

Renville-Sibley

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

April 2018 Vol. 18 No. 12

Cooperative Connections

Getting the
DIRT on
Underground
Damages

Page 8

A Day
with a
Lineworker

Page 12



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

The Power Behind Your Power



DeeAnne Newville, CEO

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Office Phone: 320-826-2593
Direct Line: 320-826-2021

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather

takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must work 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heaving equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Rubber gloves and sleeves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a

critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

Renville-Sibley lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1,053 miles of line working across our service territory, which includes the majority of Renville County and portions of five other counties, in order to bring power to your home or business 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform during outage situations, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. Lineworkers help build and maintain the distribution infrastructure, maintain their vehicles and equipment, attend safety and skills training, help train other linemen throughout the state by volunteering at hot line schools and serve on employee committees focused on topics such as safety, mayday, equipment, facilities, benefits and community service.

While some of the tools and equipment that lineworkers use have changed over the years, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During tornadoes, ice, snow or wind storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. During the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



Renville-Sibley

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

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 Alan Neyers – Secretary/Treasurer
 Steve Benson
 Randy Dolezal
 Matt Haubrich
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 Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman
 Lenae Wordes – Communications Manager

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Web site: www.renville-sibley.coop

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Renville-Sibley 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.

2018 Director Candidates

District 1:



Alan Neyers

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.



Adam Prochniak

District 2:



Helen Ruebel

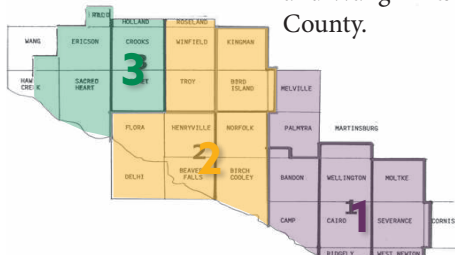
Townships of Honner and Delhi in Redwood County and the Townships of Beaver Falls, Flora, Henryville, Birch Cooley, Norfolk, Melville, Bird Island and Kingman in Renville County.

District 3:



Gary Peterson

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.



Renville-Sibley Co-op to Hold Annual Meeting

The 80th annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018, at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner immediately following the meeting. The meeting is being called in accordance with the bylaws of the association to transact the following business:

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

The annual meeting report will be mailed to all members the third week of March. Members will receive their voting ballots for director election including candidate information, at that time. Also included in the mailing will be a voting ballot change to the articles of incorporation and bylaw. 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 April 5, 2018.

Drawings for the early bird prizes will begin at 5:45 p.m. Drawings will also be held at the close of the annual meeting. Children in attendance will be eligible for prize drawings. A \$10 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 80th annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

Alan Neyers, Secretary

Power Tools and Equipment Safety

Many do-it-yourself projects involve the use of power tools. Working with power tools requires skilled instruction and training. They can be deadly if not properly used or maintained.

The most common scenario for power tool-related electrocutions is when the equipment comes in contact with live electrical wires while it is being used.

Facts and Statistics:

- According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there are nearly 400 electrocutions in the United States each year.
- Approximately 15 percent of electrocutions are related to consumer products.
- 8 percent of consumer product-related electrocutions each year are attributed to electrical accidents with power drills, saws, sanders, hedge trimmers and other electric power tools.
- 9 percent of consumer product-related electrocutions each year are caused by accidents involving the use of lawn and garden equipment and ladders, which come into contact with overhead power lines.

Power Tool Safety Tips:

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electric shocks.
- Do not use power tools with an extension cord that exceeds 100 feet in length.
- Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
- If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
- When working with electricity, use tools with insulated grips.
- Appropriate personal protective gear should be worn when using power tools.
- Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
- When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electric shock.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Safeguards on outdoor electric tools are there for a reason. Make sure that they are always in place before operating.
- Invest in the safety goggles, hearing protection, dust masks, gloves and other safety gear as recommended for each tool. A few dollars now are well worth the lifetime of good sight and hearing that they are protecting.
- Wear the appropriate clothes for the job. Wearing sandals while mowing the lawn is just asking for trouble.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Five Easy Ways to

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Every Day

1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the market and other stores when shopping.
4. Go paperless. Pay as many bills as possible online.
5. Ditch the car and walk when possible.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Spring is coming! Don't fly kites near power lines."

Taylor Brooks, 7 years old

Taylor is the daughter of Tyson Brooks, Lake Andes, S.D. He receives his internet service through Charles Mix Electric Association, Lake Andes.

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.

Appetizers and Beverages

Jalapeno Poppers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 18 fresh jalapenos cut in half (stems intact if possible), seeds and membrane cleaned out (wear gloves) | 18 slices thin bacon, cut in halves |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese | Bottled barbecue sauce |
| 2/3 cup grated Cheddar cheese | Toothpicks |
| 2 green onions, chopped | Rubber gloves or plastic bags for working with the jalapenos |

In a bowl, combine cream cheese, cheddar cheese and chopped green onion mixing gently. Stuff the pepper halves with the cheese mixture. Wrap bacon slices around each pepper half, covering as much of the surface as possible and do not stretch the bacon. Secure the bacon with a toothpick and then brush the surface of the bacon with barbecue sauce. Place on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake at 275°F. for 1 hour or until bacon is done. Serve hot or room temperature.

***Note:** These can be assembled a day in advance, kept refrigerated and then baked or baked, frozen and reheated prior to serving. Experiment with different cheeses or jellies instead of barbecue sauce.*

Judy Mendel, Doland

Mocha Freeze

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 cups vanilla ice cream, softened | 1 T. chocolate syrup |
| 1/4 cup cold strong coffee | 1/2 cup crushed ice |

Combine ingredients in blender; blend well. Makes 4 servings.

Becki Hauser, Tripp

Triple Berry Special

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 cup frozen strawberries | 1/2 cup buttermilk |
| 1 cup raspberries | 1-1/2 cups strawberry yogurt |
| 1 cup blueberries | 2 T. honey |
| 1 cup milk | 2 T. flax meal |

Combine ingredients in blender; blend well.

Hannah Schoenfelder, Cavour

Southwest Chili Cups

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1/2 lb. lean ground beef | 1 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder |
| 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed | 2 (8 oz. each) pkgs. corn muffin mix |
| 1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |
| 4 tsp. McCormick® Chili Powder | 3/4 cup sour cream |
| 2 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves, finely crushed, divided | 1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions |

Brown beef in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Add beans, tomato sauce, chili powder, 1 tsp. oregano and garlic powder; mix well. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Prepare corn muffin mix as directed on package, adding remaining 1 tsp. oregano. Spoon batter into 12 greased and floured or paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full. Spoon beef mixture into each cup, gently pressing into batter. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 400°F. for 12 minutes or until edges of muffin cups are golden. Cool 5 minutes in pan on wire rack. Top each cup with sour cream and green onions. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 317, Total Fat 13g, Sodium 659mg, Cholesterol 67mg, Carbohydrates 38g, Protein 12g, Dietary Fiber 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Orange Julius

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1/2 cup water | 1 T. sugar |
| 1/2 cup milk | 1/4 tsp. vanilla |
| 1/3 cup frozen orange juice | 6 ice cubes |

Combine ingredients in blender; blend well.

Fay Swenson, Rapid City

Please send your favorite casserole, dairy and dessert recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



Line Superintendent Gene Allex shares information on the activities of the Operations Department.

Connecting With Members

RENVILLE-SIBLEY HOLDS MEMBER MEETINGS

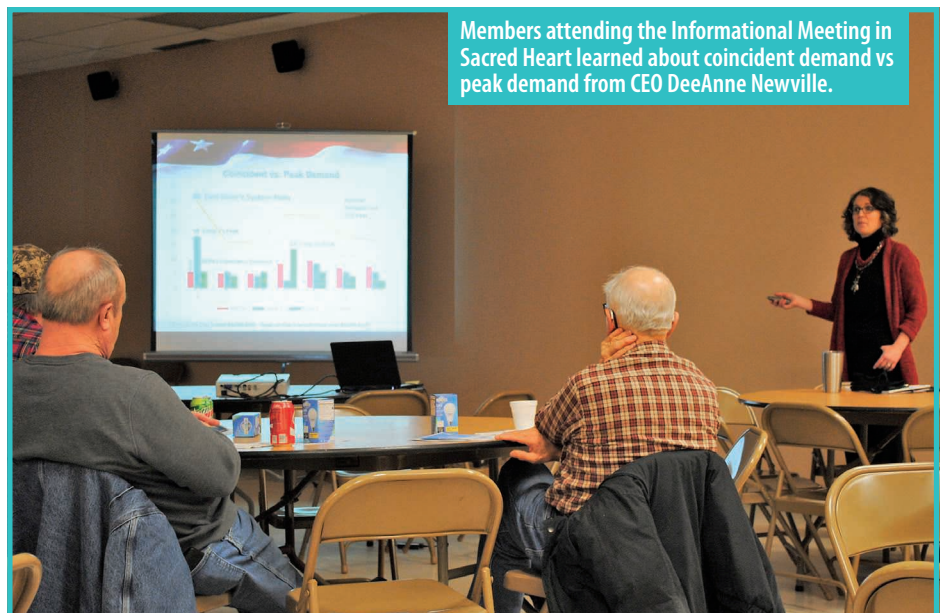
Lenae Wordes

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

Renville-Sibley held four member meetings in February. Although the weather did not cooperate for a few of the meetings, the fellowship with the members who were able to attend was great. The meetings were held in Danube, Bird Island, Franklin and Sacred Heart. These meetings allow Renville-Sibley the opportunity to share what is happening with the cooperative and the members the opportunity to ask questions in a smaller group setting.

Topics shared at these meetings included:

- Local democracy legislation and how that affects the membership.
- Review of the financial condition of the cooperative.
- Explanation of the bylaw changes which will be brought to a vote at the member meeting in April.
- Update from the Operations Department on 2017 activities and what is planned for 2018.



Members attending the Informational Meeting in Sacred Heart learned about coincident demand vs peak demand from CEO DeeAnne Newville.

- Information on the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) program.
- Reminder of the geothermal tax credit available to the members.

Members who have questions or would like to learn more about any of the above topics are welcome to call or stop in the office for further information.

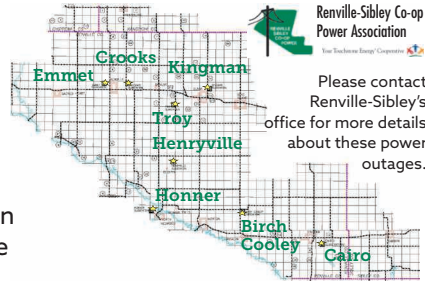
Comparative Report

	Current (through Jan. 31)	One Year Ago (through Jan. 31)	10 Years Ago (through Jan. 31)
Average No. of Consumers	1,882	1,885	1,963
kWhs Purchased	21,068,558	17,147,846	19,645,610
Cost of Purchased Power	\$1,314,475.42	\$1,116,876.18	\$634,701.77

Outage Report

Affecting 10 members or more

Date: 2-7-18
 Time off: 10:05 a.m.
 Time on: 10:38 a.m.
 Substation: Emmet Substation
 Cause: Scheduled outage



Home Electrical Safety Tips



<p>use a qualified electrician for repair work</p>	<p>repair loose outlets; replace cracked, worn electric cords</p>	<p>watch for hot or discolored switch plates, flickering lights, or buzzing sounds.</p>
<p>get regular check-ups for older homes</p>	<p>use bulbs with correct wattage for the fixtures</p>	<p>if children are present install tamper resistant outlets to protect against shock</p>
<p>use extension cords temporarily, not as permanent wiring</p>	<p>unplug electrics if you smell something burning</p>	<p>keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas</p>
<p>educate the household on electrical safety</p>		

Learn more about home electrical safety at



Reminder:

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2018 to please contact our 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 material are received.



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

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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.

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



April is set aside as National Safe Digging Month, designed to raise awareness of safe digging practices and the need to call 8-1-1 before any digging projects.

Underground Excavation Damages Cost **\$1.5 BILLION**

Common Ground Alliance

www.cga-dirt.com

Damage to underground utilities from digging activities carries a hefty price tag.

Common Ground Alliance (CGA), the stakeholder-run organization dedicated to protecting underground utility lines, people who dig near them, and their communities, released its comprehensive 2016 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report in 2017.

The report, which is the sum of all 2016 data submitted anonymously and voluntarily by facility operators, utility locating companies, one call centers, contractors, regulators, and others, estimates that the total number of underground excavation damages in the U.S. last year rose 20 percent from the year prior, to approximately 379,000, and conservatively cost direct stakeholders at least \$1.5 billion. The 2016 DIRT Report benefited from a record-high number of event record submissions as well as a record-high Data Quality Index score (a measurement of the completeness of data submissions), yielding the most comprehensive analysis of damages to buried facilities ever compiled.

Data from 2016 informed CGA's first-ever estimate of the societal costs associated with underground

Always Call Before You Dig.



One easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Visit call811.com for more information.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

facility damages in the U.S. As estimated by a very conservative model accounting only for stakeholders' direct costs related to a damage, 2016 damages alone cost approximately \$1.5 billion in the U.S. This estimate does not include property damage to excavating equipment or the surrounding area, evacuations of residences and businesses, road closures and/or traffic delays, environmental impacts, legal costs, injuries or deaths. Customers and users of underground facilities were most impacted, shouldering just over 30 percent of the total societal costs, and emergency responders absorbed more than 23 percent.

While the 2016 damage ratio, which measures damages per 1,000 one call transmissions, increased 14 percent from 2015, construction spending has risen such that the ratio of damages to construction spending has dramatically declined since 2004 (the first year the DIRT Report was issued), and estimated damages have stabilized into the 300,000-400,000 range since 2010 despite increased construction activity in the interim.

"The substantial estimated economic impacts of damages to underground facilities across the U.S. likely do not come as a big surprise to damage prevention advocates who are dedicated to reducing that figure – along with the very human impacts these damages can have – on a daily basis. Nevertheless, we hope that the 2016 DIRT Report's analysis of the \$1.5 billion in societal impact is eye-opening to both the industry and the public at large, and provides clear evidence that reducing damages is solidly in the public interest," said Sarah K. Magruder Lyle, president

and CEO of CGA. "The latest DIRT Report also examines damage prevention paradigms in other countries for the first time, which is an opportunity to consider how this information can help us can work toward our goal of zero damages."

Other significant findings from the 2016 DIRT Report include that damages caused by a failure to call 811 prior to digging have fallen to a record-low 16 percent, part of an encouraging long-term trend.

2016 damages alone cost \$1.5 billion in the United States.

Once again, CGA has made an interactive DIRT Dashboard accessible to the public through its website, allowing users to view and manipulate the data through the lens of a specific element, e.g., damages by state, root cause analysis, etc. It contains a series of dashboard visualizations that allow users to sort information through additional filters, giving damage prevention stakeholders a powerful tool for drilling down into the areas where they feel they can have the biggest positive impact. Added this year are the capabilities to filter several dashboards by state or year (inclusive of 2015 and 2016 data), as well as a new dashboard that centers around the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) determinations on the adequacy of state damage prevention programs.

"CGA's Data Reporting and Evaluation

Committee has worked tirelessly to recruit quality data submissions and explore new areas of analysis to inform the 2016 DIRT Report as part of its pursuit to provide damage prevention advocates and the public with comprehensive, relevant information," said Bob Terjesen, Data Committee co-chair from National Grid. "DIRT data is more accessible than ever with the interactive DIRT Dashboard hosted on the CGA website, making it possible for any stakeholder to explore the unique ways each of us can have an impact on the staggering \$1.5 billion in societal costs caused by damages to buried utilities, and on protecting the people who work near them."

The complete DIRT Annual Report for 2016 is available for download at www.commongroundalliance.com, and stakeholders interested in submitting data to the 2017 report or establishing a Virtual Private Dirt account should visit the DIRT site at www.cga-dirt.com.

About CGA

CGA is a member-driven association of nearly 1,700 individuals, organizations and sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to North American underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders. For more information, visit CGA on the web at <http://www.commongroundalliance.com>.

Key Takeaways

This year's DIRT Report highlights several key takeaways that demonstrate that despite the increase in damages submitted to DIRT, the industry continues to make progress in several key areas:

- Estimated total U.S. damages increased 20 percent, from 317,000 to 379,000.
- Since 2010, damages have stabilized into the 300,000-400,000 range despite there being a rebound in construction spending.
- Damages per 1000 transmissions increased 14 percent, from 1.54 in 2015 to 1.76.
- However, the rate is lower than the 2013 and 2014 rates of 2.07 and 1.84 respectively, indicating a long-term trend of

improvement.

- The ratio of damages to construction spending has declined dramatically from 0.63 damages per million dollars of construction spending in 2004 to 0.41 in 2016.
- Call before you dig awareness remains consistent with historical findings at 45 percent (survey taken June 2017).
- The societal costs associated with underground facility damages in the U.S. in 2016 are estimated at \$1.5 billion. This is a minimum estimate based on routine costs for stakeholders directly connected to a damaged facility. It does not include costs such as property damage, evacuations, road closures, environmental impacts, lawsuits, injuries, and fatalities

February Board Meeting Highlights

The February board meeting was held on Monday, Feb. 26, at 9 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Newville, Lenae Wordes and Gene Alex.

The following items were reviewed and approved by the board:

- Minutes of the January board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of January
- Capital credits to estates
- Safety report for February
- 2017 Financial Audit Report by Brady-Martz
- CFC Officer's Certificate of Compliance
- Close membership for annual meeting
- Articles of Incorporation revision resolution
- Bylaw revision
- Policy 425 – Cogeneration and Small Power Production
- CRC voting delegate for Board of Director election

The board reviewed:

- List of new members and capital credits transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
 - High level Statement of Operations review – January 2018 (unaudited)
 - Organization activities
 - East River update
 - NRECA update
 - MREA update
 - Line crew work in progress and pending work
 - Accounts receivable
 - Scholarship Program
 - Youth Tour
 - 80th Annual Meeting
 - Member Informational Meetings
- Upcoming meetings were discussed.

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

Notice:

The March board meeting will be held on Monday, March 26, 2018, at 8 a.m.

The April board meeting will be held on Monday, April 30, 2018, at 8 a.m.

Where's the Number?

Last month, Kay Fjeld, did not find her member number in the newsletter. The credit will increase \$10 for a value of \$20. A new number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by April 4, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

Thank you...

Thank you to the crew for going out in dangerous conditions to get our power back on. They do great work and we truly appreciate it.

Steve Bruns

Notice:

Renville-Sibley's office will be closed on Friday, March 30, in observance of Good Friday.

Mission Statement:

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

Wanted:

1,000 to 1,500-gallon portable water tank

Daryl Wendt, Gibbon, MN
507-327-8101

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 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



GRID ACCESS CHARGE NOTICE

DeeAnne Newville

dnewville@renville-sibley.coop

In 2015, the state Legislature sought to return a level of fairness to how the electric distribution grid is paid for by allowing electric cooperatives and municipal utilities to assess a cost recovery charge on distributed generation (wind and solar) facilities. The charge will allow electric co-ops, like Renville-Sibley, to recover some of the cost shift that occurs between distributed generators and the rest of the membership.

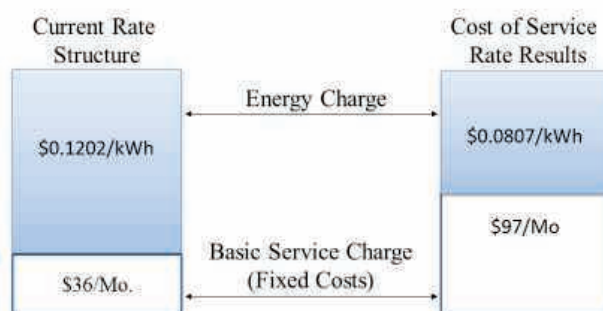
There is a fixed cost to deliver electric power to our members; the poles, the wires, the equipment and people that get the power to you and keep it reliable and safe. This fixed cost is recovered in two ways, through a monthly fixed charge and as a portion of your kilowatt hour (kWh) rate. Putting some of the fixed cost within the kWh rate was done on the assumption that the more energy a member used, the more demand they put on the grid and the more they should pay to maintain it. Distributed generators demand as much (or more) from the grid as the rest of the membership. However, because they offset some or all of their energy usage, they may not be covering their fair share to maintain the grid. The grid access charge will be based on a cost of service study and will return a level of fairness to cover the cost of building and maintaining the electric distribution grid.

The following information was covered at our member informational meetings the week of Feb. 19 and is based on the most recent cost of service study that was completed in 2013. The rates in the charts to the right are the current rates, which may change beginning May 1, 2018. The monthly charge members currently pay for the general service rate is \$36 and the energy charge is 12.02 cents/kWh. The true monthly cost, as of 2013, per consumer for this rate was \$97. Based on the cost of service study, \$97 was the cost to the cooperative for this type of service even if the member did not use any energy. If the rate was designed to recover the entire \$97 through the monthly charge, the resulting

energy rate would have been 8.07 cents/kWh. Similarly, for the small three-phase rate, the true monthly cost per consumer was \$225 in 2013, with the rate designed to recover \$75 in the monthly charge and the remainder in the energy rate. 900400

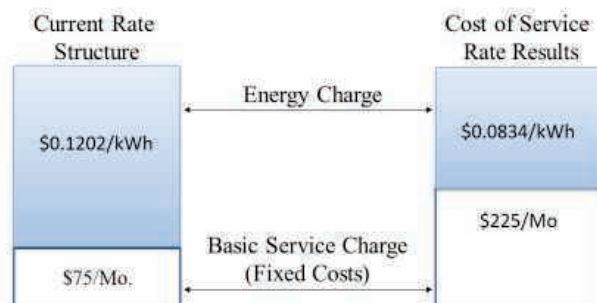
The rates in the pictures are the current rates, which may change beginning May 1, 2018.

Rate 1 – General Service Structure



These charts are for illustration purposes only. This information was covered at the member informational meetings in February. The rates illustrated are the current rates and may change in May 2018.

Rate 2 – Small 3 Phase Structure



The grid access charge will recover up to the difference between the actual monthly cost for each rate and the amount being recovered through the monthly charge. The charge will be based on the size of the distributed generation system. The grid access charge plus the basic service charge will not exceed the total cost identified in the cost of service study for each rate. In the example above, the maximum grid access charge for Rate 1 would have been \$61 (\$97-\$36) and the maximum for Rate 2 would have been \$150 (\$225-\$75).

Renville-Sibley staff members are working with professional engineers to update the cost of service study and identify the current fixed cost for general and small three-phase services. The grid access charge will be based on those results and implemented, if approved by the board, for all new distributed generation facilities beginning May 1, 2018.



A DAY WITH A LINEWORKER

Cooperatives' Dependable Problem Solvers

Paul Wesslund

NRECA Contributing Writer

Larry's typical day as an electric co-op lineworker actually started the night before. He was getting ready for bed when a woman reported her power was out. It was Larry's weekly overnight to be on call, so the co-op truck was already in his driveway. He drove it to the woman's house, ID'd a problem in the base of the meter, installed a temporary fix until an electrician could get out the next day and returned home two hours later. He would report for work at the co-op office by 7:30 the next morning.

"I like hunting down problems," said Larry. "I know I'm doing something the members can't do themselves. They depend on us."

Larry's like a lot of electric utility lineworkers, said Mark Patterson, director of safety and loss control for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.

"There are more people who can't do this work than can do it," said Patterson. "It takes specific skills and intestinal fortitude. They're a 'get it done' type of personality."

Larry isn't like a lot of lineworkers, he is a lot of lineworkers. He's actually not a real person, but a combination of the real people interviewed for this story about a typical day for a lineworker.



Following procedure

Larry started his day in a room with the rest of the lineworkers, leafing through stacks of paper – checklists, maps, work orders – planning the day's work. They compared notes, asked who was familiar with the area they were headed to and analyzed last night's college ball game.

In addition to taking time to coordinate the plans and paperwork, these guys (there are a few women among the more than 15,000 co-op lineworkers around the country) need to keep track of a lot of equipment. Neatly organized shelves in the warehouse hold saws, drills, climbing hooks, insulated work poles, trash cans and binoculars. They need to be wearing safety gear or have it close at hand – hard hat, safety glasses, fire-retardant uniforms, steel-toed shoes, regular work gloves, hot-line safety gloves.

One more delay kept the crews from driving off to their first jobs, and it was probably the most important reason of all – the weekly safety meeting.

The co-op's safety coordinator opened the meeting. He said that while catastrophic contact with electric current is always top concern, today's meeting would focus on avoiding "slips, trips and falls that can cause very big issues." A safety specialist from the state co-op association told the group that he disagreed with the common idea that a lineworker's job is dangerous: "It's hazardous and unforgiving, but it doesn't have to be dangerous if you follow

the right procedures. We have the tools, the rules and the knowledge that can keep it from being dangerous."

By mid-morning, the convoy was ready. Three lineworkers drove three trucks: a service truck, a bucket truck pulling a trailer with a large spool of wire and a digger truck with a huge auger on top and pulling a trailer carrying a backhoe. They headed across the county for the day's job – moving a ground-mounted transformer 500 feet up a hill, closer to an underground connection to a new barn.

"It's going to be muddy out there after the rain we've had," said Larry. "When you're working on underground connections, mud is not your friend."

They're a 'get 'er done' type of personality.

We neared the site by late morning. To avoid interrupting the field work, the team stopped for an early lunch. Over burgers, I asked Larry about his training and his typical day.

We don't say 'hurry up'

"There's nothing routine," he said. A work plan might get changed because someone crashed their car into a utility pole. Tomorrow he would be presenting a safety demonstration to a group of elementary school students. He told about the satisfac-

tion of traveling out of state to help repair hurricane damage.

When the caravan arrived at the work site, the trucks drove up the packed, crushed-rock driveway, avoiding the soft ground on either side.

The three lineworkers gathered near the front of one of the trucks for what a lot of co-ops call a "tailgate meeting" and this co-op calls a "job briefing." They read through forms, noting the address, cross street, job and account number. All three men signed the form.

They broke their huddle and de-energized the lines they would be working on, calling to let the office know the power had been cut. The next step was to use the backhoe to dig around the new connection pipes sticking out of the ground, making room for a ground-mounted transformer.

When the backhoe finished digging around the new transformer location, it drove down to the old transformer site. The crew unhooked the electric connections then chained the transformer to the backhoe's loader bucket to be carried up the hill. But to keep the backhoe from getting stuck in the mud on the trip up the hill, the trucks had to be backed down the driveway to clear the way for the backhoe to drive up on firmer ground.

Two of the crew pulled new wire underground, then cut and spliced the two-inch diameter wires into the transformer box. They secured the connections before cleaning up the work site.

On the return trip, the convoy visited the truck stop to top off the gas tanks. Back at the co-op, they checked the paperwork for the next day's jobs, then stocked the trucks with the equipment they would need for an early start.

Before we said goodbye, I asked Larry what thought of the time it took to follow all the procedures of their work day.

"We don't think, 'this is taking a long time,'" he said. "We just think, 'this is how you do it.' We don't say, 'hurry up.' We look out for each other."

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

National Lineworker Appreciation Day April 9, 2018

More than 15,000 electric cooperative lineworkers serve on the front lines of our nation's energy needs, maintaining 42 percent of electric distribution lines.

Lineworkers perform intricate work, often in dangerous conditions, to ensure we receive the safe, reliable power we depend on.





West River Electric Association board secretary Jamie Lewis shares his story.

YOUNG, PROFESSIONAL AND RURAL:

South Dakota Leaders Talk of How to Connect

Brenda Kleinjan

brenda.kleinjan@sdrea.coop

Two South Dakotans – one an electric cooperative employee and the other a co-op director – took to the national stage to discuss what it takes to attract and keep young professionals in rural America.

Courtney Deinert, communications manager at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., and Jamie Lewis, secretary of the board of directors at West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D., were two of four speakers on a panel entitled, “Attracting and Retaining Young Professionals to Rural America.” The panel was moderated by Adam Schwartz of the Cooperative Way and was one of the sessions held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 25-28. Other panelists included a college student from Wisconsin and a Kentucky dairy farmer/lobbyist/trial lawyer.

Deinert had a unique story to tell.

As a high school senior, she received a scholarship from her local electric cooperative, Charles Mix Electric Association in Lake Andes. She used the



Jamie Lewis speaks with cooperative leaders from Wisconsin.

scholarship money to pursue an undergraduate degree in English at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and her master's degree in adult and higher education.

"I like to think that scholarship has come full circle for my hometown co-op. I work at a neighboring co-op and I get to collaborate between my hometown co-op and my current cooperative on projects," Deinert said.

She said the investment made by her cooperative was important but the co-op's follow up left an impression.

"Just because a high school student isn't interested in becoming a lineman or an accountant doesn't mean they won't play a role in your cooperative someday," she told those gathered.

She stressed the follow up with area youth is important.

"They do want to help. They do want to be involved and they WILL come back to rural America if we help them with that follow up," she said.

In 2013, at 23 years old, Jamie Lewis was elected to the board of directors of West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D.

He is arguably one of the youngest electric cooperative directors in the nation.

"I had just come out of college and an older director approached me and said, 'I have a job for you if you're interested. Run

Just because a high school student isn't interested in becoming a lineman or an accountant doesn't mean they won't play a role in your cooperative someday.

for the West River Electric board," Lewis recounted. Lewis graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in animal science and minors in agribusiness, ag marketing and business. He returned home to work in the family's family ranch and help with the family's insurance business.

"It was a contested election and I was lucky enough to be elected. I was then selected to be board secretary," said Lewis.

He then set his sights on running for a national cooperative board.

"I was later elected to the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange board of directors," Lewis said. Federated is the insurer of many of America's electric cooperatives.

Lewis noted that his fellow directors are not typically in his age demographic.

"Most of them have kids or grandkids older than me," Lewis said. The age difference can be a benefit, he said. "Sometimes I look at the issues a little different from the others."

"Being part of the co-op allowed me to come back to rural America and be part of that," he said.

The panelists all agreed that being able to be connected via Internet is essential in keeping people in rural America.

"The internet for this generation is what electricity was 80 years ago," Schwartz noted during the panel.



Courtney Deinert, communications manager at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., spoke of getting youth involved in cooperatives.

March 24

Spring Craft Fair/Flea Market,
American Legion Hall,
Wagner, SD, 605-384-3543

March 24

Milltones Spring Show, 7 p.m.,
High School Theatre, Milbank,
SD

April 5

McCrossan's Wildest Banquet
Auction in the Midwest
featuring A Night Out with
the PBR, 5:30 p.m., Arena,
Sioux Falls, SD, Tickets:
\$75 each, 605-339-1203,
www.mccrossan.org

April 6

SPURS Spring Dance, Dakota
Events Center, Aberdeen, SD,
Tickets available at the Hitch
'N Post or by calling
605-226-1099

April 6-7

Forks, Corks and Kegs Food,
Wine and Beer Festival,
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

April 6-8

Professional Bull Riders Built
Ford Tough Series, Sioux Falls,
SD, 605-367-7288

April 7-8

Spring Zonta Vendor and
Craft Show, Northridge Plaza,
Pierre, SD, 605-222-1403,
bkstand@pie.midco.net

April 7-8

Hats Off to the Artists Art
Show, Faulkton, SD,
605-598-4160

April 25-29

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill
City, SD, 605-574-9454

April 28-29

Bike Show, Ramkota
Convention Center,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-290-0908



April 28-29: Quilters Guild 2018 Quilt Show, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD, 605-690-8281 or mcfarlas@brookings.net

Photo courtesy: Brookings Quilters Guild

May 5

Consignment Auction,
Prairie Village, Madison,
SD, 800-693-3644,
www.prairievillage.org

May 6

Opening Day, Prairie Village,
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,
www.prairievillage.org

May 13

1880 Train Mother's Day
Express, Hill City, SD,
605-574-2222

May 18

Turkey Races, Huron, SD,
605-352-0000

May 18-19

Sioux Empire Film Festival,
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

May 18-20

State Parks Open House and
Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre,
SD, 605-773-3391

May 18-20

Tesla Road Trip Rally, Custer,
SD, 605-673-2244

June 3

Prairie Village Pageant,
Prairie Village, Madison,
SD, 800-693-3644,
www.prairievillage.org

June 7-9

Senior Games, Sioux Falls,
SD, Contact Nicole Tietgen at
605-665-8222

June 8

Northern Bull Riding Tour,
Prairie Village, Madison,
SD, 800-693-3644,
www.prairievillage.org

June 8-9

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD,
Contact Brett Rauterhaus at
605-772-1430

June 15-16

Czech Days, Tabor, SD,
www.taborczechdays.com,
taborczechdays@yahoo.com

June 16

Holy Rocka Rollaz concert,
Prairie Village, Madison,
SD, 800-693-3644,
www.prairievillage.org

June 21-23

Senior Games, Mitchell, SD,
Contact Howard Bich at
605-491-0635

June 24

Variety Show, Prairie Village,
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

July 7

Hedahls Auto Value Car Show,
Hav-A-Rest Campground,
Redfield, SD, 605-380-9985

July 10-15

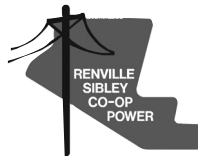
4th Annual 3 Wheeler Rally,
Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174,
www.d3wr.com

**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.**



Proposed Changes

to Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association • 103 Oak Street • Danube, MN 56230
Phone: 320-826-2593 • Toll Free: 800-826-2593 • Web: www.renville-sibley.coop

The Board of Directors and leadership team have reviewed the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association. This is done periodically to make sure the cooperative is operating responsibly and in good faith while being accountable to the membership.

As mentioned in the March 2018 Manager's Column, Renville-Sibley has experienced some challenges over the last several years and expect more changes to come. The directors you elect, along with the leadership team, will be challenged with finding new and creative ways to continue to meet our mission of providing safe and reliable energy and services to our members while mitigating risk and controlling costs.

A few of the key challenges the cooperative faces include the rising cost of wholesale power, an increase in the amount of distributed generation (wind and solar) being installed on our system and aging facilities. Some areas of opportunities in the future may include electric vehicle use on our system, providing residential backup generators or the opportunity to share resources or join neighboring cooperatives to form a larger organization where fixed costs may be spread across a greater number of consumers.

The main purpose behind the proposed changes is:

- Allow flexibility for the cooperative board and leadership team as we move forward,
- adjust for changes in state and federal law, and
- allow for the use of more technology.

Since we are proposing a revision, we also took the opportunity to make other identified minor changes and corrections.

Recommendations for changes to the By-Laws were made in accordance with Minnesota Statute 308 which defines how cooperatives are required to operate. In addition to posting the recommended changes in this newsletter and on our website, the proposed By-Law changes were one of the topics we covered at our member informational meetings the week of Feb. 19, 2018.

The following explanations will also be included with the By-Law ballot mailed for vote by the membership. The results will be presented at the annual meeting on April 5, 2018, after all votes have been cast.

The Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Board of Directors and leadership team support the proposed revisions and encourage you to vote in favor of these changes. If you have questions about these revisions or would like further clarification of the revisions you may contact the cooperative leadership team or any board member for more information. As always, if you would like to speak to DeeAnne Newville, CEO, directly about any topic, please feel free to stop in the office, call 800-826-2593, or email dnewville@renville-sibley.coop.

The proposed additions and language revisions appear in **red** and the proposed language to be deleted appears with a **line drawn through** the words or phrases to be deleted. An explanation of the proposed changes and additions to the By-Laws are also included (*in italics*) for your review.

Articles of Incorporation

ARTICLE VI

~~The fiscal year of this Association shall commence on the First day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December of each year.~~

Removing the reference to a fiscal year from the Articles of Incorporation. This is not required to be in the Articles of Incorporation. It will be covered in the By-Laws under Article X. Fiscal Year.

By-Laws

Article I. Members

Section 1. Qualifications and Obligations.

Any person or entity ~~may~~shall become a member of the cooperative by:

- (a) agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative the amount of electric service hereinafter in Section 2 of this ~~a~~Article specified; and;
- (b) agreeing to comply with and be bound by the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative and these By-Laws and any amendments thereto and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Board of Directors.

The change in Article 1., Section 1. includes a change from the word “may” to the word “shall” since all who purchase electric services become members. The word Article has been capitalized.

Section 2. Purchase of Electric Service.

Each member shall, as soon as electric energy shall be available, purchase from the Association all electric service, with the exception of self-generation as allowed by federal or state law, used on the

premises specified in the service agreement, and shall pay ~~therefor monthly~~ at rates which shall from time to time be fixed by the Board of Directors; provided, however, that the Board of Directors may limit the amount of electric service which the Association shall be required to furnish to any one member. It is expressly understood that amounts paid for electric service in excess of the cost of service are furnished by members as capital and each member shall be credited with the capital so furnished as provided in these By-Laws. Each member shall pay to the Association such minimum amount ~~per month~~ regardless of the amount of electric energy consumed, as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors from time to time. Each member shall also pay all amounts owed to the Association as and when the same shall become due and payable.

The change in Article 1., Section 2. includes language for members who produce electricity for their own use based on what is allowed by state or federal law. It also includes removing language that says members pay monthly. This allows flexibility for options such as annual rates or prepaid rates.

Article II. Meeting of Members

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members shall be held before August 31st of each year, on such date and at such time as the Board of Directors shall determine ~~by timely resolution~~, for the purposes of electing directors, passing ~~upon~~ reports covering the previous fiscal year and transacting other business as may come before the meeting. Such meeting shall be held annually at the principal place of business of the Association unless the Board of Directors has ~~by proper resolution adopted by it~~ at a regular or special meeting of the Board held more than 30 days prior to the annual meeting determined that such annual

meeting shall be held at some other place conveniently located within the area served by the Association. The members at the annual meeting, or at any special meeting called for that purpose by proper resolution adopted by a majority of the members voting thereon, may suggest to the directors the place where the next annual meeting shall be held, but the ultimate determination of such place of meeting shall nevertheless be made by the directors. If the day fixed for the annual meeting of the members shall be a legal holiday, such meeting shall be held on the next succeeding business day. If the election

of directors shall not be held on the day designated herein for any annual meeting or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

The change in Article II., Section 1. is the removal of the reference to needing a resolution and a change from the word “upon” to “on”

Section 2. Notice of Annual Meeting.

Notice of the annual meeting shall be given by the Secretary by publication in a legal newspaper published in Renville County, Minnesota, by publication in the cooperative’s newsletter, at least two (2) weeks previous to the date of such meeting; or by mailing notice thereof to each and every member personally not less than fifteen (15) days previous to the date of such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, in a sealed envelope, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid.

The change in Article II., Section 2. includes language to add the option for the publication for the annual meeting to be placed in the cooperative’s newsletter, which is the current practice.

Section 4. Notice of Special Meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Chairman to cause the Secretary to give notice of the time, place and purpose of a special meeting either by publication in a legal newspaper published in Renville County, Minnesota, by publication in the cooperative’s newsletter, at least two (2) weeks previous to the date of such meeting or by mailing notice thereof to each and every member personally ~~not less than fifteen (15) days previous to the date of such meeting~~. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, in a sealed envelope, addressed to the member at his address as

it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. Such notice shall be issued within ~~ten~~ (10) days from and after the date of the presentation of the written petition mentioned in Section 3 of this Article II, and such special meeting shall be held within thirty (30) days from and after the date of the presentation of such petition.

The change in Article II., Section 4. includes removing language to clear up a previous error. The reference to 2 weeks previous to the date of such meeting AND 10 days after the date of presentation of written petition cannot both be met as to meet the later, the prior would need to be 20 days. Changed this section to match how this is defined in Statute. Also, the word “ten” was added next to the number (10).

Section 6. Quorum.

At least ~~seventy five~~seventy-five (75) members of the Association shall be necessary to constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the members. If the number of members present at any meeting does not constitute a Quorum, a majority of the members actually present in person may adjourn the meeting. Notice shall be given to the members of the association of the date, time and place of the rescheduled annual meeting as is required by Section 2 of Article II of the By-Laws.

The change in Article II., Section 6. Added a “-” between the word “seventy” and the word “five”

Section 9. Voting by Mail, Electronic Ballot or by Other Approved Technologies.

Any member who is absent from any meeting of the members may vote by mail (by electronic ballot or by other approved technologies as they become available to the membership) upon any motion, resolution or amendment to be acted upon at any such meeting by ballot, which shall be in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall contain:

- A. ~~R~~reference to the location of the exact text of the proposed motion, resolution or amendment to be acted upon at such meeting;

- B. the date of the meeting, and
- C. spaces opposite the text of such motion, resolution or amendment in which such member may indicate his affirmative or negative vote thereof.

Such member shall express their choice by marking the appropriate space upon such ballot. Such ballot shall be certified and authenticated by the tellers, verified by the member name indicated on the ballot envelope and, when received by the tellers, shall be accepted and counted as the vote of such absent member.

The change in Article II., Section 9., subsection A. changed the “R” in reference to lower case.

Section 11 Order of Business.

The order of business at the annual meeting of the members, and so far as practicable at all other meetings of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

1. Calling the meeting to order and ~~to establish whether or not a quorum is present.~~
2. Reading ~~of or waive reading~~ the notice of the

meeting, ~~together with proof of the due publication or mailing thereof or the waiver of the reading of the notice of the meeting.~~

3. ~~Read or waive reading~~ ~~Presentation and reading or waiver of the reading of~~ the unapproved minutes of ~~the~~ previous meetings of the members and ~~the taking of take~~ necessary action thereon.
4. ~~Reports and pPresentations and consideration of, and acting upon, reports of officers, directors and committees.~~
5. Election of Directors.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

The changes in Article II., Section 11. cleaned up this section. This level of detail was not necessary. No items were removed and the order was not changed. A change was made to allow the members to waive the reading of the meeting notice similar to how they are currently allowed to waive the reading of the minutes.

Article III. Directors

Section 1. General Powers.

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board consisting of not more than nine (9) directors ~~or and~~ not less than five (5) directors which shall exercise all the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative or these By-Laws conferred upon or reserved to the members..

The change in Article III., Section 1. Fixed a previous error. The board must have a minimum of 5 directors up to a maximum of 9 directors. The word “or” needed to be changed to the word “and” to accomplish this.

Section 2. Qualifications and Tenure.

Each director shall be a member of the Cooperative and shall be elected by the members within their respective district at the annual meeting of the members for a term of three years. No member shall

be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident in the area served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or space heating/cooling appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members. When a membership is held jointly by two or more persons, including husband and wife, only one of such joint tenants may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become a director, unless all shall meet the qualifications herein set forth.

Director qualifications required for service to the Cooperative shall include:

- A. Must be an individual and must be at least ~~21~~18 years of age.

~~Must be fluent in the English language since nearly all business of the Cooperative is conducted in English.~~

- B. Must be competent and able to execute a contract.
- C. Must not have been convicted of a felony or ~~gross misdemeanor~~~~crime involving moral turpitude~~ during the preceding ~~10~~5 years prior to becoming a director for the Cooperative or during the period while serving as a director.
- D. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- E. Must make a reasonable effort to become and remain knowledgeable about special issues regarding electric cooperatives by attending training, workshops and seminars.
- F. Must attend at least three-fourths (3/4) of all monthly scheduled board meetings during any twelve (12) month period.

The change in Article III., Section 2. Changes the age from 21 to 18 as recommended by Rural Utility Service (RUS) since 18 is the age of majority. The reference to needing to speak English is removed since the cooperative will make reasonable accommodations as needed when English is not the primary language for a democratically elected director. The reference to crime involving moral turpitude was struck and gross misdemeanor was added to remove any level of subjectivity in this section. The number of years was reduced from 10 to 5 as this is a more reasonable waiting period.

Section 4. **Division into Districts and Nomination and Election of Directors therefrom.**

The territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided into three (3) Districts as follows:

First District to consist of the 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.

Second District to consist of the 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.

Third District to consist of the townships of Roseland and Holland in Kandiyohi County; Rheiderland in Chippewa County, and the townships of Troy, Winfield, Emmet, Crooks, Sacred Heart, Hawk Creek, Ericson and Wang in Renville County.

Each of the three (3) districts shall elect their own director representation to serve on the Cooperative board. There shall be a maximum of three (3) directors ~~or~~and a minimum of one (1) director representing each district. The number of Directors to serve from each district shall be determined and established from time to time, by the Board of Directors. If any such change is made the board shall, in due season thereafter, give written notice thereof by mail to the members of the districts affected.

The Board of Directors shall have authority to re-district any of the respective districts whenever, in the judgment of the Board, the best interest of the Cooperative might be better served by such change. If any such change is made the Board shall, in due season thereafter, give written notice thereof by mail to the members of the Districts affected.

The Board of Directors shall, not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which Directors are to be elected in any of the foregoing districts, appoint a committee on nomination, which said committee for each said District shall consist of three members who reside in their respective districts. No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of any such District Nominating Committee. Each such nominating committee shall at least thirty-five (35) days before the meeting of the members of the Cooperative nominate one or more candidates for the Board of Directors from such District served by such committee, and shall ~~submit to the Secretary of the Cooperative the names of such nominees.~~~~by the time stated prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative a list of nominations for the Directors to~~

~~be chosen from such District.~~

Any ten or more members residing in any such district may make other nominations in writing over their signatures for Director to be chosen from their District, not less than ~~twenty-five (25)~~ days prior to the annual Meeting; and if such nominations are made the members making them shall at least ~~twenty-five (25)~~ days prior to the meeting submit to the Secretary of the Cooperative the names of such ~~other~~ nominees ~~and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made at the various District Meetings or by the nominating committee is posted.~~

No candidate for director to represent their respective district shall be nominated either by District Nominating committee, or by petition, unless such candidate is a member in good standing and resides in that District. The election of Directors shall be by ballot and the Secretary shall prepare a separate ballot, "Ballot for Directors" for each such District which shall contain the names of all nominees for the respective District and shall ~~mail~~provide the same to the members of each respective District with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall show on such ballot that only one Director from the respective district shall be chosen ~~and shall on said ballot show separately the nominations made at the District Meetings the nominations by committee, if any, and the nominations made by petition.~~

The Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail (by electronic ballot or by other approved technologies when made available to the membership) for their choice of Director as provided in this Section. Any member who is absent from any such meeting may vote by mail (by electronic ballot or by other approved technologies when made available to the membership) for their choice of Director by marking on the ballot an "X" mark opposite the name of the candidate selected and mailing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing the member's name to the Cooperative. When such ballot is received by mail

(or electronically or by other approved technologies when made available to the membership) from any absent member, it shall be accepted and counted at the meeting as a vote with the same effect as if said member were present at such meeting. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes from the members in the district shall be elected as the director from the district for the term specified in Section 2 of Article III of these By-Laws, and in case of tie vote the winner shall be determined by a flip of the coin. The provisions of this section shall not be mandatory in the case of recall of one or more Directors as provided for in Section 4 of Article I of these By-Laws. This section shall prevail over any other provisions of the By-Laws with which it may be in conflict.

The change in Article III., Section 4. Fixed a previous error. The board must have a minimum of 5 directors up to a maximum of 9 directors. The word "or" needed to be changed to the word "and" to accomplish this. A change is made to have candidates for the Board submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative. The reference is removed from all sections that require posting at the principle office. All required postings will be placed on the cooperative website and are available upon member request. The candidates are listed in the newsletter. Added the word "twenty-five" in two places next to (25). Changed the word "mail" to "provide" to allow for future flexibility in voting options. Struck language that required the ballot to show how the member was nominated.

~~Section 9.—Change in Rates.~~

~~Written notice shall be given to the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service or their successor in interest before changes in electric energy rates to the membership by the Cooperative becomes effective.~~

Article III., Section 9. has been deleted as Rural Utility Service (RUS) no longer requires notification of changes in rates. The following sections in Article III have been renumbered accordingly.

Article IV. Meeting of Directors

Section 1. Regular Meetings.

~~A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without notice other than this By-Law; immediately after, and at the same place as, the annual meeting of the members. A r~~Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall ~~also~~ be held ~~monthly and~~ at such time and place ~~in Renville County, Minnesota,~~ as the Board of Directors may determine, either in person or using alternate forms of technology provide by resolution. Such regular meetings may be held without notice other than publishing in the Cooperative newsletter or posting on the Cooperative websitesuch resolution fixing the time and place thereof.

The changes in Article IV., Section 1. allows more flexibility for the board, including the option to meet using other forms of technology. There may be times were the board would like to hold a meeting in a county other than Renville County. Renville-Sibley has members in 5 other counties. The board would also like to have

the flexibility to meet less than 12 times per year when removing a meeting makes sense for financial or practical reasons.

Section 3. Notice.

Notice of the time and place and purpose of any special meeting shall be given at least two (2) days previous thereunto, by electronic mail or written notice, to each director at his last known address. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. The attendance of a director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except in case a director shall attend a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened.

The change in Article IV., Section 3. Allows directors to be notified by electronic mail.

Article V. Officers

Section 2. Election and Term of Office.

The Officers shall be elected, by ballot, annually by and from the Board of Directors at the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors held after each annual meeting of the members. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Subject to the provisions of Section 4 of Article I of these By-Laws and Section 3 of this Article V, each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the next annual meeting of the members or until a successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified.

The change in Article V., Section 2. Clarifies that the officers will be elected at the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors. Currently the board meets briefly immediately following the annual meeting to make a

motion to reorganize at the next regular meeting when time permits for such election.

Section 5. Chairman.

The Chairman:

- A. shall preside at all meetings of the members and at the meetings of the Board of Directors;
- B. shall have achieved Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) status prior to being elected or appointed as Chairman.
- C. shall provide leadership to define the Cooperative's mission and direction.
- D. shall provide for continuity of the Cooperative.
- E. shall ensure effective organizational planning.
- F. shall provide leadership and governance through the development of broadboard policies and objectives

- G. shall provide leadership in the selection, compensation and ongoing evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer.
- H. shall strive to enhance the Cooperative's public image.
- I. shall provide leadership to annually self-assess the performance of the Board.
- J. may sign, with the Secretary, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these By-Laws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and
- K. in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chairman and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

The change in Article V., Section 5. The word "Chairman" was added next to the section to be consistent with the sections describing other officers. See Section 7 below as a reference.

Section 7. **Secretary.**

The Secretary

- A. shall assure that all minutes of meetings of the members and the Board of Directors are accurately recorded in one or more books provided for that purpose;
- B. shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these By-Laws or as required by law;
- C. shall assure the retention of the corporate records and of the seal of the Cooperative and shall see that the seal of the Cooperative is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Cooperative under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws;
- D. shall assure a register of the post office address of each member is retained;
- E. may sign with the Chairman, any deeds,

mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these By-Laws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and;

- F. have general access to the books of the Cooperative in which a record of the members is kept;
- G. keep on file at all times a complete copy of the By-Laws of the Cooperative containing all amendments thereto, which copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member, and ~~at the expense of the Cooperative, forward a copy of the By-Laws and of all amendments thereto to each member~~ posted on the cooperative website; and
- H. in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. **Treasurer.**

The Treasurer:

- A. shall have knowledge of all funds and securities of the Cooperative;
- B. shall assure that all receipts for moneys due and payable to the Cooperative from any source are deposited in the name of the Cooperative in such banks as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Article VI of these By-Laws; and
- C. in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

The change in Article V., Section 7. and Section 8. added a missing punctuation to the header and the first line to be consistent with other sections. and an update in letter G was added to recognize the posting of the By-Laws on the website instead of mailing a printed copy to all members.

Article VI. Contracts, Checks and Deposits

Section 2. Check, Drafts, Etc.

All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Cooperative shall be signed by ~~those designated and approved by the such officer or officers and in such manner as shall from time to~~

~~time be determined by a resolution of the~~ Board of Directors.

The change in Article VI., Section 2. allows the board to authorize employees and directors to sign checks, drafts or other orders, etc. without having to name said employees or directors as officers.

Article VII. Non-Profit Operation

Section 2. In the furnishing of electric energy and other services, the Cooperative's operations shall be so conducted that all members and non-members alike will, through their patronage, furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all its members and non-members alike, for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy of various classes, in excess of operating costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of such electric energy and other services. All such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the members and non-members alike, as capital. The cooperative is obligated to pay by credits, to a capital account for each member, all such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses. The books and records of the Cooperative shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of each fiscal year the amount of the capital, if any, so furnished by each member is clearly reflected and credited in an appropriate record of the capital account of each member. All such amounts credited to the capital account of any member shall have the same status as though they had been paid to the member in cash in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so and the member had then furnished the Cooperative corresponding amounts for capital.

In the event of dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, after all outstanding indebtedness of the

Cooperative shall have been paid, outstanding capital credits shall be retired without priority on a pro-rata basis before any payments are made on account of property rights of members. If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board of Directors shall determine that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to member's accounts may be retired in full or in part. The Board of Directors shall determine the method, basis, priority, and order of retirement, if any, for all amounts furnished as capital.

Capital credited to the account of each member shall be assignable as the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application, shall determine otherwise. The members of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each member, and both the Cooperative and the members are bound by such contract, as fully as though each member had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. ~~The provisions of this article of the By-Laws shall be called to the attention of each member of the Cooperative by posting in a conspicuous place in the cooperative's office.~~

The cooperative shall be entitled to apply a reasonable service charge against the capital credits of a member who has not claimed them beginning two (2) years after the capital credits are declared payable. The amount of such service charge shall be determined periodically by the Board of Directors and

shall be based on the current cost of handling the capital credit account of the member.

The change in Article VII., Section 2. removes the

requirement to post this provision in the cooperative office. All required postings will be placed on the cooperative website and are available upon member request.

Article IX. Disposition of Property

The Cooperative may at any meeting of its Board of Directors sell, mortgage, lease or exchange all of its property, rights, privileges and franchises upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors deem expedient, and for the best interests of the Cooperative, when and as authorized by the affirmative vote ~~of the holders~~ of two-thirds (2/3) of the ~~membership votes cast, given~~ at a members' meeting duly called for that purpose, ~~or when authorized by the written consent of the membership provided, however, that such affirmative vote or written consent of the members shall also represent the affirmative vote or written consent of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the individual members, and provided further, however, that notwithstanding anything herein contained t~~The Board of Directors shall have, without the consent or vote of the members, full power and authority to borrow money from United States of America, Cooperative Finance Corporation, CoBank or any other agency of United States of America, or from any other commercial bank or loaning agency,

whatsoever, and to authorize the execution and delivery of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, secured or unsecured, to evidence the indebtedness created by such loans, and to secure such bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness by mortgage or mortgages, or deed or deeds of trust upon, or the pledge of or other lien upon, all or any of the property, assets, rights, privileges and permits of the Cooperative wherever situated, acquired or to be acquired, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors shall determine.

The change in Article IX. follows what is required by statute for disposition of property which is the requirement of an affirmative vote of 2/3rd of the votes cast, rather than 2/3rd of the membership. Over the last 10 years voter participation has ranged between 15% and 30%. It is not realistic to expect over 66% voter participation. In the event the cooperative brings a plan to the membership to merge with another cooperative or dissolve, this article may apply.

Article X. Fiscal Year

Section 1. Contracts.

The fiscal year of the Cooperative shall begin on the first day of January of each year and end on the thirty-first day of December in the same year, ~~unless the Board of Directors takes action by resolution to establish a different fiscal year.~~

The change in Article X. allows flexibility for the board

to name an alternate fiscal year. Given Renville-Sibley is primarily an agricultural driven organization, it would be helpful to have the fiscal year begin in September or October each year. Rural Utility Service (RUS) currently requires all mortgage covenants to be based on a calendar year. If RUS changes their stance on this the board and leadership team would like the option to change the fiscal year.

Article XII. Amendments

These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority of the members~~votes cast~~ at any annual or special meeting, provided the notice of such meeting shall have contained a copy of the proposed

alteration, amendment, or repeal.

The change in Article XII. follows statute and clearly describes how the By-Laws may be amended by the membership.



EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE. TOGETHER THEY WORK IN HARMONY.

Every electric co-op member has a say in what's best for the community.
Power to the people, from the people. Doesn't that sound good?
Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

