticket goes in, the excavator is given a list of the utilities that are involved or are working or that are in that area where they're working," Gregg explained.

Those companies that own the utilities will make marks that identify the location. Those flags are also color coded according to the type of utility. As more and more overhead electrical lines are converted to underground lines, it's imperative that anyone who plans on doing a project that requires digging call 8-1-1 to avoid a dangerous and deadly situation.

"It's a free phone call for the excavator to make. There's no real reason for them not to make the phone call other than not being aware of it," Gregg said.

Kristie Fiegen, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Chairwoman, echoed Gregg's comments, stating that making the call to 811 is the "most important and easiest call anyone can make before starting a digging project."

"This simple and imperative effort will help to prevent damages to vital underground utilities and safeguard critical services that our residents and economy depend on," Fiegen said. "During the 2024 construction season, I urge everyone to call 811 before you dig and protect all South Dakotans by abiding by our state laws and making safety our highest priority."

- Last year, there were 176,984 notices to the 811 Center of work occurring.
- South Dakota's 811 laws were established in 1993.
- In 2017, South Dakota 811 added damage reporting to our laws, stating if there was a damage, disturbance, or a dislocation of a utility – 811 was to be contacted to report the damage. It was also added that 911 was to be contacted first if there was a leak.
- Free accounts are offered upon request, allowing account holders to enter locate tickets themselves without calling an agent.
- A total of 1,944 utilities were reportedly damaged in 2023. Of that total, 375 excavators did not have a previous ticket.
- According to Common Ground Alliance's Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report, the annual rate of damages to buried infrastructure costs the U.S. a staggering \$30 billion every year and 60% of nationwide damages to underground utilities are caused specifically by professional contractors not contacting 811 prior to digging.



## Don't Fly Drones Near Power Lines

### Lyndon Kaski, Age 8

Lyndon Kaski warns readers to stay away from power lines when flying drones. Great advice! Lyndon's parents are Jonathan and Amanda Kaski, members of Kingsbury Electric Cooperative.

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



# SALSA SAVORY

## FRESH SALSA

### Ingredients:

4-6 med. to large tomatoes, seeded and chopped  
1 med. onion, chopped  
4 fresh jalapenos, seeded and finely chopped\*  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1 tbsp. dried parsley or fresh cilantro to taste  
1 tsp. salt

### Method

\*To prevent jalapenos from burning your fingers, lightly rub fingers with shortening, especially around fingernails.  
Serve with tortilla chips.

Linda Hubbard  
Rapid City, S.D.

## LUANN'S FRESH SALSA

### Ingredients:

4 med. tomatoes, peeled and chopped  
1/4 cup finely chopped onion  
1/4 cup finely chopped green pepper  
1-2 tbsps. jalapeno or other hot pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
1 tsp. salt  
pepper to taste  
1 tbsp. lime juice or red wine vinegar  
1-2 tps. catsup  
dash garlic powder  
dash cayenne pepper  
1-2 tps. sugar  
cilantro ( optional)

### Method

Mix all ingredients. Serve with any tortilla or corn chips for dipping. Will keep approximately 1 week in the refrigerator.

Nancy Stenson  
Fort Pierre, S.D.

## TAMARIND PASILLA MANGO PINEAPPLE SALSA

### Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups diced fresh pineapple  
1 large mango, pitted and diced (about 1 1/4 cup)  
1 small red onion, diced  
1 small red bell pepper, diced  
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro  
1 med. jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
2 cloves fresh garlic, minced  
3 tbsps. fresh lime juice  
1 tbsp. honey  
4 1/2 teaspoons Tamarind Naturally Flavored & Pasilla Chile Seasoning

### Method

Mix all ingredients in medium bowl. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes before serving. Stir before serving. Serve with tortilla chips or use to top tacos or nachos.

McCormick

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Thank a Lineworker on Lineworker Appreciation Day

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission, and distribution utilities.

Safety comes first

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.

- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure,

although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers. 988500

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.





# National Lineworker Appreciation Day



America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of every April as National Lineworker Appreciation Day. On April 8, 2024, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power will honor the dedicated men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric lineworkers for the services they perform around the clock to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

## February Board Meeting Highlights

The February board meeting was held on Tuesday, February 27 at 9 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, Gene Alex, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the January 23 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of January
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for January

- CFC Officers Certificate of Compliance
- Close the Membership List for Annual Meeting
- Director Candidates for 2024

The board reviewed:

- Total new members
- Capital Credits Transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department.

Items in the reports include:

- o High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through January (unaudited)

- o Organization activities
- o East River update
- o Basin Electric update
- o NRECA update
- o MREA update
- o Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
- o Accounts Receivable
- Annual Meeting

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



# KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

Elliot and Janaye Rayman at their second annual Barefoot Fitness Memorial Day fundraiser.

## One Lineman's After-hours Outreach

**Frank Turner**

[frank.turner@sdrea.coop](mailto:frank.turner@sdrea.coop)

Across the state, linemen are charged with keeping South Dakota's power going. It's a big responsibility: troubleshooting electrical systems, operating heavy equipment, and maintaining power lines. These workers are frequently asked to navigate high voltage and confront dangerous challenges in all kinds of extreme weather. In the face of these challenges, it takes a truly community-minded individual to ensure the community's lights stay on. Many of these crucial workers demonstrate their commitment to their community daily, both during and outside of work hours.

Butte Electric Journeyman Lineman Elliot Rayman, who has been with the cooperative for seven years, serves as just one example of an electric cooperative employee who has pulled extra hours for his local community of Spearfish, S.D. In addition to his role as a lineman, Elliot wears many hats in his community beyond just the hard hat of a co-op employee. He is a veteran of the National Guard, having served a deployment overseas. Elliot and his wife, Janaye, are also deeply involved in their community as the owners of Barefoot Fitness, a gym in the Spearfish community. Janaye, a cancer survivor, operates the gym and is an integral part of their community efforts.

Janaye and Elliot purchased Barefoot Fitness in 2018, fulfilling Janaye's long-standing dream of owning a gym. Shortly after their purchase, the couple learned that Janaye's cancer, previously in remission, had metastasized into Stage 4 breast cancer.

"In 2020, I had reoccurrence everywhere – brain, lungs, liver, bones," said Janaye. "Since then, I have been on a mission every day to heal and recover. It's also been my goal to help others every single day, day in and day out, and that's



what keeps me going. That's my job and it's what I love to do, so I'm not stopping."

"My wife is an inspiration to many people," added Elliot. "She is the strongest person I know."

Undeterred, Elliot and Janaye decided to press on and use their gym as a platform to engage with their local community. Despite Janaye's ongoing battle with breast cancer, the two started a new Barefoot Fitness tradition – an annual Memorial Day fundraiser to benefit South Dakota's gold star families, the families of fallen soldiers.

"After a few years of owning the gym, we decided we needed to give back to the community, because the community had really been there for us through everything," said Elliot. "We knew we had the ability and the platform to give back to the community through Barefoot Fitness, so we settled on a Memorial Day fundraiser that would benefit gold star families in our state."

This May, Elliot and Janaye will host their fourth Barefoot Fitness Memorial Day fundraiser. Like previous years, the event will feature local catering from Spearfish businesses, such as Spearfish Brewing Company and Timmons Market. The event will also include an optional community workout for all ages.

"We kick off our day with the National Guard leading the pledge of allegiance and national anthem," said Janaye. "We do a prayer, and then we do our Memorial Day workout. It's a team workout that people are encouraged to complete with their family or friends."

According to Janaye and Elliot, the team workout is about more than just breaking a sweat. Instead, it's about remembering those who gave their lives for this country.

"You always hear about people doing things for veterans, but you never hear about the story on the other side of

that – the families," Janaye said. "A lot of times the family is forgotten so we really want to honor the families that also made a sacrifice."

At the end of the day, Elliot and Janaye said none of their efforts would be possible without the support they have received from the Spearfish community, the veteran community,

and the electric cooperative community.

"Butte Electric and the co-op world have helped us out so much," said Elliot. "The culture of the co-op community is huge: there is brotherhood – it's the way people help each other out. You just can't ask for a better group of people, and that's the same way with the veteran world."



Janaye and Elliot lead a community workout session, challenging participants to complete 300 weighted ball throws.



## Choose Renewable Energy for Your Home or Business

You can easily purchase renewable energy from your local electric cooperative, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. Renville-Sibley has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% renewable energy options. The price of the RECs will be added to your current electric bill.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Renville-Sibley Co-op Power but, by participating in this program, you will be supporting current and future renewable projects in our area.

Your home or business will be joining hundreds of other people from across the nation who are supporting renewable energy. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

## FAQS

### What is a Renewable Energy Credit (REC)?

- 1 MWh (megawatt hour) produced by a renewable energy source equals 1 REC
- RECs are also called Green Tags
- RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of wind energy

### How much does it cost?

\$1 per MWh. The average Renville-Sibley member uses 1,200 kWh a month. Participating in the REC program would add the following amount to your monthly bill:

100% = \$1.20  
75% = \$0.90  
50% = \$0.60  
25% = \$0.30

### Do I need to purchase any special equipment?

No. Renville-Sibley will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.

### Where do the RECs come from?

The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. These include, but are not limited to:

- North Dakota: PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 & 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
- South Dakota: Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project





District 1 - Alan Neyers



District 2 - Helen Ruebel



District 3 - Gary Peterson



District 3 - Robb Zenk

## Director Candidate Information

The following individuals are running for the Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association board of directors. More information from the candidates will be included with the ballot mailing. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

### **District 1: Alan Neyers (incumbent)**

Townships of Cornish, Severance, and Moltke in Sibley County; the Townships of Ridgely and West Newton in Nicollet County and the Townships of Cairo, Wellington, Martinsburg, Camp, Bandon, and Palmyra in Renville County.

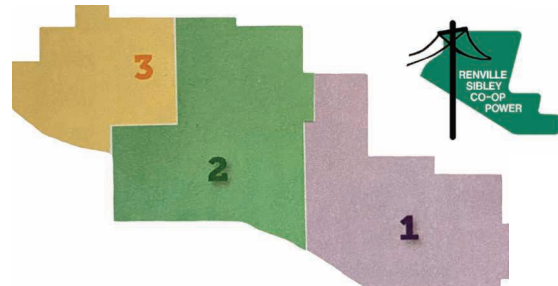
### **District 2: Helen Ruebel (incumbent)**

Townships of Honner and Delhi in Redwood County and the Townships of Beaver Falls, Flora, Henryville, Birch Cooley, Norfolk, Melville, Bird Island and Kingman in Renville County.

### **District 3: Gary Peterson (incumbent)**

#### **Robb Zenk**

Townships of Roseland and Holland in Kandiyohi County, the Township of Rheiderland in Chippewa County and the Townships of Troy, Winfield, Emmet, Crooks, Sacred Heart, Hawk Creek, Ericson and Wang in Renville County.



## Annual Meeting Notice

The 86th Annual Meeting of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is being called in accordance with the bylaws of the association to transact the following business:

1. Report of officers, directors and committees.
2. Election of three (3) directors, one (1) from District 1, one (1) from District 2 and one (1) from District 3.
3. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Voting ballots for director election, including candidate information, will be mailed to all members the week of March 12th. If you cannot attend and you wish to mail your ballot, you may do so. However, if mailed, it must be received through the mail by March 26, 2024.

A \$15 energy credit attendance prize will be given to members (one credit per member) who attend the annual meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the 86th annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

- Wayland Zaske, Secretary

*Notice: Candidate information for each district will be included with the ballot mailing.*



SDHP Trooper Megan Koch stands by her patrol vehicle. Koch works within the state's Motor Carrier Division. *Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel*

# COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

When commercial motor vehicles come into the state of South Dakota, it's the job of the South Dakota Highway Patrol's Motor Carrier Division to ensure the drivers of those vehicles have the necessary paperwork, permits and documents.

The task is one of public safety.

Making sure the carriers are adhering to safe driving practices is just another way to ensure that everyone is as safe as they can be while driving on the state's roadways.

South Dakota Highway Patrol

Trooper Megan Koch is one of the officers who works within the motor carrier division.

"Our main focus is making sure the motor carriers or trucks are safe on the roadways and keeping everybody else safe. It helps them perform their job of carrying their property or passengers across the state lines and within the state. We help make sure that they can do that job," Koch explained.

Mainly, Koch works specifically with commercial motor vehicles that carry over a certain weight or property of monetary value within the state or interstate.

"When we do an inspection on a driver, we're checking a bunch of different things. Weight sometimes is one of them, but not always. It just depends on the situation," Koch said.

"They have to have certain paperwork with them and they are required to follow certain rules. It depends on what they're doing."

The dependent variables include whether a carrier is traveling with goods within the state or going out of the state and how far away they are from the hub, or where they leave every day or go home to every day.

Koch also checks their paperwork to ensure the drivers are within compliance of state law.

"They have to follow certain hours that they can work so that they don't get tired while driving. It's a big thing that we follow for safety," Koch said.

"We also check things like



equipment violations, headlights, taillights, tires, you know, stuff that makes them safe on the roadway and keeps them safe. We'll also check for things such as bad driving behavior, if they're not staying within their own lane, using blinkers, not properly stopping at stop sign – stuff like that. So, if we see something like that, we can initiate an inspection."

Koch, a Plankinton native whose father was a truck driver, said the division is typically checking brake lines and lights.

In South Dakota, there are four main ports of entry. The ports are located along Interstate 29 in Jefferson and Sisseton, and along Interstate 90 in Sioux Falls and Tilford.

Each carrier is issued a "safety score," which is assessed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

"That's based on whether or not they have the proper paperwork, if they're driving within their hours, if they have the proper equipment and whether or not they've received any driving or alcohol violations," Koch said.

If a driver has a high enough safety score, they aren't required by law to stop at a port for inspection.

Overall, it all comes down to keeping the roadways safe for everyone, regardless of what type of vehicle they are driving.

"These rules and laws are in place for a reason. They have to be extra alert and awake while they're driving and that all of their equipment works properly. If you're driving a very heavy, large vehicle, you need excellent brakes. You have to be able to stop in time. That is the main reason we're checking all these things. It helps everybody on the road."

The division also works

with rural electric cooperatives when oversized loads travel along the state's highway system, according to Lieutenant Austin Schmitz, District Four Assistant Commander with the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Sometimes oversized loads require that overhead power lines be moved out of the way to let the carrier pass through.

"As a district we do work with a lot of the cooperatives such as East River Electric. We all get together when planning for oversized loads coming through our area," Schmitz said.

"They usually run the route first and let us know what lines they need to move."

That was the case when a massive generator was moved across the state. The generator was so heavy and huge that the truck carrying it could only travel 30 miles per hour. That truck was also equipped with over a hundred tires, Schmitz said.

"That generator came through Watertown a couple of years ago and we've got some more coming in two or

three years," Schmitz said, referring to the multi-million pound machines.

"The planning for those started last year. That equipment will be coming in through the Great Lakes on a ship. They'll pick them up there and then they'll move through our state then Wyoming, Montana, however they can go," Schmitz said.

The truck carrying the heavy equipment is too big to go across most bridges and overpasses, so finding a route that allows the machinery to snake across the country is tricky.

While moving huge pieces of machinery can be one of the more interesting parts of the job, it's the flexibility of the job that Koch enjoys most.

"I get to pick and choose where I want to go for the day. I get to do something a little bit different every day. Because, I mean, nothing is ever the same," Koch said.

"It's kind of nice to be able to do that and make the day what you want of it."



A SDHP officer has the latest technology at his or her fingertips to ensure trucks on South Dakota roads are operating safely. Photo Credit: South Dakota Highway Patrol

# Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Coraley Bryan on being selected as the February Scholar of the Month. Coraley is currently a senior at RCW High School. She strives to make sure she understands the material and demonstrates her integrity and accountability by always doing the required work herself and in a timely manner. Coraley is dedicated to her community by helping out at church activities, assisting younger students at school and being personable to all those she encounters in the community, no matter the age or socioeconomic status. Her bubbly personality is infectious to those around her. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Coraley Bryan as the February Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Coraley Bryan as the February Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.

## Comparative Report

	Current YTD	One Year Ago YTD	10 Years Ago YTD
Average # of Consumers	1,880	1,879	1,914
kWhs purchased	20,602,868	19,888,853	20,314,144
Cost of purchased power	\$1,355,920.39	\$1,222,486.61	\$1,067,892.40

# FREE Want Ad Service

Members can submit ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent, and Wanted. Ads should be or are limited to no more than 15 words and must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Renville-Sibley reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Ads will be run one time only unless resubmitted. Please complete the following information and mail it to the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad to be placed (limit of 15 words per ad)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of ad: ☐ Giveaway ☐ For Sale ☐ For Rent ☐ Wanted

# WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month RSCPA member did not find their member number in the newsletter. The value of the energy credit will be increased to \$75. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of April, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

# REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2024 or 2025 to please contact the office as soon as possible. In order to complete these projects on time, material may need to be ordered well in advance as often there is extended lead time to get the appropriate material. In addition, crew time will be scheduled in the order projects and materials are received.

# OPERATION ROUND UP

If your non-profit organization has a project or event that would benefit the community, Operation Round Up funds may be available to help your group reach its goal. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on April 16, 2024. The deadline for applications is April 1.

Applications for donations can be found at [rscpa.coop/operation-round](https://rscpa.coop/operation-round). Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

# FOR SALE:

GSI 13,000-bushel grain bin. Fullfloor, gravity spreader. Excellent shape. A great wet holding bin.

Dean Bock  
Franklin, MN 55333  
507-430-2609



## INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

The energy industry is changing, but electric co-ops are known for adapting to their local members' needs. As we plan for changes and challenges ahead, innovative solutions are essential.

Here are a few ways we're innovating for the future.



### Use of Advanced Technologies

Drones aid in power line inspection and maintenance.

Smart meters provide real-time data and help pinpoint service issues.

### Preparing for Increased Energy Use

The demand for electricity is increasing as more technologies are electrified.

Co-ops are exploring innovative solutions like battery storage to meet demand.

### Energy Solutions for Members

Co-ops provide innovative efficiency services like appliance rebates and flexible billing options to help members manage their energy use.

### Strength in Numbers

By working with and learning from other co-ops, we are uniquely positioned to improve service for our local communities.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Mission Statement

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

## Nondiscrimination Statement

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**APRIL 5-7, 2024**  
**PBR: Unleash the Beast**  
 Denny Sanford  
 PREMIER Center  
 Sioux Falls, SD

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.

**MARCH 30**  
**BHEC Community Easter Egg Hunt**  
 10 a.m.  
 Hermosa Baseball Fields  
 Hermosa, SD

**MARCH 31**  
**Easter Sunday Sunrise Celebration**  
 7 a.m.  
 Mount Rushmore National Monument  
 Keystone, SD

**APRIL 2**  
**Clay-Union Electric Ribbon Cutting & Open House**  
 3 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.  
 31321 SD Hwy. 19  
 Vermillion, SD

**APRIL 5**  
**A Night at the Races fundraiser for Safe Place of Eastern SD**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Highland Conference Center  
 Mitchell, SD

**APRIL 5-7**  
**71st Annual Hayes Play: Under a Cowboy Moon**  
 7 p.m.  
 Hayes Community Hall  
 Hayes, SD

**APRIL 12-14**  
**The Farmer's Daughter 19th Anniversary Celebration**  
 Hill City, SD

**APRIL 13**  
**Front Porch 605 Shop Hop**  
 9 a.m.  
 Groton, SD

**APRIL 14**  
**Hill City Senior Sunday Breakfast**  
 8 a.m.  
 Hill City Center  
 Hill City, SD

**APRIL 20**  
**Healthy Kids Day**  
 10 a.m.  
 Liberty Center YMCA  
 Box Elder, SD

**APRIL 20**  
**Groton Firemen's Spring Social**  
 7 p.m.  
 Groton Fire Station  
 Groton, SD

**APRIL 21**  
**Fiddle & Popular Song**  
 2 p.m.  
 Gayville Hall  
 Gayville, SD

**APRIL 26**  
**Mitchell Technical College Alumni Cornhole Tournament**  
 6:30 p.m.  
 World's Only Corn Palace  
 Mitchell, SD

**APRIL 27**  
**66th Annual Lions Pancake Jamboree**  
 7 a.m.  
 Masonic Hall  
 Mitchell, SD

**APRIL 27**  
**Spaghetti Feed & Silent Auction for Black Hills Raptor Center**  
 4:30 p.m.  
 Canyon Lake United Methodist Church  
 Rapid City, SD

**MAY 5**  
**Opening Day**  
 Historic Prairie Village  
 Madison, SD

**MAY 11**  
**Opening Day**  
 1880 Train  
 Hill City, SD

**MAY 18**  
**Booth Day**  
 10 a.m.  
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery  
 Spearfish, SD

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