



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



RENVILLE-SIBLEY
AUGUST 2026 VOL. 27 NO. 4

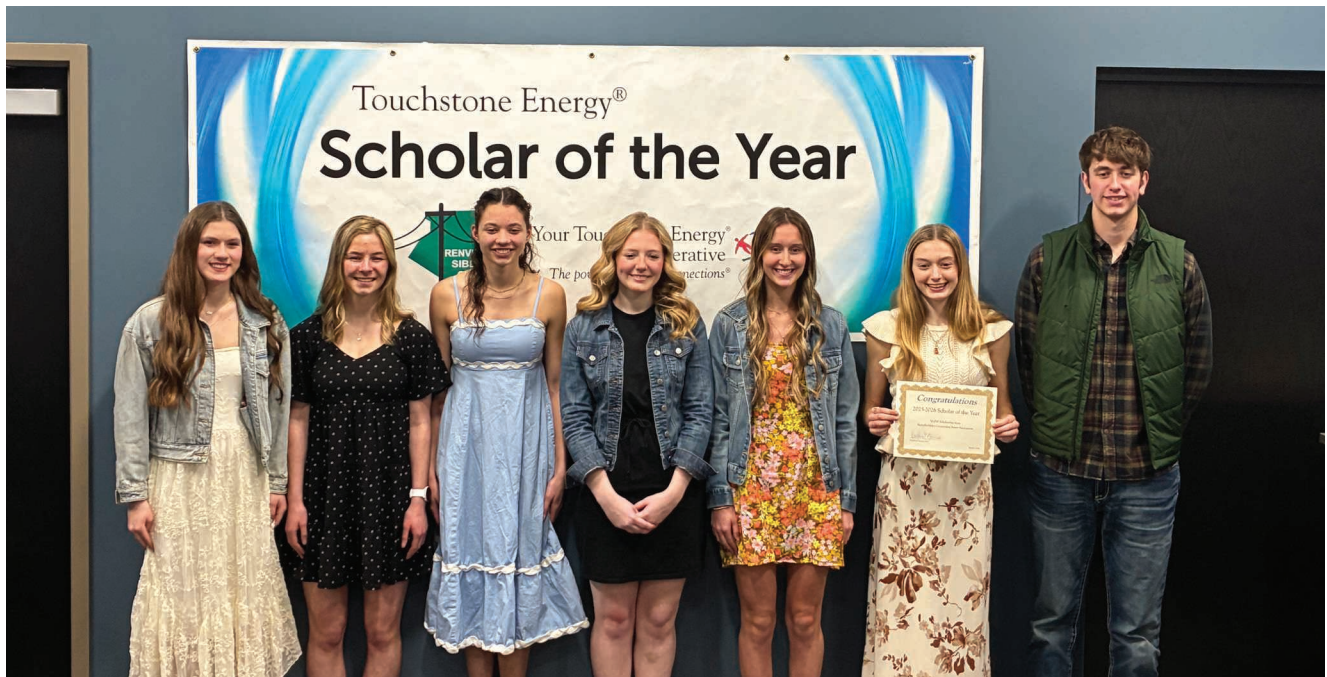
COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Preserving Our Past

**Historical Society Unveils
New Cultural Heritage Center**
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Scholar of the Year Banquet 2026

The following scholars attended the Scholar of the Year Banquet held on April 8th. From left to right: Elizabeth Wassenaar (CMCS), Maggie Setrum (CMCS), Elizabeth Johnson (MACCRA), Lauren Miller (Redwood Valley High School), Brynn Hoffbeck (Cedar Mountain), Kalleigh Wertish (RCW), and Seth Lippert (BOLD).



Amy Ervin
Executive Admin
and HR

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA) celebrated the conclusion of another great year of our Scholar of the Month Program on Wednesday, April 8th. This marks the eleventh year of this wonderful program that recognizes our area high school seniors. Seven recent high school graduates, their family members, and four of the teachers that nominated them gathered at RSCPA's headquarters in Danube for the RSCPA Touchstone

Energy® Scholar of the Year Banquet.

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, RSCPA was founded on the four pillars of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and Commitment to Community. Based on these principles, RSCPA sponsors the Scholar of the Month program to recognize those high school students who also share these same values. During the school year, in the months of November through February, these students were nominated by a teacher at one of our area schools because they felt the student demonstrated outstanding academic, school, and community achievements. Through a random drawing, one name is selected each

month from those names submitted. A \$100 donation was given to the school of the selected student with the student determining how the funds were to be distributed at their school (music, sports, art, etc.). The Scholar of the Month was then featured in the Cooperative Connections monthly newsletter, their local newspaper, and on the local radio stations. Schools invited to participate in the program include Renville County West, MACCRA, BOLD, Redwood Valley, Central Minnesota Christian School, Cedar Mountain, and GFW.

RSCPA hosted the Scholar of the Year Banquet to recognize each of these students. Kalleigh Wertish was selected, by a random drawing, as the Scholar of the Year and the winner of a \$1,000 scholarship. Kalleigh is a recent high school graduate of Renville County West High School. To be eligible for the scholarship, the student had to be present at the banquet. Ankit Mukhopadhyay, the MN Delegate from the 2025 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour was our guest speaker for the evening. Ankit highlighted the importance of Commitment to Community with your local cooperative and encouraged others to get involved, which is one of the pillars electric cooperatives was founded on.

Thank you to Main Street Café in Danube for once again catering a delicious meal that was enjoyed by everyone.

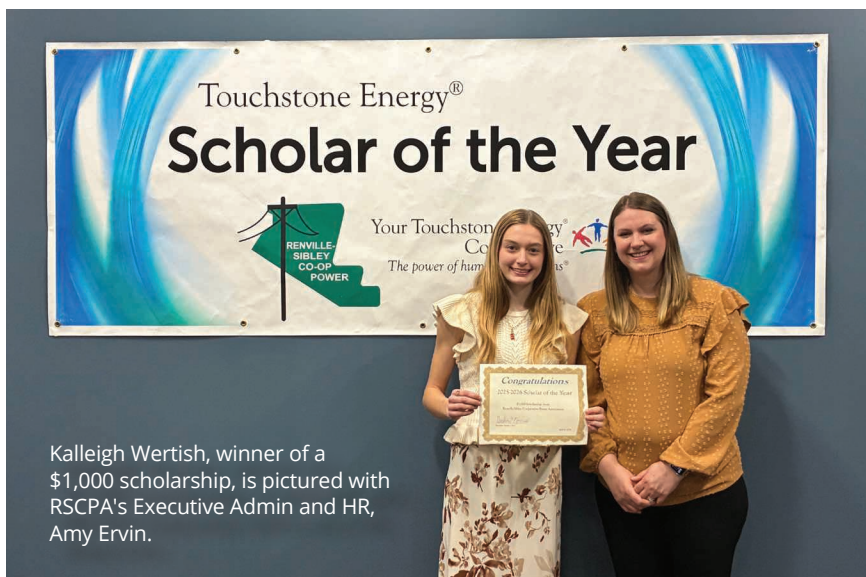
RSCPA looks forward to another great year of offering the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month program in the 2026– 2027 school year.

The following is a list of the scholars selected each month and the school organization they chose for their \$100 donation:

Month	Scholar	School Organization
November	Kalleigh Wertish	Varsity Softball
November	Brynn Hoffbeck	Cedar Mountain FFA Chapter
December	Maggie Setrum	Art Department
December	Elizabeth Johnson	FFA Organization
January	Seth Lippert	BOLD Music Department
January	Elizabeth Wassenaar	Arts Program
February	Lauren Miller	Redwood Valley HS Theatre Dept.
February	Jacob Savig	Wrestling Program



The Guest Speaker of the evening, Ankit Mukhopadhyay.



Kalleigh Wertish, winner of a \$1,000 scholarship, is pictured with RSCPA's Executive Admin and HR, Amy Ervin.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



As unmanned aerial systems (UAS) increasingly populate recreational and professional skies, safety remains paramount – especially near critical infrastructure such as overhead power lines. Today we reaffirm that drones should be flown in open spaces away from electrical lines and substations to prevent power outages and dangerous debris that can threaten public safety.

A drone colliding with a power line can cause outages and, if lines are downed, create serious electrical hazards for anyone nearby. Touching downed lines or debris that has fallen on fences, trees or other objects can result in severe injury or death. If you encounter downed power lines, immediately call 911 and notify emergency personnel and the utility company.

To ensure safe and compliant drone operations, follow federal registration and business-approval requirements, and stay informed about local, state and community regulations. FAA safety guidelines remain essential: Inspect your drone for damage before each flight and repair any issues prior to use. Fly at or below 400 feet unless FAA authorization or an allowed exception applies. Maintain visual line of sight; do not fly beyond it. Avoid airports, manned aircraft, stadiums and crowds of people. Do not fly for unapproved commercial purposes without FAA authorization. Refrain from flying in bad weather, including low visibility or high winds. Never fly recklessly or endanger others; violations can result in fines and penalties.

It is encouraged that drone operators plan routes

that maximize safety and minimize proximity to power infrastructure. Responsible pilots, adherence to FAA guidelines and awareness of local rules can prevent outages, injuries and potentially tragic consequences. For more information on legal requirements and best practices, consult FAA resources and your local utility providers.

Together, we can enjoy the benefits of drone technology while safeguarding our communities and critical electrical infrastructure.

As drone use expands, operators should build safety into every mission from the outset. Calibration, pre-flight checklists, and robust maintenance programs help catch issues before takeoff. Operators are encouraged to use situational awareness tools, such as real-time weather updates and wind assessments, to adjust flight plans accordingly. Community education events and outreach can foster a responsible culture among hobbyists and professionals alike, reinforcing the shared responsibility to protect power networks and nearby residents. By prioritizing safety, we preserve access to this transformative technology for all.



"Call 811 before you dig – always."

Laina Nelson, age 10

Laina reminds members to always call 811 before digging. Thank you for sharing your picture, Laina! Laina's parents are Nathan and Kristen Nelson – members of H-D Electric.

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.



Family FAVORITES

PARTY IN A PAN

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs. hamburger, browned
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 box Stove Top Stuffing Mix
1 can corn, drained
3 cups mozzarella cheese,
shredded

Method

Combine the hamburger, celery soup and chicken soup in a bowl and set aside. Prepare the Stove Top Stuffing as directed on the box. Layer half the hamburger mixture, half the corn, half the stuffing and half the cheese; repeat layers again. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350°F or until cheese is melted. Makes 9x13 inch pan.

Kathy Zomer
Douglas Electric

WALLEYE WITH HORSERADISH SAUCE

Ingredients:

2 lbs. walleye fillets
1 cup Lawry's Herb & Garlic
marinade
1 tsp. Lawry's Season Salt
1 tsp. lemon pepper
1/4 cup butter
2 tbsp. horseradish
2 tsp. dill

Method

Marinate fish in herb & garlic marinade for 30 minutes. Drain. Sprinkle with season salt and lemon pepper. Bake fish until it flakes. Melt butter in saucepan. Remove from heat and add horseradish. Spoon onto fillet after cooked. Sprinkle on dill and serve.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

BBQ MEATBALLS

Ingredients:

Meatballs

3# ground beef
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
1 cup oatmeal
1 cup cracker crumbs
2 eggs
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. chili powder

Sauce

2 cups ketchup
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. liquid smoke, or to taste
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 cup finely chopped onion

Method

Mix all meatball ingredients together and shape into meatballs. Place meatballs in a baking dish.

Mix all sauce ingredients together and pour over meatballs. Cover and bake at 350°F for one hour. The meatballs can be made ahead of time and frozen for several weeks. This makes a large batch, so it can be divided into smaller batches and frozen.

Karen Soulek
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.

New Grain Bins Near Overhead Power Lines

Remember Grain Bins Have Clearance Requirements

To stay safe, many farming tasks require looking up and around for power lines: when operating large equipment with antennas or when using long implements, for example.

Another safety issue farmers should keep in mind related to power lines is grain bin location. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The code does so to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with a live electrical line and because utility lines have clearance requirements. 988200

If you are planning on building a new grain bin or remodeling around an area that already has one, contact **Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association** at **320-826-2593** or **800-826-2593**. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line. Not only is placing a grain bin too close to a power line extremely dangerous, but it will also most likely need to be relocated due to one or more code violations, and usually at the owner's expense.

Remember, calling us before installing a new grain bin or making



changes around an existing one is free. Moving one is costly; it interrupts your farming schedule and is just an all-around hassle. The NESC specifies both horizontal and vertical distance requirements so don't leave a bin's location to chance.

For example, a grain bin that is 30 feet high must be at least 93 feet from a power line, and all bins must have an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the bin's filling port. There are also distance requirements for non-loading sides of bins. In addition,

changes to the ground (landscaping, filling) and drainage work can affect clearance heights.

Even if you are not getting a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one, remember to always maintain adequate clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin or when moving machinery or farming equipment anywhere on your farm.

Contact with a power line could be deadly. For more information about electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org.

Call Before You Dig!

Call 811 or go online to
www.gopherstateonecall.org and file a
locate request before you dig!

Toll Free: 1-800-252-1166

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.



FARMFEST 2026
AUGUST 4-6
28366 COUNTY HWY 13
MORGAN, MN (GILFILLAN)



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



MEMEBER INFO:

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

August Member Events



Amy Ervin
Executive Admin
and HR

August brings two familiar Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA) member events that are always worth adding to your calendar. Farmfest and Family-a-Fair Night will be here soon, and we hope members will take advantage of these opportunities to stop by, visit with us and enjoy these annual community events.

Farmfest

Farmfest will take place August 4–6 at the Gilfillan Estate near Morgan, Minnesota. RSCPA will once again join other area electric cooperatives in sponsoring a booth during the event. Members are encouraged to visit Booth #2201 in the large

ag tent to learn more and say hello. Farmfest is a popular outdoor event for farmers, agribusinesses and anyone interested in agriculture.

If you plan to attend, don't forget to bring the coupon printed above. The coupon serves as your entry for the prize drawing and must be brought to the booth to be eligible. Prizes include an EGO Power+ Leaf Blower, String Trimmer, 9-gallon Wet/Dry Shop Vacuum, Pressure Washer or 18" Chain Saw. Stop by our booth to see the prizes and enter for your chance to win.

Family-a-Fair Night

RSCPA is pleased to continue the tradition of welcoming members to Family-a-Fair Night, compliments of the Cooperative. This annual event is a great way for families, friends and neighbors to enjoy an evening at the Renville County Fair, including the activities, food and fun that make the fair a summer favorite.

Cooperative members, including up to four family members, are invited to attend the Renville County Fair for **FREE** on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 13th**. Members will receive a postcard in the mail the week of July 27th, and that postcard will provide free entrance for up to four family members. Please bring the postcard to the West entrance gate of the Renville County Fair between 3–7 p.m. RSCPA employees and board members will be located just outside the West fence to assist you. The postcard will also be used to enter members into a drawing for a \$50 energy credit, and children 12 and under may enter their names for a prize drawing as well. We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

If you have questions about either event, please call us at



2026 Farmfest prizes: EGO Power+ Leaf Blower, String Trimmer, 9-gallon Wet/Dry Shop Vacuum, Pressure Washer and 18" Chain Saw.



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A PAST FIT FOR THE FUTURE

A new lobby welcomes visitors to the Cultural Heritage Center.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

Cultural Center & State Museum Reopens After Extensive Renovation

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

After more than two years spent closed for renovation, South Dakota's state museum and cultural center is back up and running to share the story of South Dakota and its people with visitors from across the state and beyond.

The iconic museum built into the Pierre hillside held its grand reopening July 1 in time for the nation's 250th birthday, showing off new exhibits, a gift shop and an expansion that includes a larger meeting room and more space for its archives.

For Museum Director David Grabitske, the reopening marks a new chapter for the South Dakota State Historical Society, which oversees both the museum and state archives housed there. But it also honors the first laws set forth by the Dakota Territory's first territorial legislature, outlining specific steps and functions for historical preservation for untold future generations of its citizens.

According to Grabitske, many of the

first Dakotan settlers were determined to preserve the history they were making day by day as settlers on the vast American frontier.

"The first three acts [by the territorial legislature] were all about transferring property at the end of life – it's all about inheritance," Grabitske explained. "The fourth act of the territory created the historical society. In my mind, the fourth act goes along with those first three acts; it's about how we give things to the future."

Establishing a historical society demonstrated confidence that there would be a future for the Dakota Territory – complete with a permanent population that would live, grow and prosper there.

"We have a mantra around here," Grabitske said. "We collect today for tomorrow's history."

What that sentiment has amounted to is a sprawling collection of more than 17,000 cubic feet of paper, 50 terabytes of data on its servers, and more than 35,000 individual objects.

"The very first collections that arrived were in 1863, and we still have those in our library," Grabitske said. "They were

library books – 514 of them in 11 boxes."

In the process of collecting and disseminating information, historical societies at the time would collect and make copies of books to trade with other historical societies to expand their collections and diffuse knowledge across a wider area and reduce the risk of losing records to fire.

You'll find those 160 years' worth of books, deeds, contracts and reports



On the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn, Curator of Collections Katy L. Schmidt holds a can found on the battlefield.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

throughout the high-ceilinged, climate-controlled archive wing of the building – but you'll also find objects that aren't necessarily old or inherently valuable.

"The reason we add something into our collection is because it's historic, and what we mean by historic is it has significance and integrity," Grabitske explained. "Something being 'old' just fixes it in time. What makes something historic is that it is significant – it tells the story of people in South Dakota, and it has integrity, which means a certain completeness to tell that story."

To illustrate the point, Grabitske described a recent addition to the museum's collection – a painted tire with the words "no hunting."

"You see these things going down the road [in South Dakota], and we realized we were missing [one for the museum]," he explained. "We found one near Timber Lake which had a story. The lady who gave it to us (family of Dorothy Dopp, courtesy of the Timber Lake & Area Museum) had put it up in 1967 and she had faithfully painted it over the years and knew the dates she had painted it. We don't need 400 of these tires – we need one to represent the whole state."

Visitors to the museum this summer can experience the first three rooms of the updated exhibits. These sections house a welcome area, 'What is History?' exhibit and a gallery. The remaining sections are slated for completion in December 2026 and will feature exhibits on South Dakota's environment, people, politics, conflicts and more.

For more information on the Cultural Heritage Center and the South Dakota State Historical Society, visit history.sd.gov.



An exhibit showcasing the famous people of South Dakota.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



This plaster doll (left) was gifted to South Dakota by Japan in 1927 to commemorate the United States' 150th birthday. Fifty years later, for the nation's 200th birthday, Japan gifted South Dakota another doll (right).
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Museum Director and South Dakota State Historical Society Assistant Director David Grabitske walks through the extensive art archive, revealing a painting of an electrical lineman working through a winter storm.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Grabitske demonstrates the new movable shelves installed over tracks within the floor. This upgrade will maximize the available archival space.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

MODERN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES

Anthony Buckley
NRECA

“Nuclear energy” often conjures images from TV and movies, such as towering cooling structures, glowing green substances and frantic control rooms. In reality, modern nuclear power plants are far removed from these portrayals.

Today’s nuclear facilities operate more like high-tech industrial campuses that are clean, continuously monitored, extremely secure and designed with multiple, overlapping layers of safety.

In the United States, nuclear plants are among the most heavily regulated facilities of any kind, with a dense framework of state and federal oversight governing reactor licensing, fuel handling, plant maintenance, material disposal and emergency preparedness to ensure that nuclear plants operate safely and responsibly.

Safe operation begins in the control room. Plant operators must pass demanding written and operational examinations administered by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission before they are allowed to work – and training doesn’t stop once operators are licensed. Personnel are regularly tested on routine plant operations and on rare but high consequence emergency scenarios. As nuclear facilities modernize, operators are also trained using advanced digital systems that are replacing older, analog equipment. These upgrades improve automation, diagnostics and situational awareness.

Safety extends far beyond the control room. Organization and discipline define how nuclear plants are designed and run. Facilities have clearly established security perimeters, controlled access points and rigorous maintenance programs to ensure reliability while protecting workers and surrounding communities. Critical components are housed in reinforced concrete and steel structures and are accessible only to essential personnel.

Reactor technology has also become safer as decades of experience have driven innovation. One of the most significant advances is the increased use of “passive safety” systems, built-in safety features that work automatically. Earlier reactors relied heavily on pumps, motors and operator intervention to perform critical functions like circulating cooling water. While modern designs still include active systems, they also integrate passive features that do not require external power or immediate human action. Instead, natural forces such as gravity, pressure and convection keep the reactor stable and cooled if disruptions occur. Passive safety increases resilience during grid outages and extreme weather events.

Another major area of innovation is the development of small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors. These reactors are far smaller than traditional nuclear plants and are designed to be manufactured in factories and assembled on-site. Existing U.S. nuclear plants typically

produce between 600 and 1,500 megawatts (MW). By comparison, SMRs are expected to generate about 70–350 MW, while microreactors would produce just 1–20 MW. Their smaller size and standardized designs could shorten construction timelines and allow capacity to be added incrementally as energy demand grows.

SMRs and microreactors remain early-stage technologies. Most developers are still in the prototype phase, with no commercial deployments yet operating. Widespread adoption is unlikely before the end of the decade, but interest remains strong. The U.S. Department of Energy and numerous private investors, including large technology companies, are committing significant funding to accelerate research, licensing and deployment.

In a time of rapid electric demand growth, nuclear power offers zero-carbon baseload power, a potentially valuable attribute as fossil fuel plants retire and intermittent renewable resources expand. As the energy landscape shifts, nuclear energy may play an important role for cooperatives seeking dependable, long-term generation options.

Electric cooperatives are tracking these developments in their long-term planning. For co-ops and their consumer-members, nuclear energy can provide reliable, cost-effective, carbon-free electricity. Nationwide, generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives, the wholesale power suppliers that provide electricity to your electric co-op, already partially own or contract for output from 16 operating nuclear reactors, including the nation’s two newest reactors at Plant Vogtle in Georgia. Two G&Ts are contracted to purchase the output of the Palisades Nuclear Plant in Michigan, the first of its kind “restart” of a recently retired nuclear reactor expected to come online this year.

Understanding NERC, the Watchdog for a Reliable Electric Grid

Cathy Cash

NRECA

The country's electric grid with its hundreds of thousands of miles of high-voltage power lines is often described as a bowl of spaghetti. Yet 99.9% of the time when you flick a switch, the lights come on.

So, who is the bulk power system's chief detangler?

That would be the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the official watchdog of the North American bulk power system. The international non-profit known as NERC sets mandatory reliability standards for all users, owners and operators of the electric transmission grid.

To maintain reliability, NERC oversees and evaluates grid conditions with support from six regional reliability organizations that serve as its on-the-ground partners in identifying potential problem areas. Each summer and winter, NERC releases seasonal grid assessments that evaluate whether electricity supply is sufficient to meet expected demand and highlight regions at risk of shortfalls.

These periodic reports analyze conditions that can increase demand, such as heat waves and severe cold, as well as factors that can constrain generation, including fuel or equipment shortages. They also include recommendations to address current risks and help prevent future problems. When unforeseen threats emerge,

NERC issues special assessments as needed.

Every year the organization also provides a long-term grid assessment looking ahead 10 years at what innovations or circumstances may impact the reliability of our interconnected electric energy transmission network.

Providing the electric power industry with timely insight into grid reliability, potential power shortfalls and strategies to address them is essential to keeping the lights on.

But wait, there's more.

NERC holds workshops, technical conferences and trains industry personnel on how to maintain a secure grid and audits owners and operators of the bulk power system to ensure they meet all reliability standards.

NERC also operates the 24/7 Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) that provides the power industry with the latest information on cyber threats, trends and possible solutions with alerts and advisories. E-ISAC develops and executes GridEx, the largest cyber and physical grid security exercise in North America.

Overall, NERC has come a long way from its humble beginning as an industry-led, voluntary grid watchdog. The big Northeast blackout of 1965 that impacted 30 million people led electric utilities to set up the entity to better coordinate grid dynamics.

Today, NERC is the nation's Electric Reliability Organization that oversees the operation and planning of the grid throughout North America. Empowered by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, NERC develops mandatory, enforceable reliability standards backed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Utilities like South Dakota's electric cooperatives, for the most part, are not regulated by NERC. State agencies oversee the distribution power lines that deliver electricity to your home and surrounding communities. But NERC's authority over the bulk power system is critical to maintaining reliability in every part of the country, including the most rural areas.

Electric cooperatives that participate in NERC activities advocate for regulations that enable co-ops to plan, maintain and operate a reliable grid.

So how does NERC impact you as a member of an electric cooperative?

NERC helps ensure the electric grid remains reliable, secure and resilient for the millions of people who depend on it every day. By developing and enforcing reliability standards, monitoring the bulk power system and identifying emerging risks, NERC plays a critical role in supporting the safe delivery of electricity across North America.

For electric co-op communities, the work that NERC conducts means greater confidence that homes, schools, farms and businesses will have reliable power around the clock.



Photo Credit: Northeast
Oklahoma Electric
Cooperative

CO-OP SUMMER OUTREACH

Join Us at S.D. State Fair, Dakotafest, Minn. Farmfest

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Attention all co-op members! If you're heading to the South Dakota State Fair, Dakotafest or Farmfest this summer, stop by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booths for some great family fun and a chance to win a prize!

Make sure you fill out your coupon on the back of this magazine and bring it with you to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair or Dakotafest for your chance to win one of two electric grills sponsored by Karl's TV & Appliance.

South Dakota State Fair – Sept. 3, 2026

South Dakota's electric cooperatives will host the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026.

This one-day event will feature a slew of energy-themed activities, from bucket truck rides lifting you more than 50 feet above the state fairgrounds to an interactive pole climbing demonstration complete with real spiked boots and climbing gear that linemen use every day on the job. We've also partnered up with South Dakota One Call to remind you to always call 811 before you start digging – but your kids are welcome to use our mini excavator in our sandbox to uncover buried treasure!

While you're here, check out our on-site displays for select highly efficient, all-electric heat pumps and mini-splits, water heaters, yard tools and more!

Find our booth near the Horticulture Building.

Dakotafest – Aug. 18-20, 2026

You'll want to stop by the South Dakota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives building at Dakotafest in Mitchell, Aug. 18-20!

Join us for fresh-off-the-grill brats, oven-baked cookies and freezie pops as you learn about the latest in home energy savings and efficiency. We'll have other cool stuff for you to check out, including an automatic lawn mower, a solar panel display and an EGO Power+ Portable Power Station.

Minnesota Farmfest – Aug. 4-6, 2026

Minnesota members, come visit your electric cooperative at Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Aug. 4-6, 2026. Members may enter a raffle drawing for one of five battery-operated yard tools. We'll even have the high-voltage trailer on site for a live demonstration to remind visitors to be safe around overhead and buried power lines.



Kids perfected their utility pole climbing skills at the South Dakota State Fair.

Photo by Jacob Boyko



Touchstone Energy Cooperatives host a booth at Dakotafest in 2025.

Submitted Photo



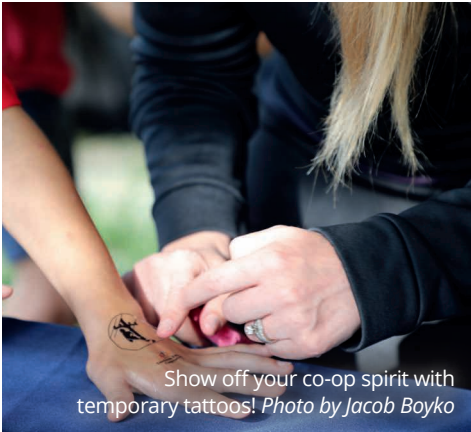
Charles Mix Electric Lineman Joe Michael shows off the bucket truck at the State Fair.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Fairgoers get a lineman's view of the State Fair! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A future lineman readies for his climb.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Show off your co-op spirit with temporary tattoos! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A line forms for bucket truck rides.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Booth visitors can win prizes by playing Plinko.
Submitted Photo

June Board Meeting Highlights

The June board meeting was held on Wednesday, June 24th 2026, at 8 a.m. Directors Eekhoff, Firle, Hinderman, Manthei, Neyers, Peterson, Ruebel, and Zaske were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Nick Bruns, Bryon Stille, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the May 27th, 2026 board meeting
- Director Expenses
- Safety Report for May
- Operating and disbursement reports for the months of May
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Policy 544
- Policy 527
- Schedule B
- Distributed Generation Resources (DER) Acknowledgement

- NRECA Regional Meeting Voting Delegates
- Federated Rural Electric Regions 5 & 6 Director Election
- RESCO Director Election

The board reviewed the following items:

- Total new members
- 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 May (unaudited)
 - o Organization activities
 - o MREA District 5 Vacancy
 - o Basin Electric update
 - 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's RSCPA member found their member number in the newsletter. Congratulations! The value of the energy credit will start over at \$15. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 3rd of August, 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 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.

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 in October. The deadline for applications is October 1. Applications for donations can be found at rscpa.coop/operation-round. Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOUS

Thank you for awarding me a \$1,000 scholarship. This scholarship will help me continue my education at NDSU. I truly appreciate your generosity!

- Addelyn Malvin

Thank you for recognizing me as a Scholar of the Month. It was a wonderful evening and honor to be recognized alongside other students. This Fall, I will be attending NDSCS to study dental hygiene. I am grateful for the encouragement as I begin this next chapter.

Thank you – Brynn Hoffbeck

Notice

The July board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

The August board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

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

Stray Voltage

Stray voltage can cause serious problems in certain livestock confinement systems. Dairywomen and hog producers can lose production from their livestock and experience health problems due to small electric voltages. These voltages are known by several names, including tingle voltage, neutral-to-earth voltage, neutral-to-ground voltage and nuisance voltage. They all refer to very low voltage between two animal contact points. The cause of the voltage can be varied and complex. It may be caused by poor load balance, faulty wiring or equipment, improper grounding or a host of other electrical problems.

One common problem is that the farm operations grow in size, but the electrical service isn't upgraded to grow along with it. Also, electrical systems become obsolete and deteriorate due to improper maintenance.

It must be understood, however, that many factors other than stray voltage may cause behavior, health and production problems. A careful analysis of all possible causes is necessary if proper corrective procedures are to be found.

A special section of the National Electric Code deals with the special requirements for wiring all livestock buildings. If these are strictly followed and buildings are "up to code," the potential



Photo Credit: Wolfgang Hasselmann

for stray voltage problems is greatly reduced. Many older barns have been converted from one use to another and do not meet code requirements. If you are building new livestock facilities, be sure all work is done in accordance with Article 547 of the National Electric Code.

If stray voltage is suspected on your farm, contact Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association. An investigation will be made to determine if a problem is present. Your electrician is also requested to be present so any problems can be noted and corrected. In dairy operations, consulting your milking equipment dealer and local veterinarian is also recommended. They can determine if equipment problems or health problems that may or may not be related to stray voltage are present.

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.

Outage Report

Date: 5-6-26
Time off: 9:00 AM
Time on: 10:19 AM
Substation: Kingman
Cause: Other Prearranged

Date: 5-14-26
Time off: 9:02 AM
Time on: 10:15 AM
Substation: Birch Cooley
Cause: Other Prearranged

Date: 5-18-26
Time off: 9:07 AM
Time on: 11:31 AM
Substation: Birch Cooley
Cause: Other Prearranged

Date: 5-18-26
Time off: 3:00 PM
Time on: 4:05 PM
Substation: Kingman
Cause: Cause Unknown

Date: 5-24-26
Time off: 6:26 PM
Time on: 9:14 PM
Substation: Cairo
Cause: Tree Failure

Affecting 10 members or more

Please contact Renville-Sibley's office for more details about these power outages.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____ Dakotafest – Find us in the Touchstone Energy Building!
Your Email Address: _____ S.D. State Fair – Find us in the Horticulture Park!



AUG. 18-20
Dakotafest
2300 E. Spruce St.
Mitchell, 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.

JULY 30
Spurs Grand Classic Equestrian Competition
9 a.m.
Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1099

AUG. 1-2
51st Annual Pioneer Power Threshing Show
MN Machinery Museum
Hanley Falls, MN
507-828-5437

AUG. 4-6
Farmfest 2026
8-a.m.-4 p.m.
Gilfillan Estate
28269 MN Hwy. 67
Morgan, MN
ideagroup.com/farmfest

AUG. 5
Ag Appreciation Day
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sioux Empire Fair
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 8
Peever 125th Celebration
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Parade, Bean Bag Tournament,
Tractor Pull, Street Dance
Peever, SD

AUG. 8-9
South Dakota Senior Games
Events for People Ages 50+
Huron, SD
Register by July 26
SouthDakotaSeniorGames.org
605-295-2039
sdsrgames@gmail.com

AUG. 9
Czech Heritage Festival
8-a.m.-4 p.m.
Bechyn, MN
320-522-1218

AUG. 12-14
Renville County Fair
10 a.m. daily
Thurs.: Family-a-Fair Night (3-7 p.m.)
Renville County Fairgrounds
Bird Island, MN
renvillecountyfair.org

AUG. 15
Sunflower Festival
Highmore, SD
605-478-0123

AUG. 15
Melon Festival
Car Show, Live Music,
Bean Bag Tournament
Forestburg, SD
605-770-2132

AUG. 22
McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Challenge
3:30 p.m.
McCrossan Boys Ranch
Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-1203

AUG. 22
2026 Yankton Bull Riding
7:30 p.m.
Yankton Rodeo Grounds
Yankton, SD
605-760-4217

AUG. 27-30
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

SEPT. 1-6
20th Annual Sturgis Mustang Rally
Sturgis, SD
SturgisMustangRally.com

SEPT. 3
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives at the South Dakota State Fair
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
State Fairgrounds –
Horticulture Park
Huron, SD
605-224-8823

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.