

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Get Out & Vote!

It's Your Civic Duty

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Upcoming Energy Projects

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Annual Meeting Recap



DeeAnne Norris
CEO
320-826-2593 or
800-826-2593

I would like to thank all members who were able to attend our annual meeting. For those who were unable to attend, we realize you have many activities competing for your time. Our Annual Meeting was held on March 26th; I would like to share a brief summary of the updates I provided.

After 32 years of dedicated service, Gene Alex has officially “hung up his hooks,” as they say. Gene’s last day with Renville-Sibley was March 26th. On behalf of our members, board of directors, and employees, I extended our heartfelt thanks to him for his many years of commitment to the cooperative and our communities. We wish him well.



Gene Alex

We are pleased to welcome Bryon Stilley as our new operations manager. Bryon brings extensive cooperative experience, beginning his career in Minnesota as a lineman and later serving in engineering, operations, and general management roles at cooperatives in Minnesota, Iowa, Colorado, and Missouri. We are fortunate to have him back in Minnesota and on our team.



Bryon Stilley

Our Operations department remains strong with crew chiefs Shawn and Brad and journeymen linemen Clint, Brian, Mike, Anthony, and Brayden. Their work, from day-to-day construction and maintenance to storm response, is essential to keeping power reliable for all of you. 844300

On April 13th, Renville-Sibley will join nearly 900 electric cooperatives across the country in recognizing Lineworker Appreciation Day. This day honors the men and women who often work in difficult and hazardous conditions to keep the lights on. Their dedication is truly appreciated.

Of course, reliable service requires a full team effort. Supporting our operations group, members, and board of directors are Amy, Nick, Marc, Jill, Carren, and Shane. I am grateful for all of our employees and the pride they take in



Anthony, Brayden, Shawn, Mike, Brad, Clint, and Brian

serving you. It is an honor to work alongside them.

As shared at the meeting, Renville-Sibley continues to support an “all of the above” approach to energy, using a diverse mix of hydro, wind, solar, coal, and natural gas to keep your power reliable. However, wholesale power costs continue to be our greatest challenge. These costs make up 72 cents of every dollar on your electric bill in 2025. We have received wholesale cost increases for three consecutive years, and another significant increase is forecasted for 2027.

Although we held rates steady for 2025, we will need to pass along a portion of the nearly 20 percent increase in wholesale power costs received over the past two years. Deferred revenue balance will help soften the impact. The board is expected to take formal action in April to implement an average rate increase of nearly 10%, effective in May 2026. A full rate breakdown will be published after that decision. If you have questions about how the changes may affect your account, please feel free to contact me directly.



RSCPA Office Staff:
Nick, Carren, Marc, Jill, and Amy

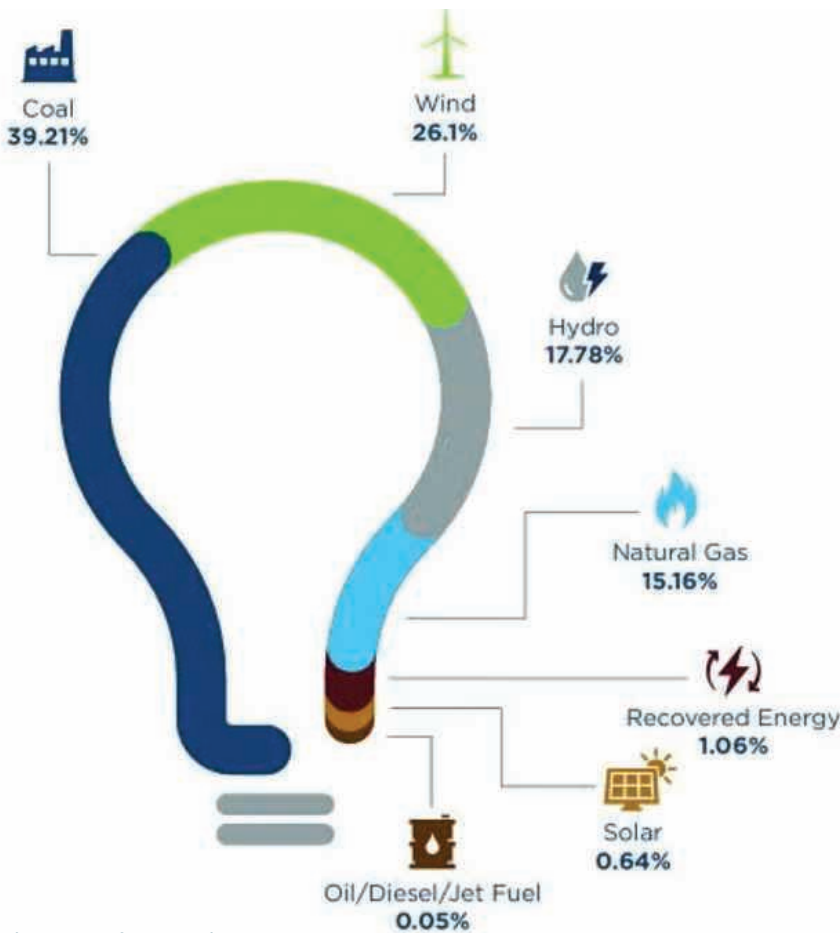
While we have worked hard to keep rates stable in recent years, wholesale power costs have risen significantly. We realize you're feeling similar increases in many areas of life. Please know that we take our responsibility to maintain affordability very seriously and will continue to manage your cooperative with long-term stability in mind.

On behalf of our board of directors, leadership team, and employees, thank you for your continued patronage and support. We value the trust you place in us to make sound decisions on behalf of all Renville-Sibley members.



RSCPA Wholesale Power Mix

(does not include excess DG energy purchased from members)



Graphic Courtesy of East River Electric Cooperative

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

- Whitey Hinderman – Chair
- Roger Manthei – Vice Chair
- Vicky Firlie – Secretary/Treasurer
- Jeff Boersma
- Gary Eekhoff
- Alan Neyers
- Gary Peterson
- Helen Ruebel
- Wayland Zaske

Renville-Sibley Employees

- 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 – Executive Admin and HR
- Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman
- Carren Frank – Finance Specialist
- DeeAnne Norris – CEO
- Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman
- Marc Snyder – Cooperative Analyst
- Bryon Stilley – Operations Manager
- Jill Woods – Member Services Professional

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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH: TIPS FOR PRIORITIZING SAFETY

At your local cooperative, Electrical Safety Month is recognized every May, but the importance of practicing safety year-round is always emphasized. From co-op crews to the consumer-members served, everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity that powers daily life, but it can also be dangerous — something your local cooperative understands firsthand from working with it 365 days a year.

Safety is more than a catchphrase. Cooperative leadership recognizes the responsibility to keep employees safe while also helping protect members and the broader community. That's why your local cooperative hosts safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, highlighting the dangers of electricity. These demonstrations often include emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines, along with discussions about the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the widespread use of electrical devices, tools and appliances, here are a few practical electrical safety tips:

Watch for frayed wires. Power cords can become damaged from age, heavy use or excessive current flow. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them to avoid shock hazards.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only handle a limited amount of electricity. Running too many devices on one circuit can lead to overheating and potential fire risk.

Label circuit breakers. Understanding your home's electrical system can help prevent overloads. If your home is more than 40 years old and you plan to install large appliances, contact a qualified electrician.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug one extension cord into another. "Daisy chaining" can cause overheating and fire hazards. Do not exceed the cord's wattage, and avoid using extension cords as permanent solutions. If additional outlets are needed, consult a licensed electrician.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk with children

about playing it safe and smart around electricity, including staying aware of overhead power lines near outdoor play areas.

Providing a reliable energy supply 24/7, 365 days a year is a top priority. Equally important is keeping the community safe around electricity.

Contact your local cooperative for additional electrical safety tips or to request a safety demonstration at a school or upcoming community event.



"Do not fly kites by power lines!"

Casen Yuker

Casen cautions readers not to fly kites around power lines. Thank you for sharing your picture, Casen! Casen's parents are Lance and Tarah Yuker from Aberdeen S.D.

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

Delicious DESSERTS

RHUBARB CAKE DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 cup sugar
4 cups rhubarb, diced
2 cups half and half

Method

Prepare cake mix as directed on package and pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Mix sugar and rhubarb together. Spoon evenly over cake batter. Pour half and half over top of rhubarb mixture. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes. This is like an upside-down cake with custard on the bottom of the cake.

Marla Gilbert
Southeastern Electric

FUZZY NAVEL CAKE

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 instant vanilla pudding (large, 5.1 oz. size)
3/4 cup peach schnapps
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup orange juice
4 eggs

Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar
4 tbsps. orange juice
2 tbsps. peach schnapps

Method

Spray a 12-cup fluted baking pan with cooking spray, dust with flour. Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended, spread evenly in pan. Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes until golden brown and cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool cake for 20 minutes. Run a long, sharp knife around the edges to loosen, and invert onto platter. Whisk glaze ingredients together until smooth. With wooden skewer, poke holes on top and around sides of cake. Spoon glaze over the warm cake, allowing to seep in holes, and drizzle down the sides and center. Cool completely before slicing.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

HAWAIIAN PINEAPPLE CAKE

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla
Pinch salt
1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained (in natural juice, not heavy syrup)

Frosting

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 8 oz. cream cheese softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Method

Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended. Bake in greased 9x13 pan at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until top is golden brown.

Combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Beat until smooth and creamy. Gradually add powdered sugar. Spread frosting on cake while still warm. Garnish with some toasted coconut if desired.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Picture submitted by William Berry via Shutterstock.



Over 200 attend the Renville-Sibley's 88th Annual Meeting, held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls.

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Holds Annual Meeting

Renville-Sibley's 88th Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Drawings for early bird prizes were held at 5:45 p.m. Board Chair Whitey Hinderman presided over the meeting. Director Gary Eekhoff gave the invocation. Director Vicky Firle read the notice of the meeting. Information on the district election was presented by Director Gary Peterson. CEO DeeAnne Norris and Vicky Firle gave the leadership report.

Wayland Zaske and Helen Ruebel presented the scholarship awards. The Scholarship Committee selected Kalleigh Wertish for the \$2,500 Basin Electric Scholarship. Also selected by the Scholarship Committee as winner of the Renville-Sibley \$1,500 scholarship was Carson Lee. The remaining scholarship applicants, selected by random drawing, each received a \$1,000 scholarship - funded by unclaimed capital credits over seven years old. The winners were Emmi Braem, Mackton Bratsch, and Addelyn Malvin.

The guest speaker for the evening was

Bob Sahr. Bob is East River's General Manager and CEO. He presented an informational update on East River Electric.

Whitey Hinderman announced the results of the elections. Directors elected to serve a three-year term were as follows:

- District 1 – Vicky Firle
- District 2 – Jeff Boersma
- District 3 – Roger Manthei

Drawings were held for the remaining prizes before the meal was served. Miss Becky's Catering prepared and served a delicious meal following the meeting.

Thank you to all who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend Renville-Sibley's 88th Annual Meeting!

Prize winners were as follows:
(red = kid's gifts)

Early Bird Gifts: Presented by Director Roger Manthei and Amy Ervin

1. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Patricia Serbus
2. Egg Bite Maker – Theresa and Shayne Tabor
3. **Super Water Gun for Kids – Lydia Jansen**



Scholarship Winners, Carson Lee and Kalleigh Wertish.

4. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Clay Bryan
5. Golf Gift Set – Gary Simondet
6. The Original Pro Vegetable Chopper – Shirley Anderson
7. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Randy Albrecht

Remaining Member Gifts: Presented by Directors Jeff Boersma and Alan Neyers

1. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Ed Wordes
2. Electric Tea Kettle – Dale Prah
3. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Ronald Lund
4. Neck Massager with Heat – Darrell Gens
5. \$25 Cenex Gift Card – Arlyn Zeitz
6. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – John Sperl

7. 39 Piece Household Tool Kit – Orlin Kiecker
8. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Ramona Larsen
9. 2-Slice Sandwich Maker/Press – Eloid Penke
10. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Jeff Distad
11. Fiskars 3-in-1 Garden Tool Set – Greg Erickson
12. **Stomp Rocket Launcher – Kylie Jansen**
13. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Jason Swanson
14. \$25 Cenex Gift Card – Thomas Hacker
15. Mug Ice Cream Maker – Karen & Joseph Schulte
16. Portable Charger Power Bank – Eric Nelson
17. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Michael Wertish
18. Electric Knife – Agnes Wendinger
19. **Kids LED Glow Lawn Bowling Set – Minna Nelson**
20. \$25 Cenex Gift Card – Christopher Lee
21. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Darlene Konz
22. Collapsible Soft Cooler Bag w/Flip Top Lid – Louise Kiecker
23. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Francis Buschette
24. Portable Rechargeable Hand Warmers – Paul Holm
25. **4-in-1 Kids Water Sprinkler T-Ball Set – Maverick Brown**
26. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Cornelius Groen
27. \$25 Cenex Gift Card – James Kosak
28. Bath & Body Gift Set – Roland Rauenhorst
29. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Joel Bakker
30. Rechargeable Flashlight – Jeff Lingl
31. Handheld Cordless Vacuum – Harvey Hagen

32. \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Cindy Grosklags
33. Olivia Pet Clinic Free Pet Exam – Peterson Partners
34. East River Prize – David Garrahy

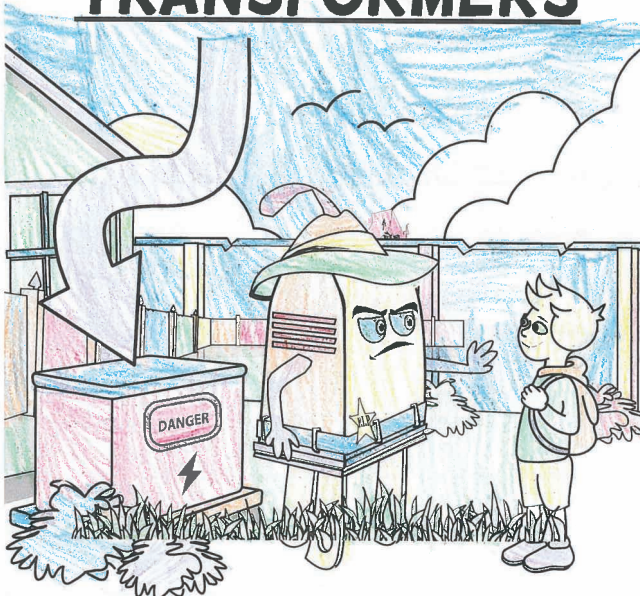
Dalton Brown

**NEVER PLAY ON OR AROUND
TRANSFORMERS**



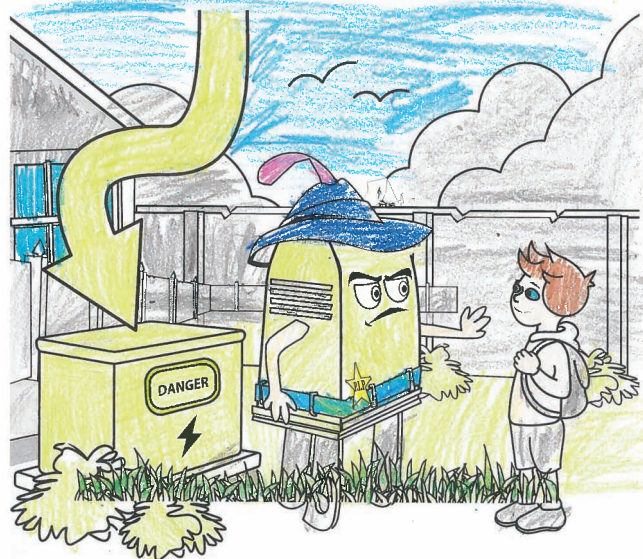
Kylie Jansen

**NEVER PLAY ON OR AROUND
TRANSFORMERS**



Maverick Brown

**NEVER PLAY ON OR AROUND
TRANSFORMERS**



ONE VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Chuck Sloan • Piedmont, S.D.

Board Treasurer, West River Electric Association

U.S. Air Force 1983-2003

Chuck Sloan has spent much of his life serving his nation.

Sloan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1983 and served 21 years on active duty

before retiring as a master sergeant in 2004. In that time, he was stationed at bases all around the world, including Oman, South Korea, Turkey, and the Pacific. Since 2004, Sloan has worked as a civilian at Ellsworth Air Force Base, where today he is Chief of Operations Compliance.

Serving in the military, Sloan observed firsthand how seriously service members took absentee voting and civic participation, despite being thousands of miles from American soil. Their passion helped ignite Sloan's own admiration for America's democratic system of government.

"If I found somebody a little laissez-faire about voting, saying, 'my vote probably won't count,' I would give them a spiel," Sloan explained. "Yes, your vote does count, and you'll want to be able to say that you made that vote."

He continued, "If you don't choose to exercise that responsibility, then later on if you're displeased, you really can't

complain about it because you didn't make a choice – If anything, vote and give yourself the opportunity to legitimately complain!"

Sloan said people should never underestimate the importance of showing up and making their voices heard, because in close races, one vote can tip the scale.

"There are many instances when one vote may have been a determining factor," Sloan said. "It may not be a general election, but how about in a state or local election where one vote can be the deciding factor? That happens more often than one would think. Your vote matters, no matter what you do."

Sloan brought that civic-mindedness along with him to West River Electric Association, where he serves on the Board of Directors and helps make decisions in the interest of his neighbors and communities he represents.

Sloan said it all just comes back to civic responsibility and staying involved.

"From the time I turned 18, I've never missed a vote," Sloan said. "It's second nature. It's too important to not do."



VOTING STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES



Evan Buckmiller • De Smet, S.D.

General Manager, Kingsbury Electric Cooperative

De Smet School District Board

For Kingsbury Electric Cooperative General Manager Evan Buckmiller, his call to public service came after a mid-term resignation on the De Smet School District

Board left a vacancy that needed to be filled.

"The board had to appoint someone to fill the seat," Buckmiller said. "Initially when I was asked, I didn't know if I wanted to do it, but I also knew that my wife and I have two young kids in the school system, so I agreed to fill the spot until the next election."

Buckmiller wasn't expecting to develop a passion for civic-service, but six years and two election cycles later, he's still representing the De Smet community on the school board.

"It's for my kids, to make sure they have the best education opportunities possible to prepare them for their future," Buckmiller added.

He said that while serving on the school board has been a

rewarding endeavor, there are also moments that are discouraging; some people will sit out elections, but are also vocal about board decisions they disagree with.

"I receive phone calls about how we are doing everything wrong, but they don't want to step up to be a part of change," Buckmiller explained.

His advice is simple: show up.

"Public participation at the monthly school board meetings is always encouraged," Buckmiller said. "When a community is engaged, there is more diverse input and you get to see the needs of everyone. The needs for one person might not be the same as another, and when you are sitting on a board you want to hear the needs of everyone so you can make the best decision possible for everyone."

Buckmiller said when more people get involved and exercise their civic duties, the communities like his are better for it.

"Being active in the community makes the community stronger and allows different opinions to be heard," Buckmiller said.

"When you show up to meetings and vote, you are giving the board direction so they can make decisions that are in the best interest of everyone."

STICK UP FOR YOURSELF & VOTE



Don Schurdevin • Elk Point, S.D.
Board President, Union County Electric Cooperative
U.S. Navy 1962-1968

Serving on the Union County Electric Cooperative board for more than 25 years, Don Schurdevin has built a reputation for steady leadership and a strong commitment

to the cooperative and its members. But before serving his neighbors and community on the co-op board, Schurdevin first served in a different way. He served not just his Union County neighbors, but his entire country in the U.S. Navy. Schurdevin enrolled during his junior year of high school in 1962, serving active duty in Vietnam from 1963 to 1965, some of that time aboard the USS Midway. The experience helped shape his views on patriotism, civic duty and personal responsibility.

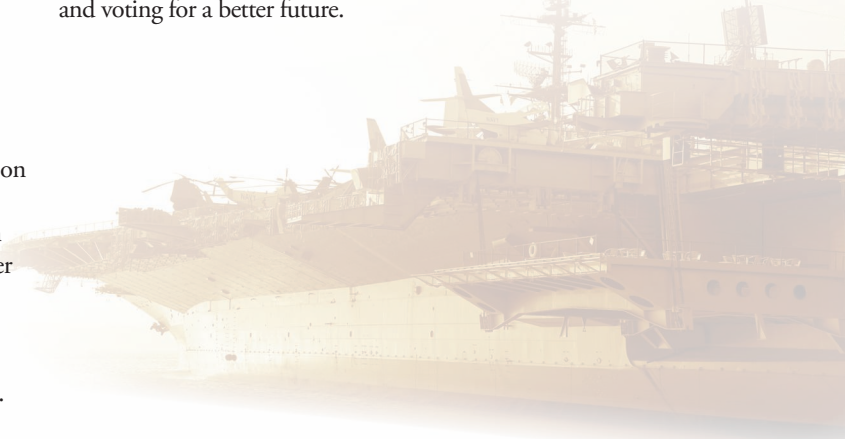
“In the navy, you learn to get along with people, but you learn to also stick up for yourself, because nobody else – is so you better take care of your own business,” he said.

That’s the attitude that Schurdevin brings to his civic participation. He said serving in the military gave him a deeper appreciation for the freedoms Americans enjoy, including voting.

Schurdevin believes participating in elections is one of the most important ways citizens can stay involved in their communities and help shape the future of their community, state and country.

“I think I voted in every election since I could,” Schurdevin recalled. “School board election, county, state – if I was able to vote I was voting.”

That sense of duty carried into his years of cooperative service. As a director, Schurdevin remains focused on serving members and ensuring the co-op continues to meet local needs. Schurdevin encourages others to “stick up for yourself” by staying informed and voting for a better future.



LEADERS DEPEND ON YOU SPEAKING UP



Chris Rahn • Mission, S.D.
Member Services Manager, Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative
Todd County School District Board, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Chris Rahn was not always interested in his local government. In fact, up until just several years ago, he sat many elections out.

But through his work at Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative and the commitment to community that came with it, Rahn gained a new perspective on civic participation, realizing that change only happens when peoples’ voices are heard.

“I believe everybody who has an opinion should come out and vote,” Rahn said. “One vote matters. One vote can change an entire election.”

Rahn’s indifference to voting began to change as he was asked to take on more responsibilities with the co-op. Cherry-Todd Electric General Manager Tim Grablander nominated Rahn to the Rushmore Electric Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, where Rahn now serves as president.

Shortly after, he was encouraged by local community leaders to apply for a board seat with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The tribal

council voted to seat Rahn on the judiciary committee, leading to his first real experience with public service. Like flipping a switch, Rahn’s enthusiasm led to his appointment to other tribal boards, including the Tribal Utilities Commission, Tribal Tax Commission, and the Rosebud Energy Services Company.

Rahn said serving in tribal government opened his mind to the impact he can have on his community. That realization inspired Rahn to run for his first publicly-elected position as a school board member for the Todd County School District.

“I wanted to be more involved in my daughter’s education and just listen to the community’s input,” Rahn said, restating the importance of community members actively engaging with elected officials and sharing feedback.

He continued: “I feel like I’ve been able to bridge the gap between the people I represent and the administration and other public leaders.”

As Rahn looks ahead to years of future public service to work for a better community, he encourages others to step up as well — and all it takes is a vote.

“If you speak up, your voice is heard,” he continued. “When everyone’s voice is heard, we can make better decisions for the community as a whole.”

Photos by Shutterstock

Grow Your Savings: Landscaping That Cuts Energy Costs

At a Glance:

- The right trees — in the right places — provide shade, reduce heat absorption and even block winter winds.
- Smart landscaping can cut cooling costs by up to 25% and often pay for itself within eight years.
- Climate zone, tree type and mature height all matter when planning an energy-saving yard.

When most people think about saving energy, they picture insulation upgrades, efficient windows and appliance swaps. But your yard can play a major role too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a well-planned landscape can reduce air-conditioning costs by up to 25% and pay for itself in less than eight years.

Because landscaping results vary by region, keep in mind that the United States has four main climate zones: temperate, hot-arid, hot-humid and cool. Plant strategically for your zone.

Choose the right trees: Deciduous or evergreen

- Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in the winter) block sunlight in the summer and allow light in during the colder months, helping to regulate indoor temperatures year-round.
- Evergreen trees provide consistent shade and can serve as windbreaks, which is especially helpful in cool climates.

Tip: In hot climates, choose native or drought-tolerant species. They require less water and are typically more resilient.

Placement matters

- West and northwest sides: Plant trees to block strong mid- to late-afternoon sun.
- East and west windows: Use deciduous trees to block summer sun but still allow winter light.
- South side: Tall trees planted at a distance equal to two to five times their mature height can shade your home without blocking winter sun.
- West side: Shorter trees and shrubs help shield against intense, low-angle afternoon sun.
- Patios and driveways: Shade these areas to reduce reflected heat.
- Home perimeter: Bushes can absorb sunlight and reduce heat transfer, but avoid dense plantings in humid climates, where airflow is important to prevent excess moisture.

Tip: Be mindful near solar panels. Avoid planting tall trees on the south side of panels to prevent shade during peak sun hours.

Plan for a tree's mature height

- Avoid planting trees that will grow taller than 15 feet near power lines.
- For taller species, plant at least 20 feet away — 45 feet is even better — to prevent safety hazards and avoid future pruning.

Call before you dig!

Before you plant anything, call 811 to check for underground utilities. This free service marks public lines, like electricity, water and gas, so you avoid costly and dangerous mistakes. Call several business days before you plan to dig.



GROW

THE MESSAGE OF SAFETY

Planting season is a busy and stressful time for farmers. **Safe Electricity reminds farmers to:**

- **STAY IN** your vehicle or machinery if it comes in contact with a power line; **DO NOT** get out.
- **LOOK UP** to avoid machinery/power-line contact (long extensions or tall antennas can get caught).
- **ALWAYS HAVE 10 FEET** of clearance surrounding the live lines — even if no contact is made, an electrical current can arc or jump.
- **STAY AWAY** from a sagging or downed line; call 9-1-1 to have the utility dispatched.
- **USE A SPOTTER** with a broad vantage point when operating machinery around power lines.
- **TEACH** the 10-foot clearance rule to anyone working on your farm and review power line locations.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org



LOOK OUT

FOR POWER SOURCES



Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.

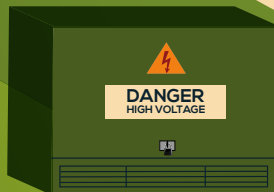


Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Be careful when carrying long or tall objects such as ladders or poles.



Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utilities marked.



Do not dig near padmount transformers or other utility equipment.



OUTAGE REPORT:

Affecting 10 members or more

None to report this month

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.

Applications for donations can be found at rscpa.coop/operation-round. Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

OPERATION ROUND UP THANK YOU

Hello!

We appreciate your donation for CORNLAND USA STEM & Sensory Center. Your support helps us create engaging exhibits and provide enriching programs for children and parents. We are grateful for your kindness and commitment to inspiring young minds.

- The Pages of Our Communities Foundation

FOR SALE

Free Range Eggs for Sale
Pete & JoJo Schmoll
Bird Island, MN 55310
320-579-0098

BUILDING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Basin Electric's Pioneer Generation Station, located near Williston, N.D.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Basin Electric Expands Generation Capacity to Meet Growing Demand

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Although the flick of a switch can seem close at hand, the electricity that powers our world is often generated many miles away.

For rural cooperative members, electricity often comes from North Dakota, where Basin Electric Power Cooperative operates a fleet of power plants to serve rural communities across nine states. As demand continues to build across that system, the infrastructure behind it is growing right alongside it.

This steady growth has shaped the work now underway across Basin Electric's service territory. In response, the cooperative has kept up with demand by expanding existing generation facilities, building a new power plant and supporting the system with additional transmission projects in just a few short years.

"We're seeing load growth across our system, and it's coming from a combination of residential, agricultural, commercial and energy development," said Gavin McCollam, Basin Electric's senior vice president and chief operating officer. "When you step back and look at it as a whole, it becomes clear that we need to continue building to keep pace with that growth."



New transmission lines in western North Dakota support Basin Electric's newest generation assets.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Pioneer Generation Station

To maintain reliability and keep the lights on for their members, Basin Electric recently expanded its generation capacity through new development to Pioneer Generation Station near Williston, N.D.

Originally developed in the early 2010s, the facility grew in phases over time. Those additions turned Pioneer Generation Station into one of Basin Electric's most important generation assets, but within a decade, the pace of that growth had begun to change.

"Coming out of COVID, not just us but everybody

was seeing rapid increases in loads,” McCollam said. “At that point, we were asking what we could do the quickest to add capacity.”

To meet the need, Basin Electric moved forward with Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. The cooperative completed the project in 2025, adding about 580 megawatts of generation and bringing the site’s total capacity to 822 megawatts, enough to power roughly 400,000 homes.

The expansion moved quickly in part because Basin Electric built on what it already had.

“We had the site and the people that worked there, so we could add onto it a lot quicker than we could analyze and research new sites,” McCollam said.

Bison Generation Station

Still, Basin Electric continued building for traditional member load growth, beyond Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV, turning to a new project: Bison Generation Station.

Located near Epping, N.D., the natural gas-fueled generation project is being built from the ground up as a large-scale, natural gas facility designed to meet future demand. Once completed, the combined-cycle power plant will produce approximately 1,490

megawatts of electricity, making it the largest power plant solely owned by Basin Electric – almost double the capacity of Pioneer Generation Station. The plant is expected to come online in two phases, with the first unit operating in 2029 and the second in 2030.

Unlike Pioneer Generation Station, which expanded over time, Bison Generation Station is being built as a single, large project.

“We had a history of building small units, piecemealing them in as quickly as we could. That worked for a long time, but eventually we reached a point where we needed to think about building differently,” McCollam said. “There was a point where we recognized that continuing to add smaller pieces wasn’t going to be the most effective approach. We needed to build something at a scale that would allow us to stay ahead of that growth.”

Serendipitously, the transition from Pioneer Generation Station to Bison Generation Station happened on the same day. Basin Electric finished construction at Pioneer and turned the facility over to operations, then received the permits to begin construction on Bison.

“I’m kind of a nerd,” McCollam

said, laughing. “I’m nerdy enough to think this wasn’t a coincidence, and the power plant gods were smiling on us.”

Once complete, it will become a central part of Basin Electric’s generation portfolio.

“It’s going to be the flagship of our gas fleet,” McCollam said. “It’s being designed with the understanding that the system we’re serving today is going to continue to grow.”

Looking Ahead

According to McCollam, these new generation assets are a response to the organic growth Basin Electric is seeing across its traditional membership, including residential demand, agriculture, commercial activity and energy production.

“We support that growth where it happens, and we make sure the system can deliver power where it’s needed,” he said.

For Basin Electric, the work underway now is part of a longer process to ensure reliability in a time of growing energy demand.

“The entire purpose of Basin Electric is to provide reliable service to our membership,” McCollam said. “As that system grows, we have to continue building to keep up with it.”



March Board Meeting Highlights

The March board meeting was held on Wednesday, March 25th, 2026, at 8 a.m. Directors Eekhoff, Firlle, Hinderman, Manthei, Neyers, Peterson, Ruebel, and Zaske were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Nick Bruns, Gene Alex, Bryon Stillely, Amy Ervin, and Carren Frank.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the February 25th, 2026 board meeting
- Director Expenses
- Safety Report for March
- Operating and disbursement reports for the months of February
- Capital Credits to Estates
- CoBank Amendment to ByLaws
- FM Bank Authorized Signer
- Operation Round Up District 1 Board Member

The board reviewed the following items:

- Total new members
- Capital Credit Transfers

- 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 February (unaudited)
 - o Organization activities
 - o 2026 Rates
 - o RESCO Director Candidate Nominations
 - o New Members
 - o CoBank Request for Director Candidates
 - o East River update
 - o Director meeting reports
 - o Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
 - o Accounts Receivable

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

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 \$60. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 4th of May, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck with your search!

REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2026 or 2027 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.

SAFETY NOTE:

If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out of the cab. Call 9-1-1 and the dispatched utility will de-energize the power so that you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

The Renville-Sibley office will be closed on the following holiday: Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th, 2026

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



Digging? Click or Call First.

Whether you're excavating at a job site or installing a new fence post, underground utilities could be at any depth below the ground's surface. Keep yourself – and those around you – safe by having the dig site located through your local contact center before you dig.

RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Potable water
GREEN	Sanitary sewers and drain lines
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
PINK	Temporary survey markings
WHITE	Proposed excavation



Find us online
www.gopherstateonecall.org

Notice

The April board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

The May board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

Mission Statement

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

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

MAY 18
**Voter Registration
Deadline for Primary
Election**

5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 1
**Last Day to Request
Absentee Ballot.**

5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 2
Primary Election
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
(South Dakota)

Photo by Shutterstock

MAY 2-10
**Rustic Designs & More Spring
Show, Flea Market**
41450 264th St.
Ethan, SD
605-770-2411

MAY 2
Consignment Auction
7 a.m. Gates Open
10 a.m. Auction
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 2
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
2-8 p.m.
Milbank, SD
605-432-6656

MAY 3
Prairie Village Opening Day
2 p.m. Train Ride
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 6-7
**Energize! Exploring Innovative
Rural Communities Conference**
Hosted by SDSU Extension
Community Vitality
Community Center
Wall, SD
extension.sdstate.edu/energize

MAY 9
1880 Train Opens
Hill City, SD

MAY 15-17
Open House Weekend
Free Entrance
Custer State Park
Custer, SD

MAY 16
2nd Annual Bird Bash
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bear Butte State Park
Sturgis, SD
605-390-2901
valleyhummingbird@yahoo.com

MAY 23
Free Christian Men's Event
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Barn at Aspen Acres
Spearfish, SD
Register: RiseUpMen.com

MAY 30
**Familyfest Fun Cruise
& SDSC Safety Fair**
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bucket Trucks, Safety & More
Sioux Falls, SD
thehoodmagazine.com/ff-faqs/

MAY 30
Frühlingsfest
Spring Street Market
1-5 p.m.
Main Street Square
Rapid City, SD
605-718-8484

MAY 30
**Miss Prairie Village/Miss
Prairie Princess Pageant**
6:30 p.m.
Lawrence Welk Opera House
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JUNE 4-6
Black Hills Quilt Show
Thurs. 5-8 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Rushmore Hall
at the Monument
Rapid City, SD

JUNE 13
Journey Into Historic Pickstown
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ft. Randall Town & Museum
Pickstown, SD
605-487-7299

JUNE 13
Luce Pioneer Day
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Rope & Candle Making, Butter
Churning, Dutch Oven Cooking
Lake Herman State Park
Madison, SD
605-880-5077

JUNE 19-20
77th Annual Czech Days
Tabor, SD
www.taborczechdays.com

JUNE 24-27
Crystal Springs Rodeo
Clear Lake, SD
605-874-2996

JUNE 26-27
Buckhorn Rodeo
Britton, SD
605-880-5077

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

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.